



14th European Public Health Conference

10 - 12 November 2021

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The 2021 European Public Health Conference Statement

9 November 2021

The 14th European Public Health Conference (#EPH2021) begins on Wednesday 10 November under the theme 'Public health futures in a changing world'. The conference, co-hosted by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), will bring together the public health community in Europe and beyond at a critical time for the planet.

Nearly two years after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can only begin to see the social, economic and health impact of the pandemic on our society and on our population. Already, we have seen an increase in health inequalities, a declining interest in noncommunicable diseases, such as cancer and diabetes, a pointless battle for vaccines and poor choices around the use of restriction as a primary tool to control viral spread. If ever there was a role for public health, it would be now. At this EPH Conference over 1,900 public health professionals, from over 80 countries, will discuss what has happened and plan what should happen next.

Anthony Staines, Chair of the Conference, says: "For a start, we should build back fairer, taking into account and finally clearly addressing extensive existing health and social inequalities, that have been shown so clearly by the pandemic. We need to invest in the health care system and health care workers, not just when another epidemic comes around the corner, but now and in the future. Public health should play a role in future planning: environmental policies, most urgently those around climate change, can contribute to the health and well being of all, and all policies, including industrial, educational, land-use, agricultural, and trade policy, need to engage with health.

We need to acknowledge in our thoughts, and in our actions, that we live in an integrated world, a world where 'One Health' is the daily reality, and where decisions in one sector ripple across many others. Without understanding the ecology within which our species lives, and how our choices on food, on energy, on development, on water, affect this, we are blind

What we have learned from this pandemic, is that we need to have a well-trained public health workforce. A workforce that is able to distinguish evidence from fake news, able to talk to politicians



to get things done and not afraid to stand up for the vulnerable in society. Public health should take the lead when the public's health is at risk".

The conference issues a statement in which organisations meeting at the Virtual European Public Health Conference from 10-12 November 2021, urge all governments to build back better and fairer after the COVID-19 pandemic.

We call upon national and international decision-makers to:

- Base decisions and actions on the best available evidence, acknowledging that this may change;
- Invest in health systems, information systems, and a qualified (public) health workforce;
- Acknowledge public health and the public's health as cornerstones for a healthy and functioning society;
- Follow the guiding principles of Health in All Policies to ensure a whole-of-society approach to public health; and
- Focus on reducing health inequalities by direct policy action.

More information

- Conference Statement: <https://ephconference.eu/2021-393>
- Website of the EPH Conference: www.ephconference.org
- Press Registration: <https://ephconference.eu/press-information-128>
- About the European Public Health Association: www.eupha.org

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