



ANNUAL REPORT

2003

PREFACE

The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. EUPHA was founded in 1992. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together around 10'000 public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Our mission is to be the proactive platform for public health professionals in research and practice and be a bridge between these professionals and policymakers. At the end of 2003, we have 42 members and three associate members from 36 European countries.

This document summarizes the activities of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and most of our members in 2003. We hope that this annual report provides you with more insight on our activities. Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our EUPHA office.

Wilhelm Kirch, EUPHA president 2003

EUPHA 2003: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 11th Annual Conference of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) was held from 20 to 22 November in Rome and provided a forum for the European public health community to explore methods to respond to the new challenges linked to global integration, to discuss international co-operation and explore possibilities of international, concerted action. At the same time the conference provided an opportunity for scientists and representatives from politics, society and industry to improve the transfer and implementation of scientific results into public health policy and into society.

The conference was focused on the following sub-themes addressed in the five plenary sessions:

- Globalisation and health in Europe: the impact of the major determinants of health and sickness and the state of the art of the concerted action to prevent and control infectious diseases and cancer in a European perspective;
- Food safety in Europe: how the European public health community can help decision makers to act responsibly and scientifically in taking actions to prevent the risks of acute and chronic food-borne diseases and in regaining citizens' trust in European food industry;
- Globalisation and health services management: what is the role of public health professionals in planning and managing health services to achieve the maximum health benefits in a framework of financial and organisational balance;
- Public health actions to tackle consequences on health of man-made disasters (such as wars, chemicals or nuclear break falls, bio terrorism, etc): how the European public health community can prevent and control the negative effects on individuals' and communities' health of humanitarian and technical disasters
- The Ferenc Bojan memorial lecture: EU enlargement: major public health issues in the acceding countries.

There were 635 abstracts submitted, of which 414 were published as abstracts in the special supplement to the European Journal of Public Health. During the conference, 31 parallel sessions and 28 workshops were being held and 150 posters were exhibited. EUPHA itself organised a number of activities during the conference, such as:

- All our existing sections organised workshops at the Rome conference. For more information, see the activities of our sections.
- the final workshop on the future of public health in Europe. Here the first results of the series of workshops on this subject were presented.
- A workshop to support the role of public health associations in central and Eastern Europe, co-organised by EUPHA and the Open Society Institute of the SOROS foundation.
- A skills-building workshop on evaluation of research, practice and policy.
- A workshop on the public health consequences of man-made disasters.

Like in previous years, EUPHA was very pleased that the Open Society Institute of the SOROS foundation funded 53 participants from central and Eastern Europe.

The EUPHA poster prize was awarded to Gianfranco Damiani, Italy, and his colleagues, for the poster "Assessing ward technical efficiency in a Teaching Hospital using Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA)". The best abstract prize went to Ellen Nolte, United Kingdom, and her colleague, for their abstract "The health of nations: how much is attributable to health care?". Both prizes consist of a waiver of conference fees for the year after.

The 2003 EUPHA conference was awarded the "targa d'argento" (Silver plate) of the Presidency of the Italian Republic, a big honour for EUPHA.

EUPHA 2003: THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The year 2003 showed a continuation of the year 2002. The number of articles submitted remained stable at around 240, the acceptance rate was stable around 35%. The number of institutional subscribers also remained stable (304).

In 2003, two EJPH supplements were published:

- 2003/3 supplement, September 2003: The European Union Health Monitoring Programme, initiated by the European Commission.
- 2003/4 supplement, December 2003: Program and abstracts of the 11th Annual EUPHA meeting: globalisation and health in Europe: harmonising public health practice, Rome, Italy, 20-22 November 2003.

There were some other developments. The impact factor of the EJPH has fallen to 0.624 in 2002, compared with 1.152 in 2001. The backlog of documents to be published increased. It takes about 1 year from acceptance to actual publication. This is due to financial constraints, which allows only four issues per year.

EUPHA 2003: ACTIVITIES OF THE EUPHA SECTIONS

In April 2003, the presidents of all EUPHA sections had a meeting with representatives from the EUPHA Executive council. The objectives of the meeting were a more detailed planning of the Rome conference activities as well as a discussion on the role of EUPHA sections within EUPHA. The outcome of the meeting can be summarized as follows:

- EUPHA sections will play a role in the setting up of the scientific programme of EUPHA conferences. After the selection of the abstracts by the International Scientific Committee, the possible oral abstracts will be sent to the presidents of the sections to group those who are linked to the section's theme. This outcome was successfully implemented for the Rome meeting.
- EUPHA will set up some rules for the EUPHA sections, including subject area, evaluation, continuation and membership.

At the November meeting of the Governing Council, three new EUPHA sections were installed:

- EUPHA section on the utilisation of medicines
- EUPHA section on communicable diseases
- EUPHA section on migrant health.

This increased the number of active EUPHA sections to 10.

The information below is a summary of the activities of our sections. More detailed information can be found on the EUPHA website: www.eupha.org/sections.

Section on health promotion

Presidents: Heiko Waller and Alf Trojan

In 2003, the health promotion section had 116 members. In May, the section made suggestions for the 3-year project proposal to the European Commission called EUPHIE (European Public Health

Information Exchange). In the summer, the main activities were dedicated to the preparation of the section-workshop during the EUPHA conference in Rome. The theme of the workshop was: The role of health promotion in tackling inequalities in health. There were 10 contributions from 8 European countries.

Further activities included:

- corresponding with members
- helping networking for a Tempus-project between the AIDS foundation East-West (AFEW), the school of public health in Kiev and partner institutions in West-Europe.
- Preparing health promotion themes for the 2005 EUPHA conference.

Section on public health practice and policy

Presidents: Mark McCarthy

The Section provided EUPHA with two contributions during the year. The Section attended the European Commission's Health Policy Forum twice-yearly in Brussels. The Forum brings together NGO and professional European health organisations, provides advice to the Commission's public health unit and has encouraged joint working. The Section has also contributed to EUPHA's OSI programme of work in describing national public health practice and training through a survey of the Executive Council. The results were discussed, along with a study by the International Union of Health Promotion Agencies, at the Annual Conference in Rome. At the Rome Section meeting, there was a discussion of how to develop participation by members in the Section's activities.

Section on public health epidemiology

President: Klim McPherson

The section public health epidemiology held a seminar on data protection and confidentiality issues and how they affect epidemiological cohort studies.

Section on health services research

President: Diana Delnoij

In 2003, the activities of the Section Health Services Research have largely consisted of the organisation of the workshop at the conference in Rome. The workshop has been organised in co-operation with the editorial board of the International Journal of Integrated Care (Prof. Guus Schrijvers, dr. Ingrid Mur-Veeman). Dr. Mur-Veeman presented an introduction for the workshop, based on her international comparison of integrated care in Europe. Two other papers were selected from the abstracts that were submitted. Two experts were invited to comment briefly on the presentations in the workshop. The proceedings of the workshop were published in the International Journal of Integrated Care (<http://www.ijic.org>), and the authors of the two selected papers were invited to publish their results in the journal.

Section on social security and health

President: Kristina Alexanderson

Our main activity for this year was to inspire researchers in our area to submit abstracts to the EUPHA conference. A successful initiative as more abstracts on sickness absence were accepted than ever before and in the Rome programme two parallel sessions on related matters (promoting work ability and sickness absence) were organised.

The section organised a first pre-conference meeting, which took place on Wednesday, 19 November. The usual workshop of the section was entitled "How to assess work ability in relation to sickness certification". At the Rome conference, the members of the section also attended the section's annual meeting.

Section youth

President: Auke Wieggersma

The section youth has been very active in 2003, using the existing network to start up a number of co-ordinated efforts. The most important being assisting in the setting up of an European Teenage Health

network (www.euYOUTH.net). The objective was to set up and maintain an European wide network of health related websites for teenagers/adolescents, based on www.teenagehealthfreak.org.

At the Rome conference, the section organised a workshop on Environment and children's health in Europe. The aim of the workshop was to form a working group that will undertake certain tasks for which EC funding will be sought, drawing on the work already being done, ensuring that duplication is avoided, and adding the added-value of the public health professional perspective. At the same time, two parallel session on child-related health issues were organised at the Rome conference.

Section food and nutrition

President: Sirpa Sarlio-Lähteenkorva

The planning for the 2003 workshop started in January 2003, in collaboration with our Italian colleagues Professor Paolo Villari, Department of Experimental Medicine and Pathology, and Organizzazione nazionale di Ricerca Industriale e Scientifica per la Qualita degli alimenti e delle bevande, ORIS a.b.Q. Three tentative topics for the workshop, genetically modified foods, obesity and emerging food-borne pathogens, were discussed with our members via email and the EUPHA homepage. Obesity was finally selected as the Workshop theme. The workshop "European experiences in prevention of obesity and in evaluation of preventative programmes" was held on November 20. There were three presentations: Prof. Janina Petkeviciene (Lithuania) presented obesity trends in Eastern Europe and discussed experiences to control obesity in Lithuania. Dr. Amleto D'Amicis (Italy) together with professor Paolo Villari talked about primary prevention and discussed the need for national epidemiological networks on collecting data on obesity. Finally, clinical effectiveness specialist Soraya Meah (UK) talked about obesity treatment and prevention in one community. After the workshop the section for Food and Nutrition had its second annual meeting. The section decided to have next workshop during annual EUPHA congress in Oslo, and discussed tentative topics for the workshop, the presidency of the section, and other future activities.

Section on the utilisation of medicines

President: Dr Pietro Folino-Gallo

This section was installed at the Rome conference. The reasons for creating this EUPHA section on utilisation of medicines were:

- medicines have a wide impact on public health
- medicines can adversely affect public health because of medicine related problems
- medicines related problems are an important cause of mortality and most of them can be prevented
- there is an important economic burden of medicines on health systems
- medicines are able, via the wastewater, to pollute the environment, including drinking water. Several medicines have endocrine-disrupters or carcinogenic properties.
- there are wide discrepancies between European countries in both licensed medicines and in their utilisation and expenditure
- there is a need for re-orienting European pharmaceutical policy from an industry-based to a public health-based approach

The aims of this section are:

- to increase awareness and spread knowledge on the impact of medicine utilisation on public health
- to promote European harmonised data collection about licensed medicines, their prices, utilisation and expenditure
- to develop indicators for monitoring price, utilisation and expenditure of medicines at a European level
- to promote benchmarking exercise on utilisation of medicines at national and regional level
- to assess the outcome of medicine utilisation linking pharmacoepidemiological data to morbidity-mortality data
- to develop a public health-oriented European database of the licensed medicines with relevant information about their best use

At the Rome conference, a number of related sessions were organized, which included a parallel session which was used to officially announce the new section.

Section on infectious diseases control

President: Dr Viviane van Casteren

This section was installed at the Rome conference. EUPHA has created a EUPHA section on Infectious Diseases Control bringing together EUPHA members with expertise in this field and representatives of various European initiatives (e.g., EPIET, Network Forum of European surveillance networks) in order to:

- promote and strengthen research in the field of infectious diseases
- intensify the spreading of existing information in the field of infectious diseases
- provide a platform for the exchange of information, between policymakers, practitioners and researchers in the field of infectious diseases control
- encourage joint activities in the field of infectious diseases control
- respond proactively to public health related aspects in the field of infectious diseases control
- promote and strengthen education in the field of infectious diseases

At the Rome conference, a number of parallel sessions and workshops on infectious diseases were organised by this section. A plenary presentation on the prevention and control of infectious diseases in an European perspective emphasized the importance of the subject.

The Netherlands Association of Community Health Services (GGD-Nederland) kindly offers secretarial assistance for this section.

Section on migrant health

President: Dr Marc Bruijnzeels

This section was installed at the Rome conference. The aim of this section is to increase and spread knowledge on ethnic differences in health and health care, on explanations for these differences, on interventions that aim to tackle these differences. Furthermore, the section aims at setting methodological standards for European countries to identify ethnic groups to promote exchange of information and provide a basis for comparative studies. Next to these academic aims, the section aims at increasing political attention at national and European levels for consequences of migration for health and health care.

This section's priorities are to:

- Build a network of health professionals on migration and health from a public health perspective.
- Increase the knowledge on differences in health problems, use and quality of health care services and on interventions to tackle these differences.
- Discuss conceptual and methodological issues regarding ethnic differences in health and health care
- Develop strategies to influence national and European policy makers and politicians to increase attention for ethnic health and health care differences.
- Initiate and further use of standard identification methods and data collection procedures.

The section encourages presentations at the annual EUPHA meeting and organise yearly at least one workshop on conceptual/methodological issues. Next to the activities at the annual meeting, national and international workshops and conferences will be stimulated and publications for the European Journal of Public Health will be encouraged.

At the Rome conference, a workshop was organized by this section on the availability and use of ethnic specific public health data in various European countries.

EUPHA 2003: OTHER ACTIVITIES

EUPHA is very pleased to welcome our new members in 2003: the Albanian Epidemiological Association, the Bulgarian Public Health Association, the Latvian Public Health Association, the Lithuanian Public Health Association, the Romanian Public Health and Health Management Association, the Serbian Public Health Association and the Slovak Public Health Association. From Turkey, an individual member was accepted.

We are also very pleased to inform you that two members of the EUPHA Governing Council have received honorary awards for their work in public health:

- Prof. Martin Mckee was awarded the Andrija Stampar award by ASPHER in recognition of his achievements for the promotion of public health education across the European continent. This award was given to him during the XXVth ASPHER annual conference in Granada, Spain in September.
- Prof. Kristian Hagestad was awarded His Majesty the King's medal of Merit in gold for his achievements in public health in Norway. This medal was awarded during the 3rd EUPHA workshop on the future of public health in Europe in Bergen, Norway, in June.

2003 was a very active year, especially with regard to our networking activities and the development of several projects.

Networking activities:

EUPHA has been present at a large number of conferences and has also visited several of our members, among which:

April	Visit to the Executive Board of the Swiss Society of Public Health in Bern, Switzerland.
April	Participation in the ASPHER/EUPHA/WHO accreditation workshop in Bern, Switzerland.
June	Visit to the European Commission in Luxembourg.
22 August	Visit to the Portuguese Association for Public Health Promotion in Lisbon, Portugal.
25/26 September:	Participation at the 1 st annual meeting of the National Institute of Public Health in Reykjavik, Iceland.
September	Participation at the annual meeting of ASPHER in Granada, Spain.
October	Visit to the Finnish Society of Social Medicine in Kuopio, Finland.
October	Presentation on "Health promotion: it really works" at the Magdeburg Autumn academy for health promotion in Germany.

During the year 2003, we observed a clear increase in the requests for collaboration with other projects, conferences and organisations. With regard to requests for collaboration, EUPHA's policy is to give – upon request – our membership list (addresses of the national associations), so that our members can decide for themselves whether to join or not. With regard to the tri-annual congress of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, planned for April 2004 in Brighton, United Kingdom and the 7th World conference in injury prevention and safety promotion, planned for June 2004 in Vienna, Austria, EUPHA is an active partner.

The EUPHA website is doing well. The average number of hits per month in the past 12 months is just under 67000. There are clear peaks to be observed in April (102000 during abstract submission time) and just before the EUPHA conferences when the scientific programme of the conference is available online. The interactive part of the website, which was started this year, seems less successful and changes will be implemented to improve this.

EUPHA projects:

EUPHA has also been active in a number of projects, such as:

- The project on the future of public health in Europe

This project was set up as a series of 5 workshops, starting in Dresden and ending in Rome. The workshops all discussed the question of how public health will be implemented/practised and researched in the future.

The kick-off workshop was held in November 2002 in Dresden, Germany during the EUPHA annual conference. The aims of this workshop were to clarify the questions to be taken into account in this project, to get our members interested and involved in the project and to identify key persons for the following workshops. About 80 conference public health experts participated in this workshop. The following presentations were given:

- The history of public health: Prof. Gunnar Tellnes, Norway
- The problems on implementing public health: Dr Ineke Thien, the Netherlands
- Public health in the future: Prof. Jan-Maarten Boot, the Netherlands

The second workshop was organised on 10 May 2003 in Utrecht, the Netherlands and addressed the theme of bridging the gap between research and policy & practice. The aim was to arrive at practical recommendations: for public health researchers on how to be more effective in communicating and implementing their results; for EUPHA on how to facilitate the dissemination and actual use of public health research. Ten experts participated in this workshop. The following presentations were given:

- Evidence-based management in health care: what can public health learn from clinical practice?: Prof. Kieran Walshe, United Kingdom
- The research-policy interface: implications for public health research: Dr Loek Stokx, the Netherlands

The third workshop was held on 15 June 2003 in Bergen, Norway and looked at the future of public health in Europe from the policymaker's point of view. The aim was to identify future health problems and directions in dealing with public health for policymakers. This workshop was organised as a satellite workshop to the international health conference organised in Bergen, Norway in June 2003. Around 100 experts participated in this workshop. The following presentations were given:

- Investment for Health: lessons, opportunities and challenges for public health: Dr. Erio Ziglio, WHO Europe
- How do we turn policy into practical public health work?: Dr. Bjorn-Inge Larsen, Norway
- Should Public Health efforts be integrated in other sectors and political areas, or should it be a separate part of society's tasks and policies?: Dr. Geir Sverre Braut, Norway

The fourth workshop was converted into an active email exchange between the members of the EUPHA section on public health practice and policy. The aim of this email exchange was to look at the practical implementation of public health in the future. The results of this exchange will be included in the final report.

The last workshop was organised in Rome, Italy, during the 11th annual EUPHA conference. Here, the preliminary results were presented, after which a general discussion helped to clarify the future of public health in Europe. The following presentations were given:

- The preliminary results of the EUPHA project 2002-3: the future of public health in Europe: D. Zeegers Paget, EUPHA
- A first critical analysis of the EUPHA report: Dr A.W. Kalis, the Netherlands

The results of the discussions in the workshops will be published as the first in a series of reports where EUPHA provides overviews of current public health issues in Europe. These reports are set up by using our extensive network and organising workshops and email exchange on selected issues.

- EUPHA/OSI project to support public health associations in central and Eastern Europe

Together with the Open Society Institute (OSI) of the SOROS foundation, EUPHA started the first implementation phase of a project for the support of public health associations as key links between government, the scientific community and the population in central and Eastern Europe (CEE). After a difficult selection, four countries started implementing this project as of May 2003:

- The Albanian Epidemiology Association with their twinning partner the Germany Association for Health Sciences and Public Health.
- The Public Health Association of Latvia with their twinning partner the Society for Social Medicine of Finland
- The Lithuanian Public Health Association with their twinning partner the UK Faculty of Public Health; and
- The Slovak Public Health Association with their twinning partner the Netherlands Public Health Federation.

At the Rome conference, an OSI/EUPHA workshop was organised and the EUPHA members (Governing council representatives) attended this workshop. In this workshop, an update was given on the activities of the four funded projects for 2003, their goals/objectives and activities executed were presented and the relationships with the twinning partner were described.

As the Open Society Institute has decided to continue this project next year for up to 4 more countries, the workshop was also used for 9 new possible candidates for next year. These countries were invited to present their actual status (existing public health association, goals/objectives), their needs for a twinning partner (what exactly are they looking for), and their future plans.

- ASPHER/EUPHA accreditation project

EUPHA has continued its collaboration with the ASPHER initiated project to further the setting up of an independent accreditation agency for public health training programmes in Europe. This year, a brainstorming workshop was organised with representatives from ASPHER, EUPHA, WHO Headquarters and the Swiss Accreditation Agency in April in Bern, Switzerland.

- EUPHIE project

EUPHA also submitted a 3-year project package to the European Commission for support, called the European Public Health Information Exchange project. The objectives of the project were:

- to provide tools to exchange information between the different European countries
- to provide tools to spread information from the European level to a large network of public health experts
- to co-ordinate practice, policy and research in different public health areas
- to strengthen the existing network of public health associations throughout Europe to become even more the link between Europe and national level as well as between policymakers, researchers and practitioners.

The methods used to reach the objectives are the already existing EUPHA tools (conferences, network, EJPH). Furthermore, the proposal includes the establishment of country focal points to disseminate and gather information (31 countries already support the project proposal) and the setting up of an electronic newsletter to disseminate the information (research, policy and practice).

Unfortunately, the European Commission has rejected this project stating that the results are already available elsewhere. In 2004, we will examine which part of the project can still be implemented without the EU funding.

EUPHA 2003: COLLABORATION

APHA: The American Public Health Association kindly invited EUPHA again to attend their annual meeting. The contacts between APHA and EUPHA are good though limited as we usually only meet at the annual meeting of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

ASPHER: Association of schools of public health in the European region. As already stated above, ASPHER and EUPHA are developing the accreditation project together. EUPHA was represented by Martin McKee at the annual meeting of ASPHER in Granada, Spain in September.

EHMA: European Health Management Association. In March 2003, a reciprocal associate membership was agreed upon. This membership includes:

- the active exchange of information

- representation in each other's executive organs
- website linkage
- the possibility to have a stand at each other's conferences
- and other joint activities.

IUHPE: International Union of Health Promotion and Education. With the IUHPE as well, EUPHA has signed an agreement for mutual membership. The agreement includes:

- Representation in each other's executive organs
- The possibility to have a stand or a workshop at each other's conferences. IUHPE presented its work at the Rome conference (stand).
- 1 Waiver of conference fees for each other's conferences
- website linkages
- and other joint activities

WFPHA World Federation of Public Health Associations. The president of WFPHA, Prof. Theo Abelin, was at the Rome conference. For the tri-annual congress of the WFPHA in Brighton, UK (dates 19-22 April), EUPHA is a partner. Two members of our executive council – Wilhelm Kirch and Jouke van der Zee – are included in their scientific committee to review the abstracts.

European Union: EUPHA has had extensive contacts with the Directorate General of Public Health of the European Commission. This DG has already attended and sponsored a number of EUPHA conferences and we are happy that they are interested in using the EUPHA tools (both conference and journal) to present their work in the field of public health. The Rome conference received support again. As stated above, the European Commission organised a supplement to the EJPH to present their health monitoring projects.

WHO/EURO: World Health Organisation/ Regional Office for Europe. The collaboration with WHO/EURO has been intensified since the visit in October 2002. The collaboration includes a regular WHO column in the EJPH

Council of Europe: EUPHA obtained the NGO consultative status with the Council of Europe several years ago. However, no real activities were developed this year.

EUPHA 2003: FINANCES

The financial situation of EUPHA has remained stable for 2003. However, there is an increase in receivables (mostly due to contribution of members) and therefore a decrease of cash at the bank. The total income was reduced, mainly caused by a decrease in membership contributions and a reduction in the profit share from OUP. The expenses have increased (increase in projects and operating expenses).

At the moment, EUPHA is only self-sufficient for 57% of the budget and is very dependent on its main sponsor, the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport. Solutions need to be found urgently and they should be sought mainly on the income side, as it is difficult to decrease the expenses.

For 2004, a financial sustainability strategy will be elaborated and implemented. This includes discussions with the current sponsors and an active search for new sponsors.

EUPHA 2003: SPONSORS

- ❖ Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in the Netherlands (EUPHA office)
- ❖ SOROS foundation/Open Society Institute (projects and CEE participation at the Rome conference)
- ❖ Merck, Sharpe and Dome (website and general sponsor)
- ❖ Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research (NIVEL) (EUPHA office)
- ❖ Karlstad University (EJPH editorial office)

- ❖ Swedish Research Council (EJPH editorial office)
- ❖ European Commission (conference)
- ❖ Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (Conference)
- ❖ Wyeth Lederle Spa (Conference)
- ❖ Berna (Conference)
- ❖ Glaxo Smith Kline Spa (Conference)
- ❖ Chiron Vaccines Spa (Conference)

EUPHA 2004 ONWARDS: CONFERENCES

The EUPHA 2004 conference will be held from 7 to 9 October 2004 in Oslo, Norway. The main theme of the conference is Urbanisation and health: new challenges in health promotion and prevention.

The major topics of the 2004 meeting are:

- ❖ Urbanisation and health transition – an overview
 - Recent changes in health and health determinants in Europe – the urban-rural dimension
 - Changes in health status and development of health care services
- ❖ Challenges in health promotion and prevention
 - Health inequalities – are they preventable?
 - Mental health and social network
 - Injury prevention
 - Children and youth
 - Nutrition and lifestyle diseases
 - Migration, health and transitions in lifestyle
 - Social security, occupation and health
 - Rehabilitation
 - Prevention of infectious diseases
 - Health promotion for migrant groups
 - Health and human rights
 - Preventive aspects in the post-genome period
- ❖ The nature-culture-health interplay and quality of life
 - Sustainable environments and Local Agenda 21
 - Salutogenesis and empowerment
 - The health promoting impact of contact with nature: recreation and health
 - Physical activity
 - Culture, music, dance, art and health
 - Architecture and city planning
 - Pollution and health
 - Urban development and health
 - Health perceptions and cultural diversity

The first announcement for this 2004 conference has been available as of June 2003 and was distributed to all EUPHA members.

The 2005 EUPHA conference will be held in Graz (Austria) from 10 to 12 November. The main theme of the conference is “Public health challenges in the 21st century – re-orienting health policies – linking health promotion to health care. It is the first time that three countries (Croatia, Slovenia and Austria) are organising the EUPHA annual conference.

The 2006 annual conference will be held in Montreux, Switzerland, 16-18 November. The proposed theme for the conference is “Politics and (or) the public’s health: between politics and service”.

Planned sub-themes are:

- adolescent health
- health promotion
- chronic disease epidemiology and prevention
- general practice
- substance abuse
- quality of health care and
- public health training

Information on the upcoming EUPHA conferences are regularly updated on the EUPHA website: www.eupha.org.

The EUPHA conferences are based on a rotation schedule (South, North, East, West) and EUPHA plans to follow the schedule listed below:

- 2007 Southern Europe
- 2008 Northern Europe
- 2009 Eastern Europe
- 2010 Western Europe

For EUPHA members interested in organising an annual EUPHA conference, the EUPHA office has set up a conference scenario, containing planning, finances and other organisational information on how to apply for and organise an EUPHA conference. This conference scenario is regularly updated and can be found on the "Governing Council only" part of our website.

EUPHA 2004 ONWARDS: PLANNED ACTIVITIES

For 2004, EUPHA will work on the two following priority areas:

- The future of the European Journal of Public Health: the current situation of the EJPH cannot be upheld. First, as four issues per year leads to a constant backlog in publications and therefore jeopardises the scientific and professional character of the journal. Second, as the costs of producing the EJPH are steadily increasing and can no longer be born by EUPHA.
- The second priority is to ensure financial stability of EUPHA. A financial sustainability strategy will be elaborated and implemented. This includes discussions with the current sponsors and an active search for new sponsors.

Other activities include:

- We will continue our efforts in active membership hunting. According to the WHO/EURO definition of Europe, there are 52 countries in Europe. At the moment, we have 36 countries that are members (of which 6 are individual members). Our objective is to become *THE* platform for all national public health associations as well as individual public health experts in Europe.
- The networking activities will also be intensified with the European Commission and the Council of Europe. We will try to obtain the same close collaboration as we have set up with WHO/EURO in 2002.
- We will also continue with projects, especially the project to support the role of public health associations in central and Eastern Europe together with OSI.

EUPHA 2004 ONWARDS: FINANCES

As stated above, the EUPHA finances 2004 onwards is the priority for the year 2004. The generous sponsorship by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport is expected to finish by the end of 2004. And it is clear that without such sponsorship, it will be difficult to maintain EUPHA in its present form. Furthermore, the rejection of the project proposal to the European Commission has an impact on the future of the EUPHA finances.

A financial strategy will be elaborated for 2004 onwards. The strategy will aim both at increasing the income side (increase in membership fees, more sponsors, increase in own income, such as conferences and projects) and decreasing the expenses side (changes to the European Journal of Public Health).

EUPHA 2004: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President:	Walter Ricciardi, Italy
President-elect	Gunnar Tellnes, Norway
President-elect2	Horst Noack, Austria
Vice president-elect2	Metka Macarol-Hiti, Austria
Vice president-elect2	Zvonko Sosic, Croatia
Past-president	Wilhelm Kirch, Germany
Treasurer	Juan Cabases, Spain
Secretary	Diana Delnoij, Netherlands
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2003 ACTIVITIES OF EUPHA MEMBERS

Albanian Epidemiological Association

A salient moment in the activities of the Albanian Epidemiological Association (AEA) conducted during 2003 was the involvement in a project initiated by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) with financial support of the Open Society Institute (OSI). This project, which started in May 2003, aims to support public health associations as key links between government, the scientific community and the population in central and eastern European countries.

The main objectives of the OSI-EUPHA project in Albania implemented by the AEA were the following:

- To increase the awareness of public health professionals about health challenges of Albania and the need for a common multi-professional association.
- To establish an Albanian Public Health Forum, including all stakeholders and associations involved in public health field.
- To increase the awareness of the decision-makers and the community about public health problems that Albania is currently facing.
- To enhance and foster evidence based policy and its implementation in the Albanian health sector, which is going through difficult periods of transition following the collapse of the "Soviet" health system in 1991.

The main tools we employed to achieve these objectives during the first 6 months were the following:

- A Conference organized in Tirana (the capital city of Albania), which included over 60 renowned health professionals in Albania representing all the key institutions in the country, such as the Ministry of Health, the National Institute of Public Health, the Health Insurance Institute, the Medical Order, the Faculty of Medicine, as well as representatives from several non-governmental organizations and civil society. The Conference launched the main objectives and activities of the OSI-EUPHA project, with a main focus towards the establishment of an Albanian Public Health Forum.
- Two workshops were organized with participation of health professionals pertaining to northern districts of Albania (Shkoder) and southern districts of the country (Vlore). During these workshop, specific alternatives related to the establishment and functional structure of the proposed Public Health Forum were discussed and developed.
- Starting from May 2003, a monthly newsletter was published and distributed to all public health professionals operating in Albania. Publication of this newsletter has enabled an effective channel of communication among all the interested stakeholders and subjects involved in health field.

The OSI-EUPHA project in Albania is strongly supported by our twinning partner, namely the German Association for Health Sciences and Public Health (represented by: Prof. Ulrich Laaser, who attended the first Conference held in Tirana in September 2003).

So far, we are pleased with the ongoing activities of the first 6 months of the OSI-EUPHA project, as we believe they do fit into the overall mission of the AEA, which is: *"To promote a multi-professional approach to public health challenges in Albania in order to advocate policy based on evidence and recommend interventions, with the ultimate goal of improving the health of the Albanian population"*.

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Austrian Society for Health & Public Health

Scientific annual conference

Our annual national 2 days conference in Linz, Upper Austria, had around 100 participants. The topic "Under-, Over- and Misuse; Reduction and Management of Errors in health care, was addressed by key-notes and in several workshops. International key-note speakers like Tjerk W. van der Schaaf, Netherlands dealing with *"Medical applications of Industrial Safety Science* and Karl W. Lauterbach, University of Cologne, Germany, addressing the main topic with *"Diseases Management –a Public*

Health Initiative” among others. The conference proceedings have been published internationally by the renowned “Mabuse-Verlag” (ISBN 3-935964-31-5).

New and simpler name

The general assembly was held in March, board meetings took place in January, May and December. The board has been enlarged to 10 members and covers now the academic backgrounds of health economics, nursing sciences, social sciences (sociology), medicine and psychology as parts of public health. The name of our association was simplified in March to **Austrian Public Health Association (APHA)** (“Österreichische Gesellschaft für Public Health”).

Ongoing discussions and information

Four printed newsletters distributed among the members did include short scientific reports, and recommendation for recently published books. The internet based virtual discussion forum (oeph@domeus.de) has around 40 members and had more than 100 contributions. Our constantly updated web-site, www.oeph.at observed several thousand hits.

EUPHA Conference 2005 in Graz

The preparation for the EUPHA conference 2005 in Graz was stepped up, a project- and financial plan und a project administrator, subsidised by the health promotion fund of Austria, were established (Email of administrator: dorothea.kahrgottlieb@meduni-graz.at). The programme draft was presented at the EUPHA governing council meeting in Rome in November 2003. At the board meeting in December 2003, four committees were established/fixed, a Local Organising Committee (LOC), a National Organizing Committee (NOC), a International Scientific Committee (ISC) and a honorary Austrian “Patronage Committee” (“Ehrenschatz”).

The new postgraduate Public Health training course at the University in Graz, headed by our vice-chairman Horst Noack, has progressed as planned, and will lead to an expected output of around 18 Masters of Advanced Studies in Public Health in 2004.

Report done by Franz Piribauer, secretary of the board.

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Bulgarian Public Health Association

1. The Bulgarian Public Health Association (BUPHA) was founded on 31, March 2003 (Decision of Sofia City Court № 2584) in Sofia as a voluntary, non-profit organization. Its mission is to create and operate an independent network of people and institutions for free exchange of ideas, knowledge and experiences for improving the interaction of scientific community, general population and policy makers in relation to public health.
2. The number of individual members amounts to 27. The Executive Board consists of president (Prof. L. Ivanov), secretary (Assoc. Prof. P. Tsonov) and three other members responsible for management and financing, training and education and public health research.
3. A special emphasis was put on institutional membership of BUPHA for facilitating sectoral and intersectoral collaboration. BUPHA president and secretary organized meetings with representatives of 23 partners including academies universities, scientific societies, leagues, school of public health, health insurance funds, association of municipalities, NGOs and foreign associations of public health.
4. BUPHA brochure was prepared and distributed through out the country (100 copies) for advertising BUPHA mission, objectives, membership, benefits of membership and partners.
5. All members of the association have exclusive access to BUPHA Library.
6. Two articles prepared by BUPHA members were published in scientific journals (“Social Medicine” and “Medicine and Pharmacy”) concerning EUPHA’s priority aims and international activities.
7. During the period under review BUPHA (10 members) became a full partner of the European Public Health Association. Ten copies of the European Journal of Public Health were received and distributed.
8. Three research reports about BUPHA role in public health policy for healthy nutrition, health informatics and health promotion were prepared by BUPHA members and presented at the

- 7th International Congress of nutrition (15-17, May 2003, Varna); 24th HIMAA Conference (8-10 August, 2003, Syney); EUPHA Annual Conference 20-23, November, 2003, Rome)
9. Three volumes of Oxford textbook of Public Health, Fourth Edition, Oxford University Press, 2002 were provided by EUPHA for BUPHA Library.
 10. At this initial stage of development BUPHA needs twinning partnership and support in establishing the web site, publishing its Public Health Bulletin, preparing evaluation report of health care reform in Bulgaria.
 11. BUPHA plans to organize a number of round table discussions concerning the vision of new public health and improvement of the health of the nation.

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Czech Society of Public Health and Management of Health Services

Czech Society of Public Health and Management of Health Services (Spolecnost socialniho lekarstvi a rizeni pece o zdravi) has 217 members. There are two sections in the Society: Section of health statistics and Section of health services management. The problems of issue of Public health and Health care administration have become a priority of professional public as a result of substantial changes in the health care system management. The chairman of the Society is a member in the Scientific Board of the Ministry of Health, in the Ethical Committee of Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic and in the Health 21 Committee the task of which is to implement the Health 21 program into the health care in the CR.

The Society organizes seminars every month (Education in Public Health, Health Policy, Health Statistics, Measurement of Health, Hospital Administration, Health Care Financing, Quality Management, Health Legislation, Health 21, etc.). Activities of the Society are represented in publishing the Journal of Health Care System in the Czech Republic (Zdravotnictvi v Ceske republice) that is published four times a year.

At the seminars there are discussions on developing participation of its members' activities, the results of health care administration in the Czech Republic are evaluated and published.

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Danish Society of Public Health (DSPH)

Name of the association:

Dansk Selskab for Samfundsmedicin (DSSAM)

Website:

www.dssam.suite.dk

Number of members:

The society currently has 418 members. 274 of the members are medical doctors while 144 have another educational background.

Number of EUPHA members:

418

Activities in 2003:

National meeting on public health, The Hindsgravl Conference, is organised every second year. The last conference was held in 2002. In 2003 meetings with subjects such as "patient safety", "a social capacious labour market", "being a development aid worker" and "torture victims" was held in collaboration with the sections of the society.

The public health medicine continuous training working group has developed new aims for the education in public health medicine which have been sanctioned by the National Board of Health in Denmark. The new aims are currently being translated from Danish into English.

A partnership between Kazakhstan Association of Public Health Specialists (KAPHS) and DSPH has been planned and given a warm welcome by the executive committee of DSPH in February 2003. The purpose being the further development of KAPHS in relation to the Open Society Institute/European Public Health Association (OSI/EUPHA) project programme for the support of public health associations as key links between government, the scientific community and the population in central and eastern European countries. A completed application form was submitted by KAPHS in February 2003 but unfortunately the application was not approved by OSI/EUPHA this year.

Publications in 2002:

"NYS" Nyt fra Samfundsmedicin (News in Public Health Medicine) is published at least 4 times per year via e-mails to the members and on the website of DSPH.

Existing working groups, sections, etc.:

- Master of public health section
- The junior public health medicine specialist section
- The public health medicine specialist continuous medical education working group
- The public health continuous professional development working group
- The environmental medicine working group

Outlook for 2004:

Public health meetings will be arranged in collaboration with other societies and fractions. And the national meeting on public health, The Hindsgavl Conference will take place 24–25 May 2004.

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German Society of Medical Sociology

Main activities in 2003:

- The German Society of Medical Sociology (DGMS) was one of the 34 participating associations at the First Conference on "Psychosocial Care in Medicine" in Hamburg, Germany. Two sessions were organised by the DGMS; one on "Gender and Social Inequalities" and one on "Ageing".
- After the First Conference on "Psychosocial Care in Medicine" a one day-meeting was organised by the DGMS. The topic of the meeting was "The Contribution of Medical Sociology to Psychosocial Care in Medicine".
- The DGMS is one of the co-editors of the open access journal "Psycho-Social-Medicine" (<http://www.ger-med-sci.de/>).
- The German Society of Medical Sociology is an active member of the Association of the Scientific Medical Societies (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Wissenschaftlichen Medizinischen Fachgesellschaften, AWMF) in Germany. Moreover, the DGMS cooperates with the German Society of Medical Psychology (DGMP), the German Society of Social Medicine and Prevention (DGSMP), the German Society of Public Health (DGPH) and the European Society of Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS).

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Israel: Prof. Ted Tulchinsky

During 2003, the Braun School of Public Health at the Hebrew University-Hadassah completed its 28th class in the International Master of Public Health program which has graduated over 650 MPHs from around the world. In the past 5 years, the Braun SPH has produced 63 MPH graduates from countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia. Of 40 MPHs in Russia, 25 are from the Braun SPH. These graduates are occupying many important professional administrative, teaching and research positions in NGOs, schools of public health and in official agencies throughout the post Soviet world.

The Braun SPH has conducted 2 visiting faculty programs in which mid level teaching staff of newly developing schools of public health in these countries visit for intense exposure to the organization,

curriculum, content and teaching methods and ideology the Braun SPH. This has involved faculty members from Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Albania.

Prof Leon Epstein retired from directorship of the Braun SPH and the new Director is Prof Elliot M Berry is also head of the Department of Nutrition in the Faculty of Medicine. The new Director General of the Ministry of Health appointed in October 2003 is Prof Avi Israeli, currently head of the Department of Health Policy and Economics of the Braun SPH.

During 2003, the Ministry of Health has made significant strides forward in implementation of mandatory fluoridation of community water supplies, which was challenged and supported by the Supreme Court. The Nutrition and Food Service is preparing regulations for mandatory fortification of basic foods with important micronutrients. This will include folic acid, vitamins B1, niacin, B6, B12 and iron in flour, vitamin D in milk products and iodine in salt for implementation during 2004. Milk (1% fat) and margarine are fortified with vitamin A and D by law for many years. Fortification of bread and other processed foods has been increasing on a voluntary basis in recent years.

The Ben Gurion University Faculty of Medicine MPH program launched several years ago has developed successfully and a new MPH program is being launched in Haifa. The Al Quds Medical Faculty MPH program started some 4 years ago is continuing in East Jerusalem.

Prof Ted Tulchinsky of the Braun SPH joined EUPHA as the Israeli representative in 2003.

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Public Health Association of Latvia

The Public Health Association of Latvia (PHAL) was established in April 1995 as an open non-governmental professional organisation with the aim to promote public health in Latvia by strengthening the scientific foundation and developing the practice of its sub-branches. One of the major tasks for the Association is to unite different specialties with a common and modern theoretical background. The Association also aims to build professional capacity while at the same time increasing visibility and prestige. Another particularly important task is interaction with Governmental organisations to influence policy making and the legislative process

Members represent different branches of public health – environmental health, health promotion and education, health management and administration, health statistics and epidemiology.

During the past seven years regular meetings, conferences, seminars, discussions, lectures have been devoted to new and existing public health legislation, policy, emergencies, longstanding problems and education. Representatives of the Association have been invited and have participated in several international (Baltic region) activities.

In October 2002 OSI and EUPHA accepted the application of PHAL to participate in the EUPHA conference in Dresden. Three board members of PHAL participated in the Conference and in the twinning meetings. During the Conference the twinning partner – Society for Social Medicine of Finland was identified.

The application for the OSI/EUPHA project *Support of public health associations as key links between government, the scientific community and the population in Central and Eastern Europe* was submitted in February 2003. In March 2003 the proposal was selected and in April approved by OSI/EUPHA.

In May 2003 the activities of the project began.

On 5 May 2003 national research conference *Health of children in Latvia* was organized by PHAL. It covered a broad range of topics regarding children's health status and its promotion, health care provision for children, health promotion and its international aspects, accidents and safety promotion, traffic safety promotion, mental health and its promotion, breast feeding promotion, drug use prevention in schools, health promoting school project in Latvia, youth friendly health services, children and smoking, physical activity promotion, oral health promotion. 458 participants from all regions of Latvia attended the May conference: health professionals, social workers, students, teachers, people from municipalities, from ministries of health, welfare, education, public health workers, representatives from several mass media, teachers from universities.

Regular collaboration of PHAL with mass media has been established, information concerning the research conference has been disseminated through mass media channels: TV, radio, newspapers.

As of 15 May, 2003, the position of project coordination and secretary was established for day to day running of the organisation (PHAL). At the meeting of EUPHA Executive Council, June 2003- the membership application of the PHAL to EUPHA has been accepted.

Several meetings with NGO's related to public health on the creation of an umbrella organization for PH have taken place and network initiation seminar was held in November 2003. A survey of NGOs related to PH-regarding their expectations and needs concerning PH umbrella organization, has been carried out.

A visit from the Finnish twinning partner took place in Riga on 11-13 September, 2003, when possible future activities were discussed and planned.

A local internet site of PHAL for exchange of information has been developed.

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Lithuanian Public Health Association

Lithuanian public health association (LPHA) is non-governmental public health organization whose main goal is to promote public health strengthening and induce society to be active solving health problems. According to the principle of independence, it unites legally registered public organizations that work in the field of health promotion and strengthening, train public health specialists, and support the programs of health promotion and strengthening.

LPHA aims are:

1. To participate forming public health policy
2. To induce society members to be active taking care of their health
3. To participate training public health specialists, raising their qualification and implementing scientific knowledge.

Activities:

- February 6-8, 2003 LPHA organized round table discussion "Culture of Healthy Life Style in Lithuania". The participants have decided to promote active culture of healthy life style and to organize Forum of National Health Agreement in 2004-2005.
- March 24, 2003 there was organized round table discussion "Promotion of Healthy Life Style in Kaunas Town and District". There was formed a coordinative group of promotion of healthy life style and there were suggested the means of promotion.
- In June, 2003 LPHA started to implement EUPHA project "Support of Lithuanian Public Health Association as Key Link Between Government, the Scientific Community and the Population". The invitation to participate in the project and the questionnaire was send to municipalities of all Lithuanian towns that have up to 75 000 inhabitants. Two Lithuanian towns were chosen to participate in the project: Elektrėnai and Kėdainiai. There was taken decision to collaborate with Sefton (United Kingdom) while creating local public health strategy. There were formed groups of coordinators in Lithuanian towns and Sefton.
- Round table discussion "Local Public Health Strategy" – debates with the twinning partners was organized on the 8th of October. The two public health strategies and reports about experience working in different systems (Lithuanian and English) were made by Danguolė Avižiuviene, Head of Section of Public Health Safety and Education of Kaunas Public Health Center Kėdainiai Branch, Kristina Matuzienė, Head Specialist of Public Health of Elektrėnai Municipality, Peter Moore, Environmental Health Directorate, Sefton MBC, Janet Atherton, Director of Public Health, Southy Sefton Primary Care Trust, and Linda Turner, Public Health Specialist attached to Southport and Formby Primary Care Trust. The steps how to implement local public health strategies and to collaborate in future have been discussed.
- October 10, 2003 there was organized international public health conference "Community for Health". The reports were made by public health specialists of Lithuania, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belarus, Latvia, and Kaliningrad.
- October 10, 2003 there was organized LPHA Congress. During the Congress there were made amendments of LPHA Statute, and there were elected LPHA President, LPHA Council and LPHA Audit Commission. LPHA member of honor - prof. Vilius Grabauskas, the

Chancellor of Kaunas University of Medicine, Head of Department of Preventive Medicine of Faculty of Public Health – was affirmed.

- The design and contents of LPHA website has been changed (new address www.lvsa.lt).

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Macedonian Association of Social Medicine

The Macedonian Association of Social Medicine has gained a new management in November 2002. On the constitutive meeting, Dr. Marika Karanfilova has been elected for president of the Association, and for General Secretary Dr. Persida Malinska. A Management Board consisting of 7 members has been appointed.

The Macedonian Association of Social Medicine has 51 members, most of them doctors specialists in social medicine. The Macedonian Association of Social Medicine also has members from other profession: 2 pedagogues, 1 jurist, 1 economist, and 1 electrical engineer.

The Macedonian Association of Social Medicine is a part of the Macedonian Medical Association.

In the beginning of its mandate, the new management has introduced the Activity Plan for 2003.

The Macedonian Association of Social Medicine has so far held three meetings, when the current activities and projects were presented, and other information, actual reports and recommendations were also introduced. Here are the essential ones:

1. Taking part in the Program for Continual Education of the Doctors, regarding Public Health, Health Promotion and Health Education for changes in the way of living.
2. Acceptance of the WFPHA – Declaration on Public Health, Peace and Human Right, that was established on the Skopje Conference, as part of the activities of the Stability Pact in 2001.
3. Acquaint the members for the possible changes in the Public Health, in accordance with the transition process in the Health System in Macedonia.
4. Discussion about the changes in the education of the public-health-workers and the establishment of Public Health School.
5. Preparation activities for the local implementation of the project for Healthy Community, Governance and Management which will be implemented in the next few years.

Macedonian Association of Social Medicine

President

Dr. Marika Karanfilova

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Malta Association of Public Health Medicine

Executive Council

The second Executive Council of MAPHM is as follows:

Dr. J.M. Cachia	President
Dr. Miriam Camilleri	Vice-President
Dr. Nadine Camilleri	Hon. Secretary
Dr. Stephanie Xuereb	Treasurer
Dr. Kenneth Grech	Member
Dr. N. Azzopardi Muscat	Member
Dr. Richard Zammit	Member
Dr. Miriam Dalmas	Member

The above 8 full members had nominated themselves to form part of the MAPHM EC in response to a call for nominations issued by Dr. Miriam Gatt and Dr. Sandra Distefano, as Electoral Commissioners, on 7th February 2002. Since the number of 9 members required by the Statute was not achieved, elections were not held and all nominated members could form part of the EC.

It was agreed that offices such as PRO, International Secretary, and Research Officer, as well as the co-ordination of specific tasks/projects would not be fixed but would be assigned to Members from time to time.

Specialist training in Malta

A Documentation:

The Association would like to thank Drs. Stephanie Xuereb, Miriam Camilleri, and Miriam Dalmas, who drafted the Specialist Training programme and the List of Competencies in preparation for discussion with members and with Dr. Donnelly.

B Visit by Dr. P. Donnelly

(Summary of Secretary's report)

Dr. Peter Donnelly, Vice-president, Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Royal Colleges of the United Kingdom, visited Malta in July 2002 at the invitation of the Health Department. This visit was made possible through NPAA funds.

It was concluded that MAPHM has made significant progress in competencies and training programme. A comprehensive training programme can indeed be set up on the island, eliminating the need to send people abroad for general public health specialist training. There are excellent opportunities and sufficient variety for adequate provision of placements.

More work is required in:

1. Detailing of competencies to bring them in line with EU requirements and to encourage transparency with regards to expectations of trainers and trainees.
2. Establishment of a Training Committee with good leadership. The idea of having a tripartite representation on this Committee (government, association and university) was highly encouraged.
3. Training the Trainers
4. Length and order of placements for trainees in the various departments
5. Ongoing assessment during the course and exit assessment
6. The possibility of a 5th year subspecialty training overseas (optional)
7. Formalising the existing CPD system
8. Roles of SAC and Training Committee should be clear and well-defined

Specialist Accreditation Committee

The SAC has had one meeting so far. The specialty is now going to be recognised across Europe as "Sahha Pubblika".

The issue of administration costs that the Association will incur in order to carry out the tasks expected of it, e.g. annual external assessments of trainees, will have to be discussed with SAC and resolved in the coming months.

CME events:

Two CME events were held during 2002:

13th June 2002:

Mr. John O'Brien, CEO of St. James's Hospital, Dublin, delivered a lecture on "**Doctors in management / Managing Doctors: The Interface**", at the Clermont Room, Radisson SAS Bay Point Resort. Mr. O'Brien was in Malta courtesy of FMS. Dinner was sponsored by AM Mangion Ltd.

Event was well attended by both public health specialist and clinicians, and proved useful in establishing a good link with clinical staff in MAPHM's efforts to change the long-existing mentality re. health administrators.

1st October 2002

Professor Jim McEwan, Professor of Public Health, University of Glasgow, delivered a lecture on "**Risk Management in Public Health**" at the Office of the CEO, St. Luke's Hospital. Event was also well attended and well received by Association Members as well as students following the MSc Public Health course and members of the Risk Management Working Group.

Membership

The Association now has 27 paid-up members. All potential members were sent a reminder to pay their membership fees earlier this year. New graduates of the MSc are to be encouraged, as well as students and other potential members who can avail themselves of Associate Membership.

Contact person for EUPHA:

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Netherlands Federation of Public Health

Preface

Since her launch in 2000, the NPHF has been formulating a number of expressive opinions on important public health subjects and is seen as an important platform for Dutch public health policy. Examples of issues the NPHF has been dealing with are the importance of a strong School of Public Health, the need for intersectoral policies and health impact assessments, to support better health for the total population and the necessity to close the gap of social-economic health differences in order to improve public health. The 10 policy notes for a healthier society the NPHF had launched, were designed to be used by politicians in formulating their election programme for the Lower House elections in May 2002 and January 2003. Meanwhile, we see more attention is being paid to some of the election programs due to these NPHF notes.

Activities

In January 2003 the NPHF organised three workshops in order to formulate practitioner's objectives in public health, resulting in a report published in February 2003. This report was offered to the new minister of Health, politicians and policy makers. The NPHF Board's aim is that the report will serve as starting point for the new ministry's Prevention Policy Draft.

The NPHF's objective to bring together the dispersed public health field more efficiently, was effected in the launch of professional public health practitioners magazine G, a combined effort together with the Dutch Association of Municipal Health Services (GGD Nederland) and The Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (NIGZ). Furthermore, efforts were made to try to secure the existence of the Dutch Journal of Public Health and Science (TSG).

In May the NPHF organised a conference in cooperation with The Advisory Council on Health Research (RGO). The conference's theme was to design an improved knowledge transfer system as a condition for stronger public health in the Netherlands. The conference was attended by 60 policy professionals and people active in education, research and practice.

In July 2003, structural ties between discussion platform Public Health Forum and the NPHF were effected, placing the PH Forum both as part of the NPHF organisation, but in an independent position, strengthening synergy and cohesion of public health in the Netherlands.

At this moment the NPHF organises meetings between policy makers and professionals, aiming to find solutions to close the gap between cure and prevention. The NPHF's role is to encourage these discussions and to bring together involved parties.

The NPHF also organises meetings on manpower planning, concerned with quality and quantity of public health workers of which is expected we will have a shortage of in future.

Communication between the NPHF members and the Federation Council runs through regular electronic mail, meetings (February and September), newsletters (twice a year) and the NPHF website www.nphf.nl.

At this moment the NPHF has 32 members, consisting of 14 professional societies and 18 institutes. In 2003 the Board was happy to welcome the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research (NIVEL), the Dutch College of General Practitioners (NHG) and the Netherlands Foundation for STI Control (Stichting SOA).

Contact person for EUPHA:

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Norwegian Society of Public Health

The Norwegian Society of Public Health (NFSH) is now five years old. This has been an active year for us, with many different types of activities.

On May 6th, we organized a one-day national public health conference in Oslo in cooperation with the Norwegian Medical Society on the theme "Naivety in public health work and the future of social medicine".

On June 15, we ran a well-attended EUPHA workshop in Bergen on “The Future of Public Health in Europe from the Policymakers’ Point of View” during the celebration of 400 years of Public Health Services in Norway. This workshop was part 3 of the series of similar workshops, of which the first was held in Dresden in connection with the 2002 EUPHA conference.

To help with this workshop, the President of EUPHA, Walter Kirch , and the General Manager, Dineke Zeegers Paget , came to Bergen. We are grateful to have had international collaborators in this work, and hope to see many, many more visitors from abroad in Oslo in October 2004.

At the end of the workshop, EUPHA Governing Council member Kristian Hagestad was awarded His Majesty the King’s Medal of Merit in Gold in recognition of his many years of work within the field of public health. Gunnar Tellnes, President of NFSH, gave a speech on behalf of EUPHA.

We held our Annual Grand Meeting 17 June in the Edvard Grieg Hall in Bergen, and elected the following Board: Gunnar Tellnes, Frank Thrana, Johs Wiik, Tone Torgersen, Bodil Erdal, Henning Aanes and Bernadette Kumar. Substitutes elected: Per Wium, Kristian Hagestad, Lars Lien, Sturla Gjesdal, Ragnhild Hovengen, Kjetil Drangsholt and Bjørn Heine Strand.

The Board continues the policy of having 10 Board meetings a year, and selecting specific task forces for special projects.

NFSH was also involved in arranging an international conference on the History of Medicine: “Health Between the Private and the Public – Shifting Approaches”. The conference was held in Oslo September 3 through 7, 2003.

Our web page, www.nfsh.no is regularly updated. There is some information in English, but the main focus remains on the NFSH’s Norwegian members.

NFSHs main work in 2003 was in connection with the 2004 EUPHA conference, to be held in Oslo in October 2004. We signed a contract with a Professional Conference Organizer and put together a Secretariat and a Local Organizing Committee with representatives from the University of Oslo, the Directorate of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health and other official bodies. The LOC’s function will primarily be advisory and controlling, while the Secretariat will carry out the day to day work or organizing such a large event.

Contact person for EUPHA:

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Polish Association of Public Health

1. At its meeting on 14 December 2002 the Main Board of the Polish Association of Public Health adopted a resolution on a concept of “Healthy Zones” as a new direction of its activities and a new strategy element for public health in Poland. The main goal of this strategy is promotion of health of populations of communities by applying non-medical measures. The Healthy Zone is an administrative area where the local authorities in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations and other groups of the local society declared to undertake jointly actions focused on health and quality of life of inhabitants. The regional branch of the Association in the Ponidzie Region has launched a pilot project.
2. In order to strengthen professional staff resources for public health, the Minister of Health established a program of vocational specialization in public health for non-medical professions (graduates in biology, biotechnology, chemistry, environmental engineering, environment protection, psychology, sociology, food and nutrition technology). The program has been developed by a group of experts in public health. Polish Association of Public Health was represented in the group by the designated members of the Association.
3. Polish Association of Public Health designated a member of its Board to the Group of Experts evaluating applications of institutions to perform training programmes for specialization in public health.
4. The Institute of Public Health of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, the Regional Branch of the Polish Association of Public Health in Cracow organized a conference on „Partnership for Employment in Public Health” in cooperation with the University of Sheffield, U.K. and the Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

5. The Board of the Association decided at its meeting on 28 June 2003 to organize a conference on Public Health in Poland Today and Current Needs. The conference will be held 1 October 2004 in Lodz. The aims of the conference will be: evaluation of the health status and the role of health determinants; assessment of the public health system in Poland (political, legal, administrative and educational aspects); conclusions and recommendations for the new phase of the National Health Programme 2006 - 2010.

Contact person for EUPHA:

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Romanian Public Health and Health Management Association

Background information:

The RPHHMA has been a functional entity for 10 years, working in the field of public health, with the purpose of contributing to the improvement of the population health status and to the increasing of the health services quality by the enhancement of the health system management. RPHHMA has 400 members out of whom 60 are active members. It co-operates with education and research institutes as well as with other key actors in the system and similar national and international organisations. The most important activities of RPHHMA are: conferences, courses, seminars, workshops, consensus meetings and publishing. RPHHMA also develops and runs consultancy and research projects and is involved in lobby activities.

Main achievements:

The main achievements of RPHHMA in 2003 have been:

- gaining the membership to the European Public Health Association for 20 members of our association
- gaining the membership to the European Health Management Association
- development of a new web page hosted on the Bucharest College of Physicians server (www2.cmb.ro/colmedbh/arspms.htm)
- editing of a quarterly newsletter distributed at RPHHMA members and key institutions in the system (national college of physicians and its local branches, national and local health insurance funds, district public health authorities, educational and research institutions).

Participation in research and consultancy projects:

In collaboration with the institute of Public Health Bucharest:

- Evidence based policy making – a case study on the development of integrated medical and social services

The research consisted in identifying the main factors that influenced the implementation of a policy aiming at introducing home care among the services financed by health insurance system and integrating medical and social services provided at home. The policy was initiated by a RPHHMA project conducted between 2001-2002 in collaboration with Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation and National Health Insurance Fund.

- Priority setting at local level

The project has as general objectives the evaluation of the way in which the local public health priorities are established at the District Public Health Authorities level and the development of intervention measures for improving the process of priority setting at local level. It has been evaluated also the influence of existing local priorities in decisions making process at both local and national level.

In collaboration with the Romanian League for Mental health:

- Development of a national mental health policy
The project is still in the stage of proposal, looking for financing and aims at the development of national mental health policy followed by lobbying for its implementation.

Presence at conferences

- The annual conference of the institute of public health Bucharest where at the workshop on “mental health – a public health problem” a collaboration agreement with the Romanian League for Mental Health was signed.
- The annual conference of the National Institute for Health Services Research and Development Bucharest.

Training programmes

Weekly training courses on hospital management organised for hospital manager in two districts (Arad and Valcea).

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Slovak Public Health Association - SAVEZ

Preface:

SAVEZ is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (civic association) registered on June 17, 2003 at the Ministry of Interior of Slovak Republic. Its establishment was initiated by the EUPHA/OSI Project to Support Public Health Associations in Central and Eastern Europe - Community Involvement 14836 (public health associations project).

SAVEZ Objectives:

- 1) to establish a national multisectorial umbrella organisation with a horizontal approach in the field of public health, involving:
 - a) linkage of existing activities
 - b) development of a network of professionals and institutions
 - c) promotion of interdisciplinary networking
 - d) establishment of a platform for mutual exchange of knowledge and experience
- 2) to develop links between public health professionals and the general population
- 3) to form an authoritative body that can influence public health policy
- 4) to develop cooperation with foreign organisations and institutions acting in the field of public health

Activities done from June to December 2003:

- On September 5, 2003 the 1st General Assembly took place in Kosice. The main aims were the elections to the Controlling Bodies of the SAVEZ and the 1st SAVEZ workshop preparation.
- On November 6-7, 2003 the 1st SAVEZ workshop was held in Kosice with following objectives:
 - to introduce the SAVEZ establishing organisations (Kosice Institute for Society and Health, Association of Healthy Cities of Slovakia, Stop Smoking)
 - to introduce two public health associations most important for the "growth and future development of SAVEZ" - the EUPHA and the Netherlands Public Health Federation (NPHF)
 - to establish the first groups of experts (health promotion, health and drug abuse, inequalities in health, health and quality of life, environmental health)
 - to discuss the Slovak terminology used in the field of public health (*Note: the definitions of public health created at this workshop were recently incorporated into the new Slovak law about the public health.*)
- In December 2003 the work on SAVEZ web-site started. The web-site will be completed by the end of April 2004.
- In December 2003 the preparation of the 1st SAVEZ Conference started. The Conference is planned for October 21-23, 2004.
- Survey of current situation started - the database of organisations working in the field of public health in Slovakia will be available also on the SAVEZ web-site.
- In 2003 the SAVEZ image (logo, address cards, letter-head, backgrounds for presentations) was created.

SAVEZ is very thankful to NPHF that during its "first steps" the NPHF played its active role of the twinning partner and gave to the SAVEZ different kinds of support via continuous e-mail communication, exchange of material and advises. Finally, SAVEZ would like to express its gratitude to EUPHA and OSI for the opportunity for Slovakia to enter the international scene in the field of public health.

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Swiss Society of Public Health

In June 2003 the SSPH approved its new mission statement. The document identifies the Society as, on one hand, a forum for specialists and non-specialists working in the field of public health. On the other hand, it seeks to establish itself as a platform for contact to political decision makers and the public, actively assuming its advocacy role for population health. It is in this context that a reinforcement of communication in public relations can be seen with the successful launching of the 'Swiss Public Health News' in the course of the year.

On 21st and 22nd August the annual conference of the Society took place in Basle under the theme 'Public Health Showcase in Switzerland'. The numerous speakers presented their papers and research, showing how diverse, dynamic and highly scientific the activities of Public Health in Switzerland are. At the Symposium for the 60th Birthday of Prof. Ursula Ackermann-Lieblich, on the 22nd of August, well-known International scientists spoke on the themes of "Gender and Health" as well as "Environment and Public Health".

Our scientific Journal 'Sozial- und Präventivmedizin' pursued its positive development. The scientific Impact Factor increased; online access for all subscribers was achieved and the published manuscripts indicate an increased "internationalization" and improved quality. In the immediate future, financial security for the Journal must be established on a firm basis and its on-going adaptation to the new challenges of internet ensured.

The members of the society continue their involvement in the various sections devoted to health promotion, nutrition, global health, epidemiology, environment and health, school medicine as well as the medical specialty of prevention and public health. In doing so, they reinforced the network between experts of the respective sections and enhanced the public health mentality in Switzerland.

Professor Theodor Aeberlin, currently co-president of the WFPHA, was elected honorary member of the Swiss Society of Public Health in 2003 in honor of his pioneer work in the field of Social and Preventive Medicine. At the level of our Secretariat, M. Markus Kaufmann took up his responsibilities as the new secretary, in replacement of M. Rolf Sennhauser.

Contact person for EUPHA:

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UK Society of Social Medicine

Background information

The Society for Social Medicine was founded in 1956 to promote the development of scientific knowledge in social medicine, which is defined as the study of health in its widest sense and which covers a range of subjects including epidemiology, the medical and health needs of society, the provision and organisation of health services and the prevention of disease. Membership of the Society is open to anyone whose work is consistent with the Society's objective. This inclusive criterion has led to a membership which comes from many disciplines and backgrounds but which shares research interests and methodologies.

The Society maintains a website (www.socsocmed.org.uk), distributes a newsletter and other relevant material to its members, and responds to consultation documents. It is affiliated to EUPHA and is a member of the International Epidemiological Association's European Epidemiology Federation.

The Society holds an annual scientific meeting, and one or two other scientific meetings each year which focus on particular themes. The formats of the meetings allow for presentations by leading authorities in their fields, reports of new research findings, and opportunities for developing and maintaining networks of friendships.

Activities in 2003

The Society's annual three-day scientific meeting was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in September. Nearly 300 delegates attended and heard a stimulating range of papers, including presentations from invited international speakers and the annual Cochrane Lecture, given this year by Professor Mildred Blaxter. Her subject was the contribution qualitative research can make to understanding whether or not the expression 'social capital' has real meaning and measurable components.

Two one-day meetings were also organised, both at Birkbeck College in London. The first, in October, discussed the development of a framework for equity in 'the New NHS'. The second, in November, examined globalisation and health policy.

Contact person for EUPHA:

Dr Carol Orchard,

UK Faculty of Public Health

The Faculty of Public Health represents public health professionals at national level in the United Kingdom, and also work through regional sections to maintain contact with individual practitioners. In 2003, the Faculty was particularly engaged in stabilising public health services, after the government had announced a major re-organisation of the NHS. In England, 100 public health departments in health authorities were divided into 300 departments within 'primary care trusts', while NHS regional public health was devolved to 28 strategic health authorities. Only at a Faculty special invitation lecture did a minister for health finally state that the PCTs would each have a director of public health. New parallel developments included regrouping communicable disease services into a national Health Protection Agency, and transforming the Health Promotion Agency into a Health Development Agency with public health responsibilities. Arrangements are, confusingly, different in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The Faculty continued to pursue health-related policy objectives, launching reports on hypertension control and food poverty, and developing e-groups for a wide range of policy topics. Work on training and standards forms an important daily responsibility, including validating standards of practice for non-medical specialists in public health. International work included membership of EUPHA and EPHA, collaboration with public health organisations in Australasia and South East Asia, and support for public health with the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Office, including Iraq. The Annual Conference, held in June, had an International Lunch to which current international partners were invited, including the Lithuanian Public Health Association who are twinned with the Faculty through the EUPHA/OSI support programme. We are also pleased that Professor Walter Ricciardi, President of EUPHA, was elected a Fellow of the Faculty. The Annual Report will be found at:
http://www.fphm.org.uk/about_the_faculty/annual_report_business%20plan/annual_report.shtml

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