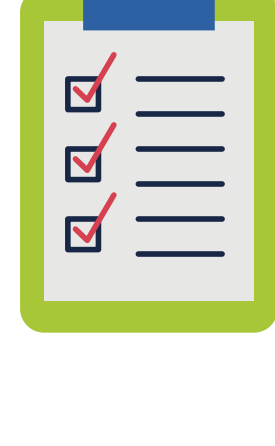


# Priorities in public health in the next 5 years

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) asked its members what they think are the most important priorities in public health in the coming 5 years. According to them, **mental health** is a top priority in European public health. In addition, **lifestyle factors** are key as they underly many chronic conditions that are deemed important priorities, such as **cancer**.



The questionnaire consisted of open questions and answers were provided as free text. It was sent to **EUPHA Governing Board members**, and to several **WHO/Europe country offices where EUPHA does not have members**. Answers were collected from April 1 till May 3, 2021. Professionals responded in their individual capacity.

**Respondents were asked to provide priorities for:**



Females



- Youth <20 years
- Adults 20-60 years
- Older people >60 years



Males

## Profile of the respondents

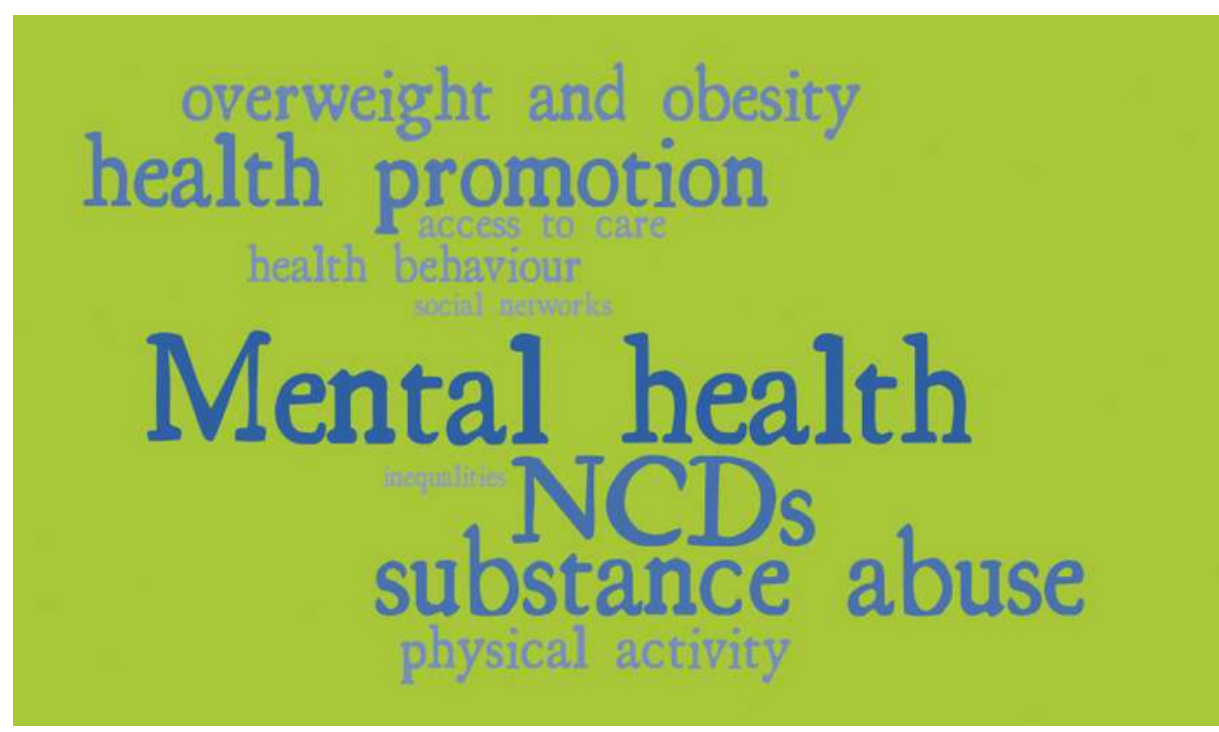
A total of **56** people gave input with good representation of the European region.



- **26** affiliated to a national public health association
- **18** affiliated to a public health institute / organisation
- **35** countries from the WHO European region represented
- **23** out of 27 EU Member States were represented
- Higher-income countries were over represented (n=**24**)

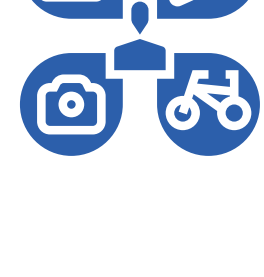
## Results

Important note on the results: COVID-19 is a priority in every country and was therefore excluded from this questionnaire.



Priorities as indicated by the respondents reflected in a wordcloud | Generated by WordItOut.com

As can be seen in the wordcloud, the most frequently listed public health priority is **mental health**. It is a priority for all age groups, and for males and females alike.



**Health promotion**, including prevention of diseases and promotion of healthy lifestyles, is also a top priority across all groups and for both sexes.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including **cancer**, **cardiovascular diseases** and **diabetes** are listed as a priority for both sexes and for adults and the oldest age group. Several types of cancer are specified: breast, cervical, prostate, colon and lung cancer.



**Access to care** refers to various types of care, including primary care, long-term care, and integrated care.

## Top priorities for specific groups

<b>WOMEN</b>	Cancer and reproductive health.
<b>MEN</b>	Use of alcohol, tobacco smoking, and cardiovascular diseases.
<b>YOUTH</b>	Overweight and obesity, physical inactivity and substance abuse (including smoking and alcohol). E-addiction and cyber bullying were also mentioned.
<b>ADULTS</b>	Inequalities, including social inequalities.
<b>OLDER PEOPLE</b>	Cognitive decline and dementia.

In the next 5 years, EUPHA will:

- **advocate**, getting and keeping these public health issues on the European agenda and support our members on national level with their advocacy work;
- communicate the evidence-base to support action on these priorities through our peer-review open access **European Journal of Public Health**;
- co-organise the annual scientific **European Public Health conference** to offer a platform for discussion and networking for the public health community and
- use these priorities to guide the daily themes of the next editions of the **European Public Health Week**.

## JOIN OUR ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS

BECOME  
A  
EUPHA MEMBER

JOIN YOUR NATIONAL  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION

PARTICIPATE IN THE  
EUROPEAN PUBLIC  
HEALTH WEEK

ATTEND THE  
EUROPEAN PUBLIC  
HEALTH CONFERENCE

JOIN ONE (OR MORE) OF OUR 26  
THEMATIC NETWORKS

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

 @EUPHActs

 [office@eupha.org](mailto:office@eupha.org)

Acknowledgements: EUPHA Governing Board and WHO/Europe country offices for taking the time to complete the questionnaire, our 2021 EUPHA office interns who analysed the data: Vanda Craveiro & Marieke Paget & Thuy Ingrid Nguyen-Thi.



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 more than 25'000 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.



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