



16th World Congress on Public Health 12 - 16 October 2020

More than 3.500 public health professionals and policy-makers from 122 countries gather online at a time when sharing science is more important than ever

PRESS RELEASE

(under embargo until 12 October 2020, 10.00 CET)

12 October 2020

The 16th World Congress on Public Health (WCPH2020) begins on Monday 12 October 2020 under the theme “Public health for the future of humanity: analysis, advocacy and action”. More than 3.500 people from 122 countries have registered to attend the five-day event, which will take place online at a time when sharing scientific knowledge on public health has become more important than ever.

Co-organised by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI), the Congress gathers the global public health community at a critical time for the planet.

The President of WFPHA, **Professor Walter Ricciardi**, said: “The theme of the Congress reflects our firm commitment that we, in the global public health community, have an obligation to respond to new public health circumstances. We are living through a pandemic, we are changing the earth in which we live, and fake news is travelling much faster than the truth. The public health community needs to work together with other disciplines to respond to these and other health



threats. In this Congress we will explore ways to change policies that make a real difference to populations.”

The scientific programme is distributed by 12 tracks which include **digital health, mental health, vulnerable groups, the Sustainable Development Goals and vaccination**. There will be a **COVID-19 dedicated track** covering the latest on coronavirus control policies, the efficacy of control measures, the impact on health systems and community services and the lessons to be learned from it.

The President of EUPHA, **Dr Iveta Nagyova**, said: “Europe has been one of the regions most affected by COVID-19. However, we must not forget other very important issues that have been on the public health agenda for a long time. EUPHA is particularly committed to ensure that all public health policy is shaped by robust scientific evidence. This is why our strategy for the next five years builds on three pillars: analysis, advocacy and action.”

The online format of the Congress, which was initially planned to take place in Rome, Italy, will run every day from 7:00 am to 9:00 pm CET to accommodate attendees living in different time zones.

The President of the Italian Society of Public Health (SItI), **Professor Italo Francesco Angelillo**, said: “The Congress highlights the latest science, policy, and practice of Public Health throughout the world and presents opportunities to discuss in a coordinated manner. This is also in recognition of the urgent need to analyze research, review policy and exchange frontline experiences related not only to the COVID-19 pandemic. SItI with its members is responding to the largest public health crisis of our time with three themes that have occupied much of our thinking: opportunity, challenge, and leadership.”

The Co-Chair of the Conference and Past-President of SItI, **Professor Carlo Signorelli**, said: “Despite the circumstances caused by the pandemic, we could not miss this unique opportunity to share knowledge and experience at a global level in one of the most important years for public health. The virtual format of the Congress is a challenge and we hope it will help to re-shape our efforts and role as individuals, communities and institutions to build a just, healthier, and peaceful world.”

The Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, will speak at the Opening Ceremony. More than 40 high-profile experts and policy-makers will speak in eight Plenary Sessions, representing international institutions such as the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa, the European Commission, the Alliance of Associations of Public Health of the Americas, the



International Development Law Organization, The Lancet and Women in Global Health. In addition, there will be 30 World Leadership Dialogues and 150 workshops.

More information

- Official website of the Congress: wcph2020.com
- Press Registration: <https://wcph2020.com/wcph2020-press-registration-102>
- Press Kit with background information, brochures, the Congress trailer video and, tool to book interviews available in Media Room
- Official hashtag: #WCPH2020
- Follow us on WCPH2020 official social media <https://wcph2020.com/media-toolkit-24>
- Contact email: wcph2020press@thetriumph.com