



## Europe joins forces in a week of public health events

**European Public Health Week 2020 starts on 11 May:  
COVID-19 shows that public health is more important than ever**

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As the world continues the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, the public health community across Europe is ready and committed to share their knowledge and experiences between 11 and 15 May 2020. The second edition of the European Public Health Week (EUPHW) has more than 100 online events registered in at least 24 countries to raise awareness about important public health topics. Everyone is invited to organise and join activities.

Initiated by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), co-funded under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme and supported by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the initiative kicks off with a webinar that brings together a rich panel of speakers who will address and answer questions about each of this year's themes.

The second edition of EUPHW sees the exceptional theme of '**COVID-19 Collaboration, Coordination, Communication**' spanning across the entire week in addition to the usual five daily themes. Monday will focus on '**Promoting health through the Global Goals**', showing examples of local action to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. '**Primary care in the digital age**' is the theme of Tuesday, particularly relevant as telemedicine gains momentum. It also coincides with International Nurses Day, becoming a unique opportunity to pay tribute to health care workers across Europe. Wednesday challenges Europe to '**Stay together for mental health**' and share examples of how people can support each other in times of social isolation, in particular vulnerable groups. Efforts to avoid that the pandemic exacerbates health inequalities inspire the theme for Thursday, '**Equal health for all**'. On the final day of the week the focus will be on '**Grow old, grow healthy**' at a time when the health of older people is particularly susceptible.

Activities range from webinar lectures and panel discussions to Facebook debates, launch of publications, Twitter chats, movie screenings, virtual networking gatherings, and even online sports, flashmobs and cooking classes in several languages, from local to European level.

EUPHA Executive Director Dr Dineke Zeegers Paget, said: "Only by working together we can achieve health and manage the COVID-19 outbreak. Hence, the motto of the European Public Health Week this year is 'Joining forces for healthier populations'. Last year's Week exceeded all expectation and was a great success with 145 events in 35 countries. Even if we cannot reach as many events this year, the online activities that are organised show the commitment of public health professionals at a time of extraordinary pressure and workload." - Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA Executive Director.

EUPHA President Dr Iveta Nagyova, said: "Public health is now more important than ever. Although many events are being cancelled around the world, it was crucial that we kept this opportunity for the public health community to come together and share their local experiences and knowledge. We have adjusted the European Public Health Week to the circumstances, which is why all events of the week will be online and COVID-19 was added as the main theme."

Bulgaria registered the highest number of events in 2019 and is actively preparing this year's involvement. Professor Gena Grancharova, President of the Bulgarian Public Health Association, said: "Most of our members are academic educators, so we decided to make the most of online education. They received information about the European Public Health Week and were very creative in making their own plans. We have over 30 events of different formats, particularly directed at students from all medical specialties. The events cover all themes of the 5 days, focusing on COVID-19 and the Sustainable Development Goals. We expect the students to be good mediators in their families and local communities".

For more information, visit [www.eupha.org/EUPHW](http://www.eupha.org/EUPHW)

ENDS



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## NOTES TO EDITORS

- Speakers of the kick-off webinar on 11 May at 9:30-11:00 CEST:
  - Wolfgang Philipp, European Commission / DG SANTE
  - Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Office for Europe
  - Iveta Nagyova, European Public Health Association
  - Josep Figueras, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
  - Matthias Wismar, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

- Paul De Raeve, European Federation of Nurses Associations
- Claudia Marinetti, Mental Health Europe
- Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet
- Julia Wadoux, AGE Platform Europe
- Pasquale Cacciatore, EUPHANxt
- Maaïke Droogers, European Public Health Association
- To register for the kick-off webinar, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6wUZ0t97ThG5ELkOhq6rWQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6wUZ0t97ThG5ELkOhq6rWQ)
- To watch the live streaming of the webinar on social media, visit the EUPHA YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK4BSo7zWFafPWd\\_AoacvPg?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK4BSo7zWFafPWd_AoacvPg?view_as=subscriber)
- To ask questions to the panellists via social media, use #EUPHWkickoff
- To browse the list of EUPHW events, visit [https://eupha.org/euphw\\_page.php?a=all](https://eupha.org/euphw_page.php?a=all)
- Official hashtag of the Week: #EUPHW
- For media queries or any questions, please contact Ms Débora Miranda, EUPHW Coordinator at [EUPHAcommunications@eupha.org](mailto:EUPHAcommunications@eupha.org).

**Countries from the WHO European Region with registered EUPHW events as of 7 May:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

Non-European countries with registered events as of 7 May: Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Kenya

### **What is EUPHA?**

The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. Our network of national associations of public health represents around 20'000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

### **EUPHA's definition of Public Health**

“The science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health and well-being through the organised efforts and informed choices of society, organisations, public and private, communities and individuals, and includes the broader area of public health, health services research, health service delivery and health systems design.”



The European Public Health Week received co-funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020).