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1. 7th European Public Health Conference, Glasgow

The 7th European Public Health Conference will be held in Glasgow, Scotland from 19 to 22 November 2014. The theme for the conference is *Mind the gap: reducing inequalities in health and health care.*

The abstract submission (for single abstracts and workshops) will open on 1 February 2014. Instructions to assist in the abstracts submission are available for all abstracts. Abstract submission will close on 1 May 2014 (23:59 CET).

Abstracts can be submitted on a variety of topics and submitters are invited to select up to 2 topics related to the abstract.

NEW
Abstracts can be submitted as ‘pitch’ presentations, which are short (5 minute) oral presentations. This new way of presenting your abstract replaces the moderated posters (combining a poster and a short presentation).

Please check the conference website at [www.eupha.org/glasgow2014](http://www.eupha.org/glasgow2014) regularly for updated information.

2. EUPHA update

**EUPHA Four Pillars**
We are pleased to announce that we have new Pillar Leads for all our pillars:
- Research Pillar: Peter Groenewegen, The Netherlands
- Policy Pillar: David Stuckler, United Kingdom
- Practice Pillar: Silvio Brusaferro, Italy
- Training and Education Pillar: Antoine Flahault, France

**EUPHA Sections**
The EUPHA section on Health Impact Assessment has launched a call for nominations for section president and vice-president until the end of January.

The EUPHA section on Child and Adolescent Public Health has a new president: Dr Daniëlle Jansen, who is taking over from Dr Auke Wiegersma, who will remain the vice-president of the section.


**EUPHA Collaboration**
- EUPHA is honoured to be an endorser of the next European Diabetes Leadership Forum which will take place on 4 March 2014 in the Concert Noble, Brussels. Building on the success of the 2012 European Diabetes Leadership Forum, the Danish Diabetes Association will be hosting the 2014 event with the support of Novo Nordisk. For more information: [http://diabetesleadershipforum.eu/](http://diabetesleadershipforum.eu/)
• EUPHA is honoured to support the 10-point action plan for governments to tackle obesity, published by the International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO). Professor Walter Ricciardi, President of the European Public Health Association, welcomed the report, commenting that "This report shows why governments must act against the drivers of the obesity epidemic, asserting their democratic mandate to defend the health of their populations against powerful vested interests". http://www.iaso.org/site_media/uploads/IASO_Press_release_10_Jan2014.pdf

• International Conference on Urban Health – March 2014
  EUPHA through its section on Urban public health is a partner in the International Conference on Urban Health 2014, 4-7 March 2014, Manchester Central Convention Centre, UK.
  For all the information you need about the conference, visit https://www.icuh2014.com/.

• European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health – April 2014 – UPDATED LINK
  The EUPHA Section of Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health is organizing the next European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health in Granada 10-12 April 2014. The website link is: http://www.eupha-migranthealthconference.com

• LEPH2014: The 2nd International Conference on law Enforcement and Public Health
  EUPHA has become a Supporter of the 2nd International Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH2014). The conference will be held at the Free University, Amsterdam, 5 – 8 October 2014. The conference is organised by the Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health (CLEPH), Melbourne, Australia in collaboration with the Free University, Police, and Public Health Services, Amsterdam, Netherlands. The call for abstracts is open until 7 March 2014. More information: www.leph2014.com

3. Call for proposals, job opportunities

Journal of Hospital Administration – Call for papers
Journal of Hospital Administration (ISSN 1927-6990 EISSN 1927-7008) is an international, open access, peer-reviewed, scientific journal published by Sciedu Press. It is devoted to publishing research papers in the field of managing practice and research in all branches of hospital administration, and related issue for hospital management coming from public health service. The JHA welcomes manuscripts from authors, especially original articles and hospital case studies. It is published in both online and printed versions.
Areas include but are not limited to:
• Healthcare quality and patient safety
• Health economics
• Health policy
• Health services
• Health facilities management
• Health data management
• Healthcare informatics
• Nursing management
• Health insurance

Submitting to JHA
For manuscripts submission, please email your articles directly to jha@sciedu.ca or visit: http://www.sciedu.ca/journal/index.php/jha/about/submissions#onlineSubmissions. The reviewing process takes about 3-6 weeks.

ERAWEB - Call for applications Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programme Erasmus-Western Balkans
We are very pleased to be able to announce the new call for applications of our Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programme Erasmus-Western Balkans (ERAWEB). This call will be open
until April 1, 2014. For more information please visit our website (www.erasmus-westernbalkans.eu).

Top universities in the European Union and the Western Balkans to exchange students and staff in clinical and health sciences: EU-funded scholarships from 1 to 36 months! Citizens of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia (FYROM), Kosovo (UNSCR 1244/99), Montenegro, and Serbia seeking a career in clinical, biomedical, public-health or applied research can apply for European Commission funding under the ERAWEB mobility scheme. This provides scholarships for undergraduate, Master’s, doctorate and post-doctorate students, and also for academic staff at selected universities in EU countries. Similarly, citizens of Austria, Belgium, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands can enroll at partner universities in the Western Balkans.

Detailed information on the application process is available in the Call for Applications: http://erasmus-westernbalkans.eu/call-for-applications-2/

4. Interesting News

Symposium: Antibiotics and Resistance in Primary Care - the European Experience
What are the links between antibiotic prescriptions, treatment guidelines, and antimicrobial resistance patterns in primary care in Europe? This One-day Symposium will present results of a 4-year EC-funded project (APRES) and the applications to antibiotic stewardship initiatives in Europe. It will include presentations by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the Dutch Ministry of Health and leading experts in the field of antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance in primary care in Europe.
Date: 28 February 2014
Place: Royal Dutch Academy of Science, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Organiser: NIVEL (Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research)
Registration fee: 50 €
Website: http://www.nivel.nl/node/3399
Registration: a.faassen@nivel.nl

DG SANCO - public consultation on patient safety and quality of care
DG SANCO has just launched a public consultation on patient safety and quality of care to seek opinion of civil society on:
• Whether patient safety measures included in the Recommendation 2009 are implemented and contribute to improving patient safety in the EU;
• Which areas of patient safety are not covered by the Recommendation and should be;
• What should be done at EU level on patient safety beyond the Recommendation;
• Whether quality of healthcare should be given more importance in the future EU activities.
Results of the consultation will contribute to a Commission second report on patient safety, due in April 2014.
We invite you to take part in the consultation and to widely distribute the information to your networks. More information: http://ec.europa.eu/health/patient_safety/consultations/patient_safety_quality_care_cons2013_en.htm (link to the consultation on the bottom of the web page).
The consultation is open until 28 February 2014.

Public Health and Migration Newsletter
The “WHO Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe project” (PHAME), based at the WHO European Office for Investments for Health and Development, Venice, Italy, in collaboration with the University of Pécs is establishing a periodic, electronic Newsletter. The goal is to facilitate the sharing of information and promoting dialogue in the field of health and migration. PHAME, funded by the Italian Minister of Health, aims to support the work of policy-
makers, health planners, local health professionals and others who are responsible for providing quality health care to migrants. The intention is to fill potential gaps in health service delivery, including prevention, diagnostics, monitoring and management of disease, and to provide policy recommendations for enhanced preparedness and response. The project addresses the call for WHO action present in the 2008 WHA resolution 61.17 and the recommendations of the Global Consultation on Migrant Health hold in Madrid in 2010. The project is implemented within the WHO/EURO health policy framework Health 2020, paying particular attention towards reducing health inequalities and ensuring people-centred health systems. The plan is to launch the first issue of this periodical by 1st of March 2014. If you are interested in receiving this Newsletter directly, please send a mail to: Dr. Zoltan Katz: zoltan.katz@aok.pte.hu with Cc : istvan.szilard@aok.pte.hu

5. EUPHA members update

New EUPHA Members
We are very happy to welcome two new members in our network:
- The Irish Health Research Board has joined EUPHA as an institutional member; and
- FISPëOS – the Italian Federation of Public Health Associations - has joined EUPHA as a full member.

French Society of Public Health – www.sfsp.fr/
Parution du N°6 novembre-décembre 2013 de la Revue Santé publique
Vous pourrez consulter la présentation de la revue Santé publique sur le site internet de la SFSP dans un espace qui lui est dédié http://www.sfsp.fr/santepublique/accueil.php

Society for Social Medicine in Finland
The president and the secretary of the Society for Social Medicine in Finland will change in the turn of the year.
The new president will be Tea Lallukka (tea.lallukka@ttl.fi) (replacing Eva Roos)
And the new secretary Peija Haaramo (peija.haaramo@helsinki.fi) (replacing Reetta Lehto).

Dutch Public Health Federation - http://www.nphf.nl/
The 12th edition of the Dutch Congress Public Health themed “Perspective on Public Health” will take place on 10 -11 April 2014 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. For more information information: www.ncvgz.nl.

6. Upcoming courses and conferences

Going International promotes training and further education for experts and newcomers in public health and humanitarian assistance around the globe. The flagship of Going International is the online education database »medicine & health«. It contains international courses, master programmes and conferences in the field of medicine and international health. Due to the large number and variety of training events the education database enables health professionals to find their educational event at their fingertips. For further information: www.goinginternational.eu/en/online-datenbank/ Going International is an official partner of EUPHA.
Title: Antibiotics and Resistance in Primary Care - the European Experience
Dates: 28 February 2014
Place: Amsterdam, The Netherlands
More info: http://www.nivel.nl/node/3399

Title: European Diabetes Epidemiology Group 2014
Dates: 29 March – 1 April 2014
Place: Sardinia, Italy
More info: http://edeg.intelliopen.hu/

Title: 4-Day Certificate Course “Introduction to Health Technology Assessment”
Dates: 2 – 5 April 2014
Place: Hall in Tyrol, Austria
Deadline: Early bird deadline 10 February, 2014
More info: http://umit.at

Title: ORPEHUS 2014 Conference:
Creating Career Opportunities for PhDs in Life and Health Sciences
Dates: 3 – 5 April 2014
Place: Lausanne, Switzerland
More info: http://www.unil.ch/orpheus

Title: 2nd European Health Literacy Conference
Dates: 10 – 11 April 2014
Place: Aarhus, Denmark
More info: www.healthliteracyeurope.net

Title: 8th International Congress on Quality in Healthcare, Accreditation and Patient Safety
Dates: 24-17 April 2014
Place: Antalya /Turkey
Deadline: Abstracts: 20 March 2014
Registration: 24 April 2014

Title: The international dimension in comparative health services research
Dates: 15 – 16 May 2014
Place: Utrecht, The Netherlands
More info: Registration form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1R3kXqD1X6FmEYZgo0QznOp0W2BhHnAoa6sz9TqFAGHY/viewform

Title: EHMA 2014 Annual Conference
'Leadership in Health Care: From Bedside to Board'
Dates: 24-26 June 2014
Place: Birmingham, UK
More info: http://www.ehma.org/

Title: Learning Disability and Ethnicity
Dates: 28 March 2014
Place: London, UK
More info: www.bmehealth.org
Title: 12th International Conference on Communication, Medicine & Ethics (COMET)
Dates: 26 – 28 June 2014
Place: Lugano, Switzerland
More info: www.comet.usi.ch

Title: 26th Annual International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference - From Local to Global: Advancing Science for Policy in Environmental Health
Dates: 24 – 28 August 2014
Place: Washington, USA
Deadline: Abstract submission: 28 February, 2014

Title: The Future of Primary Care in Europe V
“twinning Population Health and Primary Care”
Dates: 1 – 2 September 2014
Place: Barcelona, Spain
Deadline: Abstract submission 1 May 2014
More info: http://www.euprimarycare.org/barcelona/call-abstracts

Title: Introduction to Mathematical Models of the EPIDEMIOLOGY & Control of Infectious Diseases
Dates: 8 – 19 September 2014
Place: London, UK
More info: http://www.InfectiousDiseaseModels.org

Title: 3rd World Congress of Clinical Safety (3WCCS)
Dates: 10 – 12 September 2014
Place: Madrid, Spain
More info: http://www.iarmm.org/3WCCS/

Title: EUMASS Congres
Dates: 11 – 13 September 2014
Place: Stockholm, Sweden
More info: www.eumassstockholm.com

Title: 17th European Health Forum Gastein
Dates: 1 – 3 October 2014
Place: Gastein, Austria
More info: http://www.ehfg.org or info@ehfg.org

Title: 24th annual congress of the European Childhood Obesity Group (ECOG)
Dates: 13 – 15 November 2014
Place: Salzburg, Austria
More info: www.ecog-obesity.eu

7. European Journal of Public Health
The European Journal of Public Health is a multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health, publishing contributions from social medicine, epidemiology, health services research, management, ethics and law, health economics, social sciences and environmental health. The EJPH is published bimonthly. The journal provides a forum for discussion and debate of
current international public health issues with a focus on the European region. A subscription is needed, however, there are open access and editor’s choices which are freely available.

**European Journal of Public Health – January issue**

**Editorials**
Health in all policies—from what to how
Pekka Puska
Eur J Public Health 2014 24: 1
[Extract]

Political determinants of health
Johan P. Mackenbach
Eur J Public Health 2014 24: 2
[Extract]

**Viewpoint**
Are alcohol-attributable mortality estimates reliable?
Grégoire Rey and Eric Jougla
Eur J Public Health 2014 24: 3-4
[Extract]

**Editor’s Choice**
Suicide and unintentional injury mortality among homeless people: a Danish nationwide register-based cohort study
Sandra Feodor Nilsson, Carsten Rygaard Hjorthøj, Annette Erlangsen, and Merete Nordentoft
Eur J Public Health 2014 24: 50-56
[Abstract] [Full Text] [PDF]

**Open Access**
Lifestyle interventions in primary health care: professional and organizational challenges
Therese Kardakis, Lars Weinehall, Lars Jerdén, Monica E. Nyström, and Helene Johansson
Eur J Public Health 2014 24: 79-84
[Abstract] [Full Text] [PDF] [Open Access]

HIV testing policies for migrants and ethnic minorities in EU/EFTA Member States
Debora Alvarez-del Arco, Susana Monge, Ana M. Caro-Murillo, Oriana Ramírez-Rubio, Amaya Azcoaga-Lorenzo, Maria J. Belza, Yaiza Rivero-Montesdeoca, Teymur Noori, Julia Del Amo, and the Study Working Group
Eur J Public Health 2014 24: 139-144
[Abstract] [Full Text] [PDF] [Supplementary Data] [Open Access]

**8. Interesting publications**

**Rapid Project**

**Belgian Superior Health Council 2014 work programme**
http://tinyurl.com/SHC-workprogramme2014

**Health Impact Assessment. Past achievement, current understanding, and future progress**
J Kemm
OUP, Oxford, UK
http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199656011.do
Integrating Health Impact Assessment with the Policy Process. Lessons and experiences form around the World
M O’Mullane
OUP, Oxford, UK
http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199639960.do

Assessment of Population Health Risks of Policies
G Gulis, O Mekel, B Adam, L Cori
Springer, New York, USA

Effect of a lifestyle intervention on weight change in south Asian individuals in the UK at high risk of type 2 diabetes: a family-cluster randomized controlled trial
http://www.podosa.org/
http://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(13)70204-3/abstract

Measures of socioeconomic position are not consistently associated with ethnic differences in cardiovascular disease in Scotland: methods from the Scottish Health and Ethnicity Linkage Study (SHELS)
http://ije.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/dyt237v1?ct=ct

Health system limitations of Roma health in Slovakia, A qualitative study
A Belak
Health-system limitations of Roma health in Slovakia

A Bottom-up Approach to Employment, An Example of Good Practice
L Bosakova
A Bottom-up Approach to Employment

Staff Working Document on the implementation of the EU Council Recommendation on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

"There is hunger in my community": a qualitative study of food security as a cyclical force in sex work in Swaziland
R Fielding-Miller, Z Mnisi, D Adams, S Baral, C Kennedy
Abstract | Provisional PDF

Understanding the social context of fatal road traffic collisions among young people: a qualitative analysis of narrative text in coroners’ records
P Pilkington, E Bird, S Gray, E Towner, S Weld, M McKibben
BMC Public Health 2014, 14 :78 (24 January 2014)
Abstract | Provisional PDF

Factors influencing work participation of adults with developmental dyslexia: a systematic review
J de Beer, J Engels, Y Heerkens, J van der Klink
Abstract | Provisional PDF
Adherence of pregnant women to Nordic dietary guidelines in relation to postpartum weight retention: results from the Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study
A von Ruesten, AL Brantsæter, M Haugen, HM Meltzer, K Mehlig, A Winkvist, L Lissner
BMC Public Health 2014, 14:75 (24 January 2014)
Abstract | Provisional PDF

Evaluation of support group interventions for children in troubled families: study protocol for a quasi-experimental control group study
A Skerfving, F Johansson, TH Elgán
Abstract | Provisional PDF

The European Union and the Right to Community Living
C Parker, L Clements
Open Society Foundations

9. European Commission news

Ageing
European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing: scaling up for healthy growth
Video

Blood, tissues and organs
Transplantation and Transfusion: Projects and Actions for saving and improving the quality of life of citizens by facilitating transplantation and blood transfusion in the European Union
2013 Journalist Workshop - Organ donation and transplantation New articles and translations
Summary report - Meeting of the Competent Authorities for Tissues and Cells (5-6 June 2013)

Consumers, Health and Food Executive Agency
EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action 2012 2013 Training activities – Register Now

Data collection

eHealth
3rd meeting of the eHealth Network Minutes of the meeting

Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health
Investigating policy options regarding competition among providers of health care services in EU Member States Mandate
Future EU agenda on quality of health care with a special emphasis on patient safety Mandate

Healthcare
To provide high quality healthcare for all citizens – now and for generations to come – we need high-performing, efficient, sustainable health systems. – Commissioner Tonio Borg

Health-EU Newsletter
Health inequalities Reducing inequalities in health between different socio-economic groups and between different parts of the EU is one of the burning issues facing the European Union today.

Indicators
Indicator on PM10 (particulate matter) exposure (ECHI 55) updated with 2011 data and EU28 aggregate
Indicators on life expectancy at birth and age 65 (ECHI 10) Updated with 2012 data and EU28 aggregates
Indicator 'Expenditures on health care (% GDP, mio. PPS)' Updated with 2011 data (ECHI 77)
Indicator on Healthy Life Years updated with 2012 data and EU28 aggregate (ECHI 40)
Indicators on Self-reported health status updated with 2012 data, age groups (16-64, 65+) and EU28 aggregate (ECHI 34 & 35)

Major and chronic diseases
List of publications updated
List of events updated
Kick off meeting of the Joint Action addressing chronic diseases and promoting healthy ageing across the life cycle (Madrid, 29-30 January 2014)
Chronic Diseases Summit (Brussels, 3-4 April 2014)
Chronic Diseases Summit (3-4 April 2014) Agenda updated

Medicinal products for human use
Health Commissioner, Tonio Borg, welcomes agreement on the revision of EU rules on Clinical Trials

Patient safety
Call for tender - Pilot project on the promotion of self-care systems in the European Union.
Platform of experts Closing date: 28.02.2014

Rare diseases
List of events updated
List of publications updated
National plans or strategies for rare diseases: page updated

Social determinants and health inequalities
Conference 'Health in Europe, making it fairer' (18 March 2014) Registration opens
Conference 'Addressing health inequalities 2014 and beyond: building cohesion and strengthening health for growth' (Brussels, 23 January 2014) Flash report and Photo gallery

Tobacco
Meeting on the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (TPD) with cigarette manufacturers
Minutes of the meeting

10. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Eurosurveillance, Volume 19, Issue 1, 09 January 2014

In this issue: In this issue we list the names of our peer reviewers in 2013 and thank them for their support.

This week's table of contents:

EDITORIALS
Note from the editors: A busy and eventful year has passed
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20672

RAPID COMMUNICATIONS
A community cluster of influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 virus exhibiting cross-resistance to oseltamivir and peramivir in Japan, November to December 2013
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20666

SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK REPORTS
An outbreak of Salmonella Newport associated with mung bean sprouts in Germany and the Netherlands, October to November 2011
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20665
The French human Salmonella surveillance system: evaluation of timeliness of laboratory reporting and factors associated with delays, 2007 to 2011
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20664

PERSPECTIVES
The Danish Microbiology Database (MiBa) 2010 to 2013
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20667

NEWS
Conclusions of the fourth CONSISE international meeting
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20668

MISCELLANEOUS
Eurosurveillance reviewers in 2013
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20669
In the national epidemiological bulletins – a selection from current issues
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20670
ECDC's latest publications
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20671

Eurosurveillance, Volume 19, Issue 2, 16 January 2014

In this issue:

English study indicates that school-based delivery of HPV immunisation can lead to high and equitable coverage and probably reducing inequalities in cervical cancer control.

This week’s table of contents:

RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

Two cases of laboratory-confirmed leptospirosis in travellers returning to Spain from Thailand, September 2013
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20675

SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK REPORTS

Recent infection testing algorithm (RITA) applied to new HIV diagnoses in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, 2009 to 2011
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20673

Coverage of the English National human papillomavirus (HPV) Immunisation Programme among 12 to 17 year-old females by area-level deprivation score, England, 2008 to 2011
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20677

NEWS

Call for applications for EPIET and EUPHEM fellows
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20674

MISCELLANEOUS

Note from the editors: Eurosurveillance stops producing regular print compilations
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20678
Erratum for Euro Surveill. 2014;19(1)
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20676

Eurosurveillance, Volume 19, Issue 3, 23 January 2014
In this issue: Dengue case imported from Japan to Germany to sensitise public health authorities, blood transfusion services and clinicians that autochthonous transmission may occur in Japan

This week’s table of contents:

RAPID COMMUNICATIONS
Autochthonous dengue virus infection in Japan imported into Germany, September 2013
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20681

SURVEILLANCE AND OUTBREAK REPORTS
A new laboratory-based surveillance system (Respiratory DataMart System) for influenza and other respiratory viruses in England: results and experience from 2009 to 2012
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20680

MISCELLANEOUS
Job vacancies at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20679

Full table of contents:
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/

11. WHO publications

The Maltese health system: sustainability concerns with an ageing population
This new HiT health system review on Malta discusses many achievements that have occurred in the health system since the last HiT report was published in 1999. Two key events in the past decade have contributed to the further development of the health system. Malta’s accession to the European Union in 2004 played an important role guiding new legislation in public health and health protection. The construction of the new acute general hospital Mater Dei Hospital in 2007 was significant in shaping the flow of capital resources. Important reforms include the use of health technology assessment to define the benefit package, improvements in access to medicines through the Pharmacy of Your Choice scheme, and expansion of prevention and community-based services.

While Maltese citizens enjoy one of the highest life expectancies in Europe, the ageing of the population is already putting pressure on public finances. Current policies that are often geared towards hospitalization and institutionalization of older people are costly and contribute towards inefficient utilization of resources. Successfully managing this issue will require strategic investments and efforts to shift care away from hospitals and into the community. The new National Health Systems Strategy under development will help to provide direction.


The Norwegian health system: what can be done to improve user satisfaction?
Norwegian citizens are fortunate to enjoy one of the highest per capita health expenditure in the world. The level of public health care coverage is high (85%) and the health status of the population is very good. However, the satisfaction of people using health care services seems to be ‘only’ average compared to other OECD countries that spend less. What can be done to improve it?

Poor coordination of hospital care with other health services and long waiting times for elective care are the key reasons for dissatisfaction with the health system. While both of these issues have been on the policy agenda for a long time, the “coordination reform” has recently made a renewed effort to improve these two aspects of the system. The Municipal Health and Care Act and the Public Health Act, enacted in 2011, are the cornerstones of the coordination reform. Their aim is to improve coordination between hospital care and other health services, especially in non-hospital settings. This should reduce pressure on overcrowded hospitals (the average bed occupancy rate in Norway is 93%) by reducing both the average length of stay
(ALOS) and waiting times. At the same time, and separately from the coordination reform, increased attention is paid to quality of care and patient safety. The evaluation of the coordination reform is ongoing. Should it lead to improved coordination of care and a reduction in waiting times, it may well succeed in improving the satisfaction of Norwegian patients with the health care system.


News highlights -- January 2014

FEATURE
Protecting vulnerable groups from influenza
Every winter season, flu is a particular health risk for some groups. WHO recommends priority immunization for elderly persons (defined nationally), pregnant women, individuals >6 months with chronic heart, lung, metabolic, renal or liver disease, chronic neurological conditions or immunodeficiencies, residents of long-term care facilities, children aged 6 months to 5 years and health care workers. WHO/Europe recently conducted the first comprehensive survey of influenza vaccination policies.

EuroFlu weekly bulletin

NEWS
Lampedusa - the southern door to Europe
20-12-2013
In 2013, the WHO project on the Public Health Aspects of Migration in Europe (PHAME), visited Italy, Malta and Portugal to assess the capacity of the health sector in each country to manage large influxes of migrants. New missions are being prepared for 2014. Dr Pietro Bartolo, Chief of the health services on Lampedusa, and Omar, a migrant who arrived in 2010, share their personal experiences of this Sicilian island.

European Conference puts spotlight on Greek health system reform
18-12-2013
Key stakeholders from the Greek and international communities met in Athens on 12–13 December 2013 for the High-level Conference on the Greek Reforms in the Health Sector: Improving Citizens’ Health. The Conference signalled the start of the implementation of the Health in Action initiative, which was set up in 2012 by the Greek Government to address the impacts of the economic collapse on health with the aim of reforming the Greek health system.

Countries urged to reduce health risks from asbestos, second-hand smoke and toxic chemicals by 2015
16-12-2013
30 countries at the third meeting of the Environment and Health Task Force agreed to boost action to free Europe from asbestos-related diseases and exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke and toxic chemicals. The meeting took place in Brussels, Belgium on 10–11 December 2013, hosted by the Belgian Government.

Aspiring to a tobacco-free future in Europe
04-12-2013
Encouraged by the benefits of reduced tobacco consumption, the 53 Member States in the WHO European Region pledged to accelerate their efforts to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) by signing the Ashgabat Declaration during the WHO Ministerial Conference on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the Context of Health 2020, held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 3–4 December 2013.

HIV/AIDS in the European Region
27-11-2013
HIV infections in Europe continue to increase. Scaling up preventive measures and antiretroviral treatment is key to effectively addressing the epidemic. Over 131 000 new HIV cases were reported in the WHO European Region in 2012, 10 000 more than in 2011, according to the latest surveillance report by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and WHO/Europe.

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RECENTLY PUBLISHED
Early years, family and education task group: report
The task group was asked to identify interventions, strategies and approaches that policymakers and practitioners in the Region can use in the childhood years to improve and equalize health outcomes throughout the life-course.

Governance for health equity in the WHO European Region
This report analyses why policies and interventions to address the social determinants of health and health inequities succeed or fail. It also discusses important features of governance and systems for service delivery that increase the likelihood of success in reducing inequities. The report presents a systems checklist for governing for health equity as a whole-of-government approach.

Hospitals and borders. Seven case studies on cross-border collaboration and health system interactions
How do hospitals interact with each other and with other health care actors across borders? Why does cross-border collaboration take place? Who actually benefits from it? And when does it work? Seven case studies examine the circumstances under which cross-border collaboration is likely to work, the motivations and incentives of health care actors and the role played by health systems, individuals and the EU in shaping cross-border collaboration.

Health and environment: communicating the risks
Public administrations at all levels must often manage complex situations related to environmental determinants of health, often surrounded by controversy. There is a need, in such circumstances, to assess the extent of possible effects on health and the environment and to manage information, evidence and communication on possible risks, while understanding and taking into consideration stakeholders’ opinions, interests and values.

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International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury
This report assembles and summarizes information on SCI, in particular the epidemiology, services, interventions and policies that are relevant, together with the lived experience of people with spinal cord injury across the life course and throughout the world and makes recommendations for actions based on this evidence that are consistent with the aspirations for inclusion and participation as expressed in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceutical Substances CD-ROM
This CD-ROM lists all International Nonproprietary Names (INN) in Latin, English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian published up to November 2013, together with references to the lists of proposed and recommended INN in which they have been published.
Control and Surveillance of Human African Trypanosomiasis
This report provides information about new diagnostic approaches, new therapeutic regimens and better understanding of the distribution of the disease with high-quality mapping.

Inorganic Chromium(VI) Compounds
This Concise International Chemical Assessment Document (CICAD) provides summaries of the relevant scientific information concerning the potential effects of these chemicals upon human health and the environment. Chromium(IV) compounds, also known as hexavalent chromium compounds, are widely produced by industrial processes.

Belarus
Estonia
The Health Systems in Transition (HiT) series consists of country-based reviews that provide a detailed description of a health system and of reform and policy initiatives in progress or under development in a specific country.

Guidelines on Verification of Measles Elimination in the Western Pacific Region
These guidelines were developed based on the shared experiences from and consultations with WHO Member States.

Guiding Health Systems Development in the Western Pacific
This innovative review of the six current regional health system strategies has assessed their usefulness to countries across the Region. This summary report outlines the main findings of the review as well as its objectives, methods, limitations, and implications for the future.

As the flagship periodical of WHO, the Bulletin is a leading international voice on public health issues. This peer-reviewed monthly draws on the expertise within WHO to provide a vital resource for those interested in research, policy issues and debate on international public health, particularly the problems confronting developing countries.

WHO Drug Information, Vol. 27, No. 3, 2013
WHO Drug Information communicates pharmaceutical information that is either developed and issued by WHO or transmitted to WHO by research and regulatory agencies throughout the World. The journal also includes regular presentations of newly proposed and recommended International Nonproprietary Names (INN) for Pharmaceuticals Substances.

BOOKS IN SPANISH
Tratamiento del paludismo grave. Tercera edición
En la presente edición actualizada del manual sobre el tratamiento del paludismo grave se ofrecen orientaciones prácticas, nuevas o revisadas, sobre su diagnóstico y tratamiento.

BOOKS IN RUSSIAN
Safe Abortion. Second edition (RUSSIAN)
In view of the need for evidence-based best practices for providing safe abortion care in order to protect the health and human rights of women, the World Health Organization (WHO) has updated its 2003 publication Safe abortion: technical and policy guidance for health systems.