

The 9<sup>th</sup> Pre-conference arranged by the **EUPHA Section of Social Security and Health at the 4<sup>th</sup> European Public Health conference in Copenhagen, November 9, 2011**

## Challenges in comparative, epidemiological studies of sickness absence in Europe

The aims of this pre-conference are 1) to improve our knowledge of how to conduct comparative studies of sickness absence; 2) to start collaboration e.g. on a European guideline for comparative sickness absence research. Research questions addressed concern: study design, measures of sickness absence; implications for the external and internal validity; funding and organization. Furthermore, we will address relevant considerations regarding setting, population, time-frame of the study and context (e.g. labour market characteristics, compensation/insurance regulations etc). Also challenges related to cultural aspects (norms, behaviour etc.) will be addressed. If you belong to the target group of *researchers* interested in sickness absence research, you are welcome to participate!

**Organising committee:** Ute Bültmann, PhD, associate professor, dept. of Health Sciences, Community & Occupational Medicine University Medical Center Groningen, University of Groningen, The Netherlands; Gunnel Hensing, PhD, professor in Social Medicine, dept. Social Medicine, Gothenburg University, Sweden; Angelique de Rijk, PhD, associate professor dept. Social Medicine, Maastricht University, The Netherlands.

**Venue:** Bella Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Registration:** [www.eupha.org](http://www.eupha.org)

### PROGRAM

- 08:30 ■ **Welcome with coffee / tea & surprise!**  
Meet and greet, stick up personal advertisement on "dating wall"\*  
*N.B. doors close at 9.00 am*
- 09.00 ■ **Opening** Kristina Alexanderson, president of the Section of Social Security & Health, professor Insurance Medicine, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden (confirmed)
- 09.10 ■ **Introduction to the topic of comparative studies in sickness absence :**  
Ute Bültmann and Angelique de Rijk
- 9:30 ■ **Presentation – Experiences with cross country studies on sickness absence**  
Jan Høgelund, SFI, The Danish National Centre for Social Research, Denmark, Scientific leader of the Danish participation in the "Six country study on work incapacity & reintegration (confirmed)
- 10.15 ■ **Presentation – Experiences of other researchers with European cross country studies: results of a pilot inquiry** Ute Bültmann and Angelique de Rijk
- 10.45 **Coffee break** & time for dating
- 11.15 ■ **1<sup>st</sup> discussion in groups: brainstorm and listing considerations in preparing comparative research** Moderator: Gunnel Hensing.
- 12.30 **Lunch**
- 13.30 ■ **Presentation- Funding for comparative research** EU - representative
- 13.45 ■ **Presentation – Considerations in preparing comparative research: Spanish-Dutch experiences** Fernando Benavides, George Delclos, David Gimeno, Center for Research in Occupational Health, CiSAL, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain (confirmed)
- 14.30 ■ **2<sup>nd</sup> group discussion about subthemes in a European guideline for comparative research in sickness absence.\*\* Bar tender model**  
Moderator: Ute Bültmann
- 15.15 **Coffee/tea break** & time for dating
- 15.45 **Reports from the bar tenders** Moderator: Ute Bültmann
- 16:00-17:00 ■ **Discussion: Summing up of the day & agreements on how to proceed**  
Angelique de Rijk
- 18.00-21. ■ **Dinner, for all participants, where the discussions continue.**

**Information on how to prepare on next page!**

**How to prepare?**

- Register and pay for the pre-conference

Advisable:

- Write a personal advertisement\* and bring this
- Think about barriers and facilitators on comparative research in sickness absence
- Read papers on the topic

\* To facilitate finding partners for research, we offer "dating wall" where you can stick your personal advertisement (A4 stating: name, position and affiliation, who you are, your research topic / idea / question, what partner you need)

\*\* Those who are interested, are kindly invited to collaborate in writing a paper on the theme of this pre-conference meeting for a European audience (working title: "European guideline for comparative research in sickness absence").

