

14TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Public health futures in a changing world

Virtual Event

10 - 12 November 2021



E P H EUROPEAN
PUBLIC
HEALTH
CONFERENCE

Virtual Event

10 - 12 November 2021

Public health futures in a changing world

SUMMARY REPORT

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The 14th European Public Health Conference, Virtual Event, is a collaboration of the European Association of Public Health (EUPHA) and the European Public Health Conference Foundation.

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INTRODUCTION

The 14th European Public Health Conference was unlike any previous versions, as – due to the COVID-19 pandemic – it had to be a fully virtual conference. The conference was originally scheduled to be held for four days in Dublin, Ireland. Because of the pandemic and the restrictions to travel and meeting events, the programme was adapted to a virtual event of three days, without reducing the number of sessions. The EPH 2021 Virtual Event was held between 10 and 12 November 2021 and was attended by 2,048 delegates from over 83 countries. The conference offered them the opportunity to share their work with colleagues and learn about the state of European health from the perspective of research, policy, education and practices. The conference included 7 plenary sessions, 11 pre-conferences, 125 workshops, 53 oral sessions and 23 poster sessions.

During the three conference days, delegates had the opportunity to share findings from research and experiences with innovation in all fields of public health and health services.

The theme of the EPH 2021 Virtual Event was **Public health futures in a changing world.**

Public health has changed a lot in the last thirty years. Whole subdisciplines, for example health informatics and public health genomics, have grown up in that time. Has the core practice of public health changed? If so, we need to lead and shape the changes. We need to identify futures for our discipline and figure out how to get there. If we don't, others will, and that is not necessarily for the benefit of our practice, our practitioners, or the public. We need to articulate more forcibly who we are, why we are, and why we are relevant?

The world of public health changes, but many key pieces remain the same. A key part is to hold to that which we value, and to build on that, and extend out from that, to meet new and pressing needs. A focus on where we are, and where we want to go might be helpful for clarification. The relevant word is 'futures', and not 'future'. We expect an even more diverse public health, with the public health workforce delivering in new and more traditional arenas.

The 14th EPH Conference included the following sub-themes:

Public health practice, training and workforces for the future.

What is it that distinguishes us? What is that we do well, that others do not? Future public health, as at present, will have people doing many roles, communication, policy design and evaluation, service planning, monitoring, and delivery, health data, health protection, environmental health, evidence analysis, and more. In all of these areas we work with people from different backgrounds. What value do we bring? Who are we? What skills do we need for now and for the future?

Communications and public health.

Communications have always been a key part of public health, especially when we felt it advisable for people to change what they do. Communications about the benefits and safety of vaccines date back to the first organised opposition to Jenner's vaccination in 1805. Communication of key public health messages led to the building of systems to bring clean water and remove sewage from our cities in the 19th century. Florence Nightingale largely revolutionised both nursing and public health by targeted communications, and a keen awareness of the value of her personal brand. Public health needs to look back at some of the tools used by our founders, and bring these to a new media market, led by social media, but still reliant on high quality journalism.

Digital health – person centred?

Digital health has promised health system transformation, and universally failed to deliver. There are many reasons for this, but one key issue is that the data are usually organisation centred, and not person centred. A range of challenges, including the interests of many current vendors, have inhibited this. A combination of the smarter use of standards and GDPR rules has the potential to change all of this. Is public health going to be at this table?

Learning from the pandemic and getting ready for the next one.

Across Europe the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been largely unsuccessful. This is despite an enormous amount of very hard work in public health units all across Europe. This reflects a weakness within the profession, which has been manifested in the curious phenomenon of dual strands of public health advice, official and unofficial, in several European countries. Politicians were placed in an impossible position by this. Governments of a wide range of levels of competency, and covering much of the political spectrum, all failed to respond effectively to the pandemic, as witnessed by the second wave of infection in most of Europe. What can we learn from what went well, and from our failures?

Climate change and public health – a dual role.

COVID-19 is a challenge for public health. Climate change is an existential threat for our civilisation, and possibly our species. Does public health have a part to play in meeting the challenges of climate change, and if so what? Is there a public health of information and lies? Should there be? How do we use the tools and methods of public health to explore futures?

With the help of our partners, presenters, we offered you an exciting programme of workshops, oral and poster presentations. Our exhibitors were there to show you their latest projects, products and services. This was taking place in a virtual setting, giving you the possibility to share information, knowledge and innovative ideas with your colleagues from Europe and across the globe.

The EPH 2021 Virtual Event was organised in collaboration with a vast number of national and international partners.

Researchers, educators, policy makers, community representatives and health managers from Europe and beyond shared new information and insights from their experiences with this issue.

1. EPH 2021: PROGRAMME

The European Public Health Conference is an annual scientific conference on public health topics organised throughout Europe. The EPH Conference is initiated by the European Public Health Association - EUPHA. The main purpose of the EPH Conference is to strengthen the capacity of public health professionals, researchers and policymakers by enhancing the exchange of knowledge, policy and best practice across Europe.

1.1. Plenary programme

The plenary programme of the EPH 2021 Virtual Event consisted of seven plenary sessions including an opening and a closing session.

Opening Ceremony

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 14:00-14:40

Moderators/panellists:

- Anthony Staines, Chair of the 14th EPH Conference 2021
- Regien Biesma-Blanco, Chair of the International Scientific Committee 2021

Speakers:

- Daire Keogh, President of the Dublin City University (DCU), Ireland
- Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
- Stephen Donnelly, Minister of Health, Ireland
- Robin Swann, Minister of Health, Northern Ireland

Plenary 1 - Public health practice, training and workforces for the future - Lessons from the pandemic

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 14:50-15:50

Organisers: Observatory, WHO EURO, ASPHER

Moderator:

- Suszy Lessof, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Speakers/panellists:

- Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Director Country Health Policies & Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Bernd Rechel, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- John Middleton, President, Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
- Tara Chen, Young Professional
- Ines Siepmann, Young Professional
- Rok Hrzic, Young Professional
- Tobias Weitzel, Young Professional

Plenary 2 – Communication and public health

Thursday 11 November 2021, 10:10-11:10

Organisers: EUPHA, EUPHA-PHMR

Moderators:

- Iveta Nagyova, President European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
- Petronille Bogaert, President EUPHA Public health monitoring and reporting section

Speakers/panellists:

- Tina Purnat, World Health Organization
- José Alcamí Pertejo, Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain
- Susan Michie, University College London, United Kingdom

- Jens Degett, Editor-in-Chief of Science Stories, a science media platform

Plenary 3 - Learning from the pandemic and getting ready for the next one

Thursday 11 November 2021, 16:20-17:20

Organisers: EC, EUPHA

Moderators:

- Isabel de la Mata, European Commission
- Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA

Speakers/panellists:

- Andrea Ammon, Director European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Sandra Gallina, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)
- Michael Edelstein, President EUPHA Infectious diseases control section
- Laura de la Torre Perez, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain
- Kerstin Vesna Petrič, Director General, Directorate of Public Health, Slovenia

Plenary 4 – Capturing the breadth and depth of the digital health era – beyond the COVID-19 pandemic

Friday 12 November 2021, 10:10-11:10

Organisers: WHO EURO, EUPHA-DH

Facilitators:

- Clayton Hamilton, Regional Adviser, Digital Health Flagship, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Stefan Buttigieg, Vice-president, EUPHA Digital health section and Co-founder, Digital Health Malta

Chairs:

- Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Anna Odone, President EUPHA Digital health section

Speakers/Panellists:

- Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Scientific advisor European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
- Iveta Nagyova, President European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
- Naomi Lee, Senior Executive Editor The Lancet
- Ran Balicer, Chief Innovation Officer, Clalit Health Services, Israel

Plenary 5 - Climate change, justice and public health

Friday 12 November 2021, 16:20-17:20

Organiser: EuroHealthNet

Moderator: Caroline Costongs, Director EuroHealthNet

Speakers/Panellists:

- Maria Neira, Director, Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO
- Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director European Environment Agency
- Monica Scatasta, Director, Council of Europe Development Bank
- Patrick ten Brink, Deputy Secretary General and Director EU Policy, European Environmental Bureau

Closing Ceremony of the 14th European Public Health Conference

Friday 12 November 2021, 17:30-18:10

Moderator

- Anthony Staines, Chair of the 14th EPH Conference 2021

Awards ceremony: Best Poster Prize, Best Abstract Prize, Ferenc Bojan Award

Welcome to next year's 15th European Public Health Conference, Berlin, Germany

Speakers/Panellists:

- Cecily Kelleher, Chair of Public Health Medicine and Epidemiology, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Simone George, human rights activist
- Reinhard Busse, Chair of the 15th EPH Conference 2022

1.2. Parallel programme

The parallel programme reflected on a wide array of public health issues and ways of solving these issues at global, European, national, regional and local level. The parallel programme offered sessions of 60 minutes only.

The parallel programme of workshops and oral presentation sessions was structured in 16 thematic tracks, making it easier for delegates to follow a specific subject during the conference. The division in tracks was based on priorities in the field of public health and selected topics of the accepted abstracts (see table 1).

Workshops, round tables, skills building seminars

88 workshops were held, 24 round tables and 12 skills building seminars.

Parallel sessions with oral presentations

These 60-minutes sessions consisted of 5-minute oral presentations with few minutes of discussion around a common theme. Most sessions were co-chaired by two persons. In total, 446 (out of 477 accepted) oral presentations were held in 53 sessions.

E-poster displays

In total, 731 (out of 826 accepted) E-posters without presentation were displayed. All E-posters were available for delegates to view at all times during the conference.

Table 1: Overview of the 16 thematic tracks and type of session

Track	Theme	Workshop	RT	SBS	Oral
A	The futures of public health	6	2	1	2
B	COVID-19 Epidemiology, impact and responses	7	1		3
C	COVID-19 Building Back Fairer	3	4		4
D	Chronic diseases	5		1	5
E	Climate change, Environment	6		1	4
F	Communication and infodemics	6	3		2
G	Digitalisation in health	5	2	2	2
H	Health assessment, monitoring	7		2	2
I	Health care systems and services	7			4
K	Health inequalities / Food and nutrition	6	1		4
L	Health promotion and healthy behavior	6		1	4
M	Health workforce, training and education	3	5	1	2

N	Public health policy	4	3	2	2
O	Maternal, child and adolescent public health	5			6
P	Mental health	6	1	1	3
Q	Migration, LGBTI and minorities health	6			5

1.3. Abstract and presentation prizes

Each year, the conference organisers award abstract prizes in three different categories:

The prize for the highest scoring abstract was awarded to:

Charlotte Debras, Sorbonne Paris Nord University, Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team, French network for Nutrition and Cancer, France

Abstract title: **Artificial sweeteners and cancer risk in the prospective NutriNet Santé cohort**

(Co) authors:

C Debras^{1,2}; E Chazelas^{1,2}; B Srour^{1,2}; C Julia^{1,3}; E Kesse-Guyot^{1,2}; V A. Andreeva¹; P Galan^{1,2}; S Hercberg^{1,2,3}; M Deschasaux-Tanguy^{1,2}; M Touvier^{1,2}

¹ Nutritional Epidemiology Research Team, Sorbonne Paris Nord University, Bobigny, France

² French network for Nutrition and Cancer, Jouy-en-Josas, France

³ Public Health Department, Avicenne Hospital, AP-HP, Bobigny, France

The Ferenc Bojan Young Investigator Award, which is awarded to the best presentation by a young public health professional, was awarded to:

Gabriela Ksinan Jiskrova, Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia

Abstract title: **Stressful life events in pregnancy and sleep problems in childhood: Evidence from the ELSPAC Cohort**

(Co) authors

G Ksinan Jiskrova¹; I Stepanikova^{1,2}

¹ RECETOX, Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia

² Department of Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, United States

The prize for the best poster presentation was awarded to:

Chiara Manetti, University of Siena, Italy

Abstract title: **Efficacy of nearuv-a to inactive microbial growth**

(Co) authors

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1.4. Pre-conference programme

The preconference programme (11) was held on Wednesday 10 November 21. Organisers of pre-conferences included EUPHA, EUPHA sections, ASPHER, Berlin School of Public Health, UNESCO Chair Global Health & Education and International Institute, University of Michigan, Joint Action Health Equity Europe, Institute of Public Health in Ireland, Faculty of Public Health Medicine - Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Global Society of Migration, Ethnicity, Race & Health, ENBEL – connecting Health & Climate Change, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Irish Doctors for the Environment. See table 2 for the full programme and numbers of delegates.

1.5. Lunch symposiums

Lunch symposiums were held on Thursday and Friday, 11 and 12 November 2021, during the extended lunch hours.

COLLABORATING TO COMBAT COVID-19: HOW DO WE PROTECT MORE OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION?

Supported by AstraZeneca

Speakers/panellists:

- Prof Tobias Welte
- Dr Barbara Rath
- Dr Jorge Flores

EU4HEALTH PROGRAMME – A VISION FOR A HEALTHIER EUROPEAN UNION

Organised by: European Commission, DG SANTE and Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

Moderator: Dineke Zeegers Paget, Executive Director EUPHA

Speakers:

- Adrian Pereş, Head of the EU4Health task force, DG SANTE, European Commission
- Agnes Mathieu-Mendes, Head of Unit - EU4Health/SMP Food, HaDEA
- Florina Telea, Head of Unit EU4Health, HaDEA

1.6. Late breaker session

Friday 12th November 2021, 12:40-13:40

We organized a late breaker session bringing the much needed global perspective on vaccine progress and challenges in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Inequitable access continues to experience a surge in infections and will make it difficult to end the pandemic. There was an urgent warning from WHO Director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus saying that “no one is safe until everyone is safe”. The direct and indirect effect of the pandemic in the Global South, such as disruptions to the delivery and use of routine services, were also discussed.

Chair:

- Regien Biesma, Global Health Unit, UMCG, the Netherlands

Speakers:

- Catherine Joachim, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Tanzania
- Ashish Srivastava, Monitoring, evaluation and research advisor, Jhpiego, Delhi, India
- Adriana Tami, Clinical epidemiologist of infectious and tropical diseases, University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), Groningen, The Netherlands and Universidad de Carabobo (UC), Valencia, Venezuela
- Wilbert Bannenberg, Chair of the Pharmaceutical Accountability Foundation, Netherlands.
- Elena Petelos, Maastricht University, Netherlands and Vice President EUPHA Health technology assessment section
- Dr. Ahmed E. Ogwel Ouma, Deputy Director Africa CDC

Table 2: Pre-conference programme and number of delegates at EPH 2021

Pre-conference	Organised by	Delegates
CAUS - Foundations of causal inference: Gently introducing public health researchers to counterfactuals, causal diagrams, and target trials	EUPHA-EPI, EUPHA-HSR, EUPHA-RP	45
CLIM - Connecting health and climate change	ENBEL, RCSI and IDE	241
ECON - Panel data econometrics: how to perform your analysis with R	EUPHA-ECO	16
EVAL - Developments in Economic Evaluation in Healthcare	EUPHA-HTA, ASPHER Working Group on Economic Evaluation in Healthcare EEHE	29
GERM - Re-boosting public health in Germany – bottom-up and top-down initiatives with the potential for an informal public health system	Berlin School of Public Health (BSPH)	18
HPRO - Genuine Participation and the Transformational Potential of Health Promotion Coronavirus Politics	EUPHA-HP, UNESCO Chair Global Health & Education and International Institute, University of Michigan	17
IFPH - Public Health in Ireland North and South, Past, Present and Future	Institute of Public Health in Ireland, Faculty of Public Health Medicine - Royal College of Physicians of Ireland	96
INJU - Safety challenges and altered injury patterns in Europe during COVID-19 and beyond	EUPHA-INJ	20
JAHEE - Addressing Health Inequalities in Europe: lessons learned and key messages from the Joint Action Health Equity Europe	Joint Action Health Equity Europe	298
MIGR - Beyond the COVID-19 Syndemic: lessons learned for migrant and ethnic minority health	EUPHA-MIG, Global Society of Migration, Ethnicity, Race & Health	68
SSWH - Mental health conditions: a global challenge to social security and health systems?	EUPHA-SSWH	31

1.7. Press meeting

A press conference was organised on Tuesday 9 November, attended by a number of international journalists, mainly e-news magazines. A Conference Statement, signed by over 20 national public health associations and health organisations. They urge all governments to build back better and fairer after the COVID-19 pandemic, calling 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.

Two more press releases were issued. One on the publication of the Supplement to the European Journal of Public Health: what have we learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and what are the public health challenges? The other one on the need to include behavioural insights and sciences as part of a holistic response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.8. Exhibition

The following sponsors and exhibitors were present at the EPH 2021 Virtual Event:

- EPH Conference
- EUPHA
- AstraZeneca
- DG Sante
- European Publishing
- Fraunhofer Academy
- HaDEA
- MDPI
- MDPI nutrients
- Observatory
- Oxford University Press
- Safefood
- Springer Nature

1.9. Accreditation

The 14th European Public Health Conference, 10 - 12 November 2021, Virtual Edition, has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 15 European CME credits (ECMEC®s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

Through an agreement between the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA), physicians may convert EACCME® credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Information on the process to convert EACCME® credit to AMA credit can be found at www.ama-assn.org/education/earn-credit-participation-international-activities.

Live educational activities, occurring outside of Canada, recognised by the UEMS-EACCME® for ECMEC®s are deemed to be Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

1.10. Social programme

Due to a COVID-19 pandemic the social programme had its virtual edition for the first time. There was a special evening concert for the 14th EPH Conference performed by the traditional Irish band Malarkey on Thursday 11 November.

Performing from the Castle Hotel in Dublin were guitarist and singer Mick McNamara, banjo and fiddle player Claire Sherry, dancer and bodhran player Ciara Lee, uilleann piper Joe McHugh and Alan Burke as special guest.

Participants enjoyed the concert from their homes or offices via the Virtual Platform.

2. EPH 2021: DELEGATES

The conference was attended by public health professionals, researchers, education specialists, training professionals, students, policy makers and representatives from international and European organisations, like the European Commission, WHO, ECDC and the European Observatory. European (public) health networks and organisations actively participated in the conference programme.

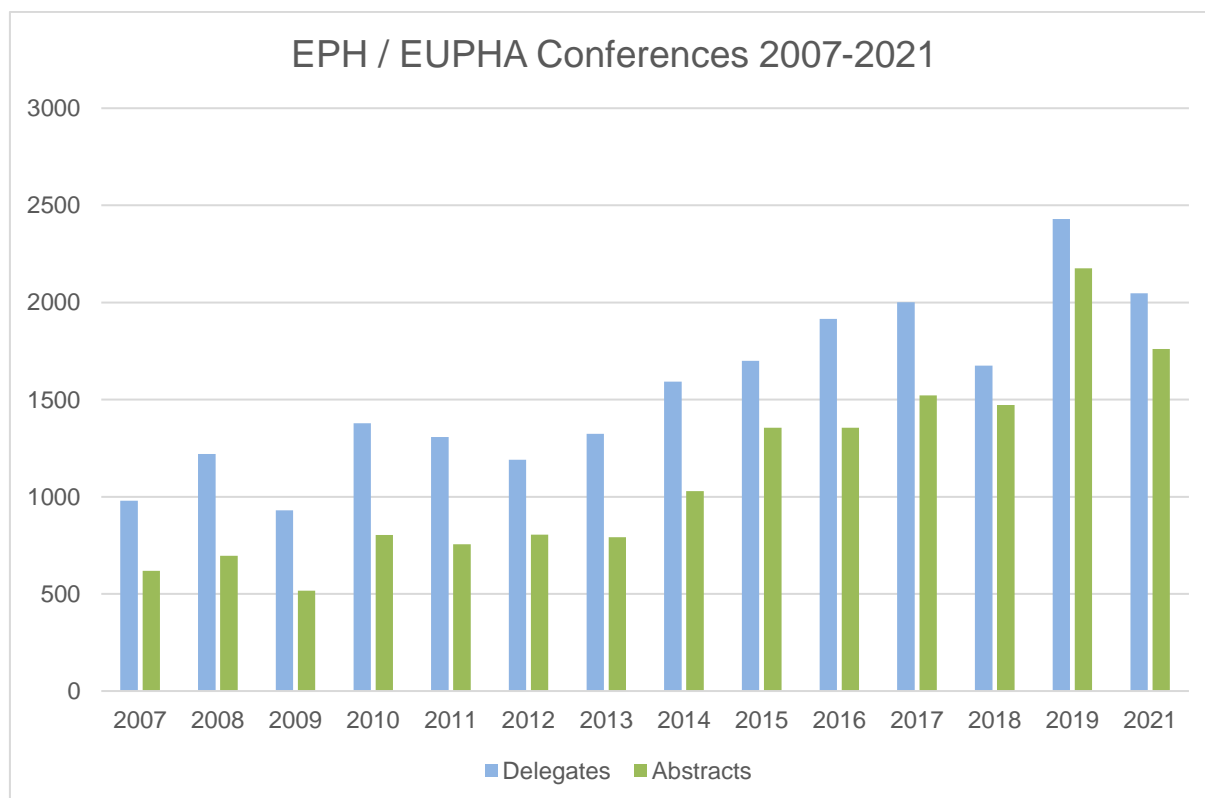
2.1. Number and origin of delegates

The EPH Conference registered 2,048 delegates, including pre-conference only registrations. In the past five years the number of delegates has increased steadily from 1,200 in Malta to 2,001 delegates in Stockholm 2017, 1,675 in Ljubljana 2018 and 2,429 in Marseille 2019. In 2020 the EPH Conference was an integral part of the WCPH2020. In 2021, due to COVID-19 pandemic the EPH Conference was organised as a virtual event for the first time, which effected in lower numbers than for in-person event. 352 delegates registered as students.

The figure below shows the gradual increase in the number of registrations in the past decade.

Also the number of submitted abstracts has grown significantly to 1,761 in 2021 (1,607 single abstracts and 154 workshop abstracts).

Figure 1: Overview of conference registrations and abstract submissions 2007-2021*



*in 2020 the EPH Conference was an integral part of the WCPH2020.

Table 3: The number of abstract submissions per country, EPH 2021

Country	No.
Italy	293
UK	116
Tunisia	108
Germany	86
Portugal	76
Spain	68
Ireland	66
France	48
Bulgaria, Turkey	45
Netherlands	44
Russia	40
Brazil, Sweden	36
Austria	32
Switzerland	29
Belgium	27
Israel, Poland	25
Greece	22
USA	20
Finland, Morocco	19
Croatia	18
Denmark	16
Czechia	15
Japan, Lithuania	14
Norway	13
Kazakhstan	12
Australia, Serbia	11
Colombia	10
Armenia, Canada, Mexico, Romania	9
Cyprus, Malta, Pakistan	8
Cameroon, Hungary, Nepal, Slovenia	6
China, Georgia, India, Latvia, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan	5
Estonia, Republic of North Macedonia, Thailand	4
Nigeria	3
Argentina, Chile, Guinea, United Arab Emirates	2
Albania, Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Indonesia, Lebanon, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Ukraine	1

Table 4: Overview of registrations EPH 2021

Type of registration	No.
Full conference registrations	1312
Day registrations	201
Students, full conference	352
Pre-conference only	183
	2048

Most registrations were received from Italy (250), followed by UK (213), Germany (183) and Belgium (128).

Table 5: Number of registrations per country, EPH 2021

Country	No.
Italy	250
UK	213
Germany	183
Belgium	128
Ireland	125
Netherlands	118
Portugal	95
Sweden	90
France	67
Austria	56
Spain	55
Switzerland	53
Finland	42
USA	40
Greece	39
Denmark	37
Russia, Slovenia	24
Bulgaria, Poland	23
Brazil, Turkey	21
Norway	20
Canada, Lithuania	18
Israel	17
Croatia, Japan, Tunisia	14
Australia	13
Czechia, Hungary, Luxembourg, Serbia	11
Cyprus, Estonia, Romania	9
Malta	8
Georgia, Taiwan	7
China, Kazakhstan	6
Armenia, India, Latvia, Mexico, Morocco	5
Myanmar	4
Colombia, Egypt, New Zealand, Pakistan, Slovakia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, United Arab Emirates	3
Albania, Chile, Italia, Kenya, Lebanon, Nigeria, Republic of North Macedonia, Saudi Arabia	2
Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Moldova, Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine	1

2.2. Participation from students

As for previous EPH Conferences, the EPH 2021 paid special attention to the participation of students. A special registration fee for this category (€ 140) was set up. In total, 352 students registered for the conference (390 for Marseille 2019 and 218 for Ljubljana 2018).

As part of the main conference programme, the Ferenc Bojan Young Investigators Award session was held for the highest scoring abstracts submitted by young public health professionals. In the closing ceremony of the conference, the Ferenc Bojan memorial prize, which is awarded to the best presentation by a young public health professional, was presented to Gabriela Ksinan Jiskrova, *Masaryk University, Brno, Czechia* with a presentation *Stressful life events in pregnancy and sleep problems in childhood: Evidence from the ELSPAC Cohort*.

2.3. Participation from lower-middle and upper-middle income countries

Special attention was paid also to public health experts from lower-middle and upper-middle income countries in the WHO European Region. Financial support to participants from these countries and presenting experts was granted by EUPHA. Support consisted of a waiver of registration fees. In total, 30 public health professionals from lower-middle and upper-middle income countries in the WHO European Region could be supported by these grants (59 in 2019, 41 in 2018).

3. EPH 2021: ORGANISATION

3.1. Organisation of the conference

The 14th European Public Health Conference, due to the COVID-19 pandemic was organised as a virtual event. A dedicated virtual platform was designed.

Co-organisers of the EPH 2021 Virtual Event were:

- EPH Conference Foundation
- EUPHA – European Public Health Association

International Partners:

- European Commission
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- ASPHER
- EuroHealthNet
- WHO
- ECDC

The EPH Conference Foundation has supervisory authority over the management and organisation of the conference. The EPH Conference Foundation is governed by the EPH Executive Board, made up by members of EUPHA's Executive Council and chairs of previous and upcoming EPH Conferences. The EPH Executive Board is advised by the International Conference Council (ICC), which has representation from EUPHA and collaborative partners in European public health (ASPHER, EuroHealthNet, EHMA, European Commission, CHAFAEA, ECDC, WHO EURO, and European Observatory).

As with past conferences, the parallel programme was set up with the help of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) consisting of public health experts from across Europe. The ISC is responsible for the scoring of abstracts. Selection of abstracts and programme planning is done by the Executive Board with the help of the ISC and EPH Conference Office.

3.2. EPH Conference Office

The EPH Conference Office was responsible for the organisation of the conference, from the abstract handling process to the registration for the conference. Furthermore, the Conference Office was responsible for:

- Search for and negotiations with European partners and sponsors;
- Public relations and marketing of the conference;
- Organisation of pre-conferences and lunch symposiums.

Key staff of the Conference Office are: Dineke Zeegers Paget, Director; Floris Barnhoorn, Deputy Director; Maaïke Droogers, Deputy Director; Robert Klarecki, Conference Officer; José Velthuis, Office Manager and Ingeborg Vlug, Financial Officer. The EPH Conference Office was supported by external staff: Lydia Rink, Conference Coordinator and advisory PCO; Jessica van Diemen, Exhibition Officer. Emer O'Hara, from the Faculty of Science and Health, Dublin City University, Ireland, provided valuable administrative and secretarial support to the Conference Office.

3.3. Local support

The 14th EPH Conference was originally scheduled to take place in Dublin, Ireland, and a Local Support Committee consisting of national stakeholders in public health and health care had already been established. With the change of the in-person conference into a virtual event the Local Support Committee stayed in place and provided valuable support in mobilizing attendance from Ireland and in the selection of abstracts.

In particular we want to thank Dr Debbi Stanistreet, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Ireland, for organising the music concert on Thursday 10 November.

We are grateful to Prof Anthony Staines, Professor of Health Systems at the Centre for Integrated Care and School of Nursing, Dublin City University, Ireland, and Chairperson of the conference for his unwavering commitment and pleasant cooperation to make the EPH 2021 Virtual Event a success.

4. EPH 2021: VISIBILITY

The Announcement of the EPH 2021 Conference was electronically distributed to all delegates of the 16th World Congress on Public Health - WCPH2020, Virtual Edition, in October 2020. A presentation of the theme was given in the closing session of WCPH2020. Subsequently, the Announcement was then published on the EPH Conference web pages.

EUPHA member organisations were informed through the EUPHA Newsletters of the upcoming conference and invited to put the Announcement on their websites and use their distribution systems to inform their members.

In addition to the Announcement, other communication channels that were used to promote the 14th EPH Conference included:

- EPH Conference E-News: the monthly electronic newsletter with conference news was published from January until October.
- European Journal of Public Health: updates on EPH 2021 Conference were published every two months in the European Public Health News pages of the EJPH.
- EUPHA Newsletter: concise articles on the conference were published in the monthly electronic EUPHA Newsletter, distributed to over 16,000 readers;
- Website and Twitter: the EPH Conference website was updated regularly, accompanied by Twitter feeds
- Conference Newsletters: two electronic conference newsletters were distributed to all registered delegates a few weeks before the conference
- Conference E-banners appeared on websites of partner organisations

4.1 Twitter

In 2021 there were 161 tweeters who posted 652 tweets, receiving 1,096 retweets between 9 and 13 November 2021. Overall 31 (19%) tweeters received 80% of all retweets, while 51 (32%) received no retweets.¹

In 2019 317 tweeters posted 1,723 tweets posted during conference days, with 2,946 retweets².

¹ Source: <https://wakelet.com/wake/F6rh10WJUz9Hp2fPFCiMV>

² Source: <https://wakelet.com/wake/923dbe83-8919-4ded-8e80-220dce4c2397>

5. EPH 2021: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES

EPH 2021 Conference was well organised, of scientific good quality and reached the objectives it set out to achieve: 84% of the participants rated the quality of the EPH 2021 Virtual Conference as excellent/good.

A large basis for the conference, also on international level, is seen as positive. For EPH 2021, several European NGOs and international organisations were involved in organising the plenary programme.

The main purpose of the 14th EPH Conference was to strengthen the capacity of public health professionals, researchers and policymakers by enhancing the exchange of knowledge, policy and best practice across Europe. Specific objectives were:

Increased knowledge of research outcomes and best practice in health by public health professionals

EPH Conferences are known for the excellent organisation, the high number of participants and a broad programme covering relevant public health topics. EPH 2021 was no exception to this with over 2,048 delegates, scoring high overall satisfaction by delegates and with a varied programme of plenary sessions, workshops, oral, pitch and electronic poster presentations.

Delegates came from over 83 countries from Europe and beyond. The professional background of the participants showed a balanced mix of research, policy, practice and training. The majority of delegates (65%) has a university background and this proportion is keeping over last years. The absolute and relative numbers of delegates with a policymaking, public health practice and education background is also keeping at the same level.

The conference aimed at increasing knowledge and skills among European public health professionals. The programme of the EPH 2021 Conference was varied and nearly all sessions mixed aspects of policy, practice and research. All sessions also included presentations from different countries, thereby increasing the networking objective of the programme itself.

Combining the electronic Abstract Supplement to the EJPH with a three-month complimentary subscription was appreciated by delegates and added to the objective of increased knowledge.

Increased knowledge and awareness of European public health policies and strategies

Over the years, the collaboration with the international European health organisations (European Commission, WHO, ECDC, Observatory) has broadened. In many workshops and round tables, representatives from European health organisations were present and participated in discussions.

Closer collaboration among European public health networks, organisations and schools

Collaboration among European (public) health organisations takes place in the International Conference Council (ICC). The ICC has an advisory role toward the EPH Conference Executive Board and has representation from EUPHA, ASPHER, EuroHealthNet, EHMA, European Commission, ECDC, WHO and European Observatory. Members of the ICC have become partner of the conference for specific activities or have taken responsibility for organising a plenary session.

As in previous years, the conference hosted EUPHA's Governing Board thereby increasing the attendance of national public health associations and offering them a platform to share national experiences. Furthermore, the possibility to combine the European public health conferences with meetings of other European NGOs, organisations, networks and schools of public health, increases the

aim of collaboration. Over the years, we have seen an increase in the collaboration, as the organisers actively invite other networks to their activities.

At the EPH 2021, all EUPHA Sections (theme-specific networks) and EUPHAnxt held their annual meetings to discuss future activities and collaboration. EUPHA continues to actively support existing networks and assist in the setting up of new networks.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS used at EPH 2021

ASPHER - Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region
 BSPH – Berlin School of Public Health
 BZgA – Federal Centre for Health Education, Germany
 DG SANTE – Directorate-General Health and Food Safety, European Commission
 EC – European Commission
 ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
 EHMA – European Health Management Association
 ENBEL - Enhancing Belmont Research Action to support EU policy making on climate change and health Project
 EPH Conference – European Public Health Conference
 EPHA - European Public Health Alliance
 ESGITM – ESCMID Study Group for Infections in Travellers and Migrants
 EU – European Union
 EUPHA – European Public Health Association
 EUPHA -CAPH – EUPHA Child and adolescent public health section
 EUPHA -CHR – EUPHA Chronic diseases section
 EUPHA -DH – EUPHA Digital health section
 EUPHA -ENV – EUPHA Environment and health section
 EUPHA -ETH – EUPHA Ethics in public health section
 EUPHA -FN – EUPHA Food and nutrition section
 EUPHA -FS – EUPHA Foresight section
 EUPHA -HIA – EUPHA Health impact assessment section
 EUPHA -HP – EUPHA Health promotion section
 EUPHA -HSR – EUPHA Health services research section
 EUPHA -HTA – EUPHA Health technology assessment section
 EUPHA -HWR – EUPHA Health workforce research section
 EUPHA -IDC – EUPHA Infectious diseases control section
 EUPHA -INJ – EUPHA Injury prevention and safety promotion section
 EUPHA -MIG – EUPHA Migrant and ethnic minority health section
 EUPHA -OH – EUPHA Oral health section
 EUPHA -LAW EUPHA Law and public health section
 EUPHA -ECO – EUPHA Public health economics section
 EUPHA -EPI – EUPHA Public health epidemiology section
 EUPHA -PHG – EUPHA Public health genomics section
 EUPHA -PHMR – EUPHA Public health monitoring and reporting
 EUPHA -PHPP – EUPHA Public health policy and politics section
 EUPHA -PMH – EUPHA Public mental health section
 EUPHA -SGMH – EUPHA Sexual and gender minority health section
 EUPHA -SSWH – EUPHA Social security, work and health section
 EUPHA -URB – EUPHA Urban public health section
 EUPHAnxt – EUPHA next generation network
 GÖG – Austrian National Public Health Institute
 HaDEA - The European Health and Digital Executive Agency
 HTAi – Health Technology Assessment International
 IARC – International Agency for Research on Cancer
 IDE – Irish Doctors for the Environment
 ISS - Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy
 JAHEE – Joint Action Health Equity Europe
 NIJZ – National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia
 NIVEL – Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, Netherlands

NPHO – National Public Health Organization, Greece
Observatory – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PETRA - PErsonalized Treatment by Real-time Assessment project
PHIRI – Population Health Information Research Infrastructure project
PH-LENS – Refugee migration to Germany: a magnifying glass for broader public health challenges, Germany
RCSI – Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
RIVM – National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands
WHO ECEH – World Health organization, European Centre for Environment and Health
WHO RHN – World Health Organization, Regions for Health Network
WHO/Europe – World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe