

European Public Health Conference, Marseille 2019

Plenary 5: Plenary 3: Bridging towards the future of public health in Europe – where can and should we go from here

Friday 22 November, 09:40 – 10:40

Organized by European Commission, DG Sante and EUPHA

Moderators: **Isabel de la Mata**, principal advisor DG Sante of the European Commission, and **Natasha Azzopardi Muscat**, president of EUPHA

Abstract

Europe is entering the third decade of the 21st century and health is on the agenda. Or is it? It seems that with Europeans healthier than ever and enormously improving our ability to prevent and treat current diseases, health seems to be a theme of the past. At the same time, the society is in turmoil and both old and new health challenges are threatening Europe. The changing demographics - climate change, urbanisation, migration and ageing -, the technological and digital revolution -given us both medical technology and fake news, genetic mapping and new addictions (gaming) -, and the resurgence of old diseases such as measles, all lead to the necessity of bridging our previous successes with the need for a new public health in the future.

In 2019, several changes are occurring: we will elect a new regional director for WHO Europe and we will have both a new European Parliament, a new European president of the European Commission, a new European Commission and a new European Commissioner for Health. And these changes have led to a new discussion on the necessity of health as a European topic.

In this plenary session, we will look at the priorities in public health from the perspective of the European Commission, the Finnish presidency of the European Council and the European Public Health Association. Finally, we have a young health professional reflecting on the new (public) health professional.

Speakers:

Anne Bucher, director general of DG Sante

Lisa Maria Voipio-Pulkki, Director General of Strategic Affairs and Chief Medical Officer of the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Dineke Zeegers Paget, Executive director of EUPHA

Sara McQuinn, Coordinator of EUPHANxt

Proposed lay-out of the session:

1. Introduction by the two moderators
2. Presentation by Anne Bucher on challenges in European (public) health
3. Presentation by Lisa Maria Voipio-Pulkki on putting health on the agenda of EU presidencies
4. Presentation by Dineke Zeegers Paget on the future strategy of EUPHA and how to embrace the 21st century public health challenges
5. Presentation by Sara McQuinn on what it needs to become a 21st (public) health professional
6. Interactive discussion