



Every year, hundreds of young professionals join the European Public Health Conference, many of them for the first time. At the 2019 edition in Marseille we asked them what they enjoyed the most.



Omar Kaka, a public health resident from Italy, found the conference inspirational due to its diversity of perspectives, regions and nations. He thinks that the theme of building bridges in a world of walls is important so we can create bridges locally. “Coming here is important to do your part.” Omar found the ethics session “brilliant” and is looking forward to the digital component of the next conferences in Rome and Dublin.

Anna Seppänen works in Finland as a project coordinator on a populational study for people with a foreign background. It was the first time she presented results at an international conference. Anna witnessed “many inspiring ideas, a warm and uplifting atmosphere. It is cool to see other international colleagues working on the same topics, especially as my research considers cultural diversity”.



Tchadine Djaogol is from Tchad and currently studies at the University of Marseille. She particularly enjoyed the workshops dedicated to migration, as this is the focus of her PhD studies: migration in Europe.

Yu Funakoshi, a paediatrician from Japan was at the conference for the first time. “My boss already came three times and recommended because it is both very practical and academic, and better than public health conferences in other countries such as the US”. Yu enjoyed attending interactive workshops on rapid growing fields that sometimes are difficult to understand in books.



Nina Bos from the Netherlands is a former intern at the EUPHA Office and currently working on her master’s thesis on political parties. As a conference newcomer, Nina valued the variety of choice of workshops and skills-building seminars as well as the easy-going atmosphere. She likes policy topics that touch on environment and gender issues.



Arjan Van Der Star is a PhD student from Sweden working on LGBT health and the vice president of the EUPHA Section on sexual and gender minority health. “Through this conference we are gaining momentum for LGBT health research from a public health perspective in Europe. “The EUPHA network is really working as a platform to discuss and I feel that finally we can create a movement. There is increased visibility and it’s getting the space it deserves.”

Marcello Di Pumpo is a Public Health Resident from Italy whose favourite sessions were the workshops on vaccination and hospital management. He also had a pitch presentation on vaccination scheduled for the last day of the conference, which was “a shame because it distracts me from all the great presentations happening in the meantime”.



André Beja, a Portuguese nurse and PhD student, had much to enjoy at the conference: the diversity of ideas, sharing scientific experiences, and the public health concept at European level. He is particularly interested in workforce capacity building, health policies and health information systems. “The speech from SOS Méditerranée was impressive: although not new, the message was delivered in a very powerful way.”

Kanade Ito, a dental hygienist in Tokyo, Japan, was particularly interested in oral health inequalities and social determinants of health. It was her first time at the European Public Health conference. “I really enjoyed a poster presentation about the life course”.



Keitly Mensah is from the host country, France, and the EUPHANxt Conference coordinator. “Our voices, as the next generation, are raising. I could witness it through the energy that EPH Fellows shared on their daily newsletters and social media; through the success of our workshops and the bonds that were created in the EUPHANxter community. I’m really excited to see it flourish and expand until next year’s conference in Rome!”