



Europe unites to throw a spotlight on public health

**More than 70 events in over 25 countries take place between 13 and 17 May
in first ever European Public Health Week**

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For immediate release

Ahead of Europe Day, the public health community in Europe prepares to unite. Between 13 and 17 May, more than 70 events across at least 25 countries will celebrate healthy populations and raise awareness about public health. Everyone is invited to organise and join these local, national and regional activities of the first ever European Public Health Week (EUPHW).

Initiated by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), co-organised by the European Commission and supported by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the innovative initiative launches on Monday 13 May in a two-hour kick-off in Brussels. EUPHW event organisers will answer questions from the audience in the room and via live streaming, and participants will join a “walkinar” through a city park to promote **‘physical activity’**, the theme of the first day.

Events will continue throughout the week. Promotion of healthy cities, safe roads and clean air and water is the theme of day two, dedicated to **‘Healthy environments’**. Day three, **‘Care 4 care’** reminds European citizens to take care of what takes care of them by investing in a strong, skilled health workforce and promoting wellbeing in addition to treating diseases. The importance of a healthy diet while taking care of our planet is the theme for Thursday, **‘Sustainable and healthy diets’**. On the final day of the week the focus will be on **‘Youth mental health’**, promoting stable and supportive homes, schools and social environments for Europe’s future generation.

Activities include workshops, lectures, webinars, games, sports classes, online campaigns, roundtable discussions and exhibitions, in several languages at local, national, regional and European level.

EUPHA Executive Director Dineke Zeegers Paget, said: *“We initiated the European Public Health WEEK to show the full picture of public health by collaborating with our European partners and members. Public*

health goes far beyond health, involving people from all disciplines, from environment to occupational therapy. And this week also goes far beyond the European Union – we are covering the 53 countries of the WHO European Region. All of us have the right to health and our health needs to be safeguarded in order to fully participate in society.”

EUPHA President Azzopardi Muscat, said: *“We are two weeks away from the European elections and this initiative highlights that healthy populations require a commitment from all of us to ensure truly that nobody is left behind. Whilst Europe leads the way in many health indicators, there remains much to do to achieve health-related targets in the sustainable development goals and there is no room for complacency in the face of growing inequalities and emerging challenges.”*

Public health weeks have taken place in other countries in the past, such as the United States of America and Austria. Thomas Dorner from the Austrian Public Health Association said: *“We have organised the Austrian Public Health Week for four years. It is very important to raise awareness of public health, particularly at a time when misinformation could be dangerous for people’s health. We are very glad to see that such initiatives are taking place from local to global level to celebrate healthy populations.”*

For more information, visit eupha.org/European_Public_Health_WEEK_2019

ENDS



NOTES TO EDITORS

- For a full programme of the kick-off event in Brussels on 13 May at 10:00-12:00 CEST, including a live streaming link, visit www.facebook.com/events/2357285051151690
- To attend the kick-off event and schedule interviews, contact EUPHAcommunications@eupha.org.
- For a full list of EUPHW events, visit eupha.org/EUPHW_Full_list_of_events
- To search for events by country, visit eupha.org/EUPHW_Search_for_an_event
- Official hashtag: #EUPHW

European countries with registered EUPHW events: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

Events in non-European countries: Bangladesh, South Africa, Brazil.

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.”



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