

16TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth : A Sustainable Future for Humanity

**CCD, Dublin, Ireland
8 - 11 November 2023**



SUMMARY REPORT

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The 16th European Public Health Conference, Dublin 2024, is a collaboration of the European Association of Public Health (EUPHA) and the European Public Health Conference Foundation.

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INTRODUCTION

The 16th European Public Health Conference was held from 8 to 11 November 2023 and was attended by 2,328 delegates from 82 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, 18 pre-conferences, 120 workshops, 56 oral sessions and 22 poster walks. 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.

Today, we find ourselves at a crucial turning point in history. The global climate is rapidly deteriorating. The interconnection between food systems, health and earth demands urgent and sustainable action to protect our planet and all its inhabitants. From deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions to water pollution and biodiversity loss, our choices in food production, distribution, and consumption directly affect the Earth's health. Equally concerning is the impact on human health and well-being, with rising rates of diet-related diseases and malnutrition threatening the lives of millions. We now have no way out in terms of climate emergency. We must make choices which will determine the future of our advanced technological civilisation. We know what to do, to deliver a future for our society, but it's less clear that we will do it. In a few weeks' time, COP28 will take place and will hopefully address the urgent need for climate action. In the run-up to COP28, food systems and agriculture have received increasing diplomatic attention. This in itself is a hopeful sign as previous COPs have seen significant political opposition to actions to change food systems and save biodiversity. The current agenda calls on countries to align national food systems with national adaptation plans which include targets for food system decarbonization and biodiversity strategies.

The EPH Conference in Dublin hopes to open part of this discussion, with a focus on sustainability, food and health. Building a future, any kind of future, for us and our children, demands a new attention to sustainability. We will look specifically at global health, the use of digital tools, equity in health and the necessary staffing and skills to provide good care. We will, in line with the overall conference theme, look in depth at the climate emergency, and very specifically at the human food supply. The plenary programme was organised in collaboration with our partners and discuss the conference theme in greater detail.

1. Transitioning to more sustainable food systems that support health and wellbeing, organised by EuroHealthNet, focused on what measures are urgently needed and must be prioritized to ensure more sustainable food systems and to improve health and well-being across Europe.
2. Commercial determinants of non-communicable diseases: the imperative for a systems approach, organised by EUPHA and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, discussed the role of the commercial sector in global health and the value of a systems approach to understanding NCDs as outcomes of intricate systems.
3. Building the future One Health workforce, organised by ASPHER and EHMA, sought to answer the question what skills were required to address the issues of global and planetary health, environmental degradation, health inequalities.
4. On the path to an equitable and sustainable digital future for European health systems, organised by WHO Regional Office for Europe, was a round table discussion to examine inequalities surrounding access to, and the use of data and digital technologies in health care and public health.
5. Safeguarding health together: preparing the European Union's health priorities, organised by European Commission and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, was a public debate on the health priorities of the European Union: what should be the priorities, where can the EU support Member States most effectively?

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

1. DUBLIN 2023: PROGRAMME

The European Public Health (EPH) Conference is an annual scientific conference on public health topics organised throughout Europe. The EPH Conference was 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 Dublin 2023 Conference consisted of seven plenary sessions including an opening and a closing session.

Opening Ceremony

Thursday 9 November, 11:40 – 12:40

Moderators:

- Anthony Staines, Chair of the 16th EPH Conference 2023

Speakers:

- Isabel de la Mata, Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management, Health and Food Safety Directorate General, European Commission
- Luke Clancy, Director General, TobaccoFree Research Institute, Ireland
- Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Plenary 1: Transitioning to more sustainable food systems that support health and wellbeing

Thursday 9 November, 14:00 – 15:00

Organisers: EuroHealthNet

Moderators:

- Suzanne Costello, CEO, Institute of Public Health, Ireland
- Caroline Costongs, Director EuroHealthNet

Video address:

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General World Health Organization

Keynote speaker:

- Tim Lang, Emeritus Professor of Food Policy, City University of London, United Kingdom

Panellists:

- Francesco Branca, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, World Health Organization (video address)
- Gunhild A Stordalen, Founder and Executive Chair EAT Foundation, Norway
- Anant Jani, University of Heidelberg, Germany and Fellow Oxford Martin School, Oxford University, United Kingdom

Plenary 2: Commercial determinants of non-communicable diseases: the imperative for a systems approach

Thursday 9 November, 17:50 – 18:50

Organisers: EUPHA, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Moderators:

- Josep Figueras, Director European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- Nicole Mauer, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Keynote speaker:

- Iveta Nagyova, President EUPHA and Head of the Department of Social and Behavioural Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, PJ Safarik University, Kosice, Slovakia

Speakers:

- Mark Petticrew, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
- Amandine Garde, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom; President EUPHA Law and public health section
- Simon Bacon, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada
- Caroline Cerny, Policy & Engagement Director, Bite Back 2030
- Gauden Galea, Strategic Adviser to the WHO Regional Director for Europe, Special Initiative on NCDs and Innovation

Plenary 3: Building the future One Health workforce

Friday 10 November, 10:30 – 11:30

Organisers: Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), European Health Management Association (EHMA)

Moderators:

- Todorka Kostadinova, Professor at the Department of Economics and Healthcare Management, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria; Member of the EHMA Board of Directors
- Henrique Barros, Vice-President ASPHER

Keynote speakers:

- Mary Codd, Associate Professor, School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin, Ireland
- George Valiotis, Executive Director European Health Management Association (EHMA)

Panellists:

- Lucy Nugent, President European Association of Hospital Managers (EHAM) and Chief Executive of Tallaght University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland
- Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Monica Georgiana Brînzac, EUPHANxt coordinator and Research Assistant, Department of Public Health, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
- Milka Sokolović, Director General European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
- Victoria Stanford, Public Health Registrar, Public Health Directorate of Shropshire Council, United Kingdom

Plenary 4: On the path to an equitable and sustainable digital future for European health systems

Friday 10 November, 14:00 – 15:00

Organisers: WHO Regional Office for Europe

Moderator:

- Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Director Division of Country Health Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Speakers:

- Alisha Davies, Head of Research and Development, Public Health Wales, United Kingdom
- Anna Odone, Full Professor of Public Health, University of Pavia, Italy; President EUPHA Digital health section
- David Novillo Ortiz, Regional Adviser, Data and Digital Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Jerome de Barros, Policy Officer, Digital Health unit, Health and Food Safety Directorate General, European Commission

Plenary 5: Safeguarding health together: preparing the European Union's health priorities

Saturday 11 November, 10:30 – 11:30

Organiser: European Commission, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Moderator:

- Josep Figueras, Director European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Speakers:

- Isabel de la Mata, Principal Adviser for Health and Crisis Management, Health and Food Safety Directorate General, European Commission
- Martin McKee, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- Matthias Wismar, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Closing Ceremony of the 16th European Public Health Conference

Saturday 11 November, 15:10 – 15:55

Moderator:

- Anthony Staines, Chair of the 16th EPH Conference 2023

Video address:

- Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and founder Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice

Speakers:

- Paul O'Brien, Irish Farmers Association, Ireland
- John Cuddihy, National Director of Public Health, Department of Public Health, Health Service Executive, Ireland
- Ricardo Mexia, Chair of the 17th EPH Conference 2024

Awards Ceremony: Best Poster, Best Abstract, Ference Bojan Award

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

78 workshops were held, 31 round tables and 11 skills building seminars.

Parallel sessions with oral presentations

These 60-minute sessions consisted of 8-minute oral presentations with few minutes of discussion around a common theme. Most sessions were co-chaired by two persons. In total, 155 oral presentations were accepted for 31 sessions.

Pitch sessions

Pitch presentations (5-minutes) consisted of 25 sessions with in total 201 accepted presentations.

E-poster walks

The E-poster walks, moderated by an experienced chair person, were held concurrently with the parallel programme: twenty 60-minute walks with 15 posters. In total, there were 327 accepted E-poster presentations.

E-poster displays

In total, 940 E-posters without presentation were accepted. 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	Round Table	Skills building seminar	Oral	Pitch
A	Food Revolution: Transforming Food Systems and Marketing	6	3	0	1	1
B	Fighting Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology, Pandemic, Vaccine	3	2	0	4	2
C	Bridging Borders: Collaboration for Health and Sustainability	5	2	2	1	1
D	Easing the Burden: Responding to the Threat of Chronic Diseases	4	3	0	2	2
E	Fostering our habitat: Climate Emergency, Environment and health, Urban Health	6	1	1	2	1
F	Expanding Horizons: Digital Innovations, Monitoring, Foresight	7	0	0	2	2
G	Data-Driven: Assessments for Informed Policy-Making	3	4	1	2	1
H	Equity Restored: Improving Health through Law and Ethics	4	4	0	2	1
J	Health Policies: Engaging in Public Debates, Politics, Advocacy	3	1	4	1	2
K	Promoting Health: Better Health throughout the Life Course	6	0	1	2	2
L	Empowering Citizens: Enhancing Health Literacy, Population Health	5	2	0	3	1
M	Transforming Health Systems: Strength, Resilience, Efficacy	6	2	0	2	1
N	Strengthening the Core: Health Workforce Research and Skills Development	2	4	2	1	2
O	Maternal, Child, Adolescent Health: Caring for Our Next Generation	5	1	0	2	3
P	Mental Health Matters: Advancements in Public Mental Health	7	0	0	2	2
Q	Embracing Diversity: Migration, LGBTQI+, Minority Health	6	2	0	2	1

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 (ex aequo):

Raffaele Palladino

Public Health Policy Evaluation Unit, Imperial College School of Public Health, London, UK

Out-of-pocket expenditure and mortality in the elderly in Europe: a longitudinal analysis, 2006-20

and

Marta Rado

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Socioeconomic inequalities in smoking and drinking in adolescence: social network dynamics

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

Djoeke Besselink

Hanzehogeschool Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

Changes in health of older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: a longitudinal cohort s

The prize for the best poster presentation was awarded to:

Aline Scohy

Sciensano, Brussels, Belgium

Women's health report for Belgium: addressing the information gap

1.4. Pre-conference programme

The preconference programme (18) was held on Wednesday 8 November 2023.

See table 2 for the full programme and numbers of delegates.

1.5. Lunch symposiums

Lunch symposiums were held on Thursday and Friday, 9 and 10 November 2023, during the extended lunch hours.

Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: EU funding opportunities

Organised by European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

The making of a leader: women leaders in Public Health. A session for young public health professionals

Organised by WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), EUPHANxt

Enabling health and care systems transformation through the THCS Partnership

Organised by European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)

Epidemic Intelligence – global lessons and how best to prepare for the next pandemic

Organised by Conduent

Life course immunisation: protecting public health

Organised by Pfizer Healthcare Ireland

Health inequalities and multimorbidity as challenges to the sustainability of public health systems – examples from Finland and Scotland

Organised by IMPRO - multidisciplinary research project coordinated by the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) together with Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Aalto University and University of Oulu

Late breaker: Climate change is a health emergency

Organised by EPH Conference, EUPHA

Table 2: Pre-conference programme and number of delegates at EPH 2023

Pre-conference	Organised by	Delegates
FORE - Skills building workshop: Applying strategic foresight methods in public health and policy making	EUPHA-FS	38
HLMR - A guideline to the European Health Data Space language based on health literacy principles	EUPHA-HL, EUPHA-PHMR Technical University Munich (Germany), Sciensano (Belgium), WHO Infodemic Management, WHO	37
ECON - Approaches and methods for cost-of-illness studies: national and international experiences	EUPHA-ECO, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	38
HPRO - Health literacy, health education and healthy life styles: connections and contradictions towards sustainability and the role of Salutogenesis	EUPHA-HP, University of Education Freiburg (Germany), Health Institute of Coimbra (Portugal)	58
PHYC - Master that elevator: how to effectively pitch your research to policy makers. A capacity building session for young professionals	EUPHAnxt, EuroNet MRPH	40
MIGR - Inclusion of refugee and migrant groups to address key health challenges for a sustainable future	EUPHA-MIG, Lancet Migration, WHO Collaborating Centre for Migrant's Involvement in Health Research, University of Limerick (Ireland)	73
SSWH - Workplace sexual harassment: theory, measurement, consequences and prevention	EUPHA-SSWH	22
QRMT - A hands-on introduction to qualitative research methods in public health	EUPHA-EPI, EUPHAnxt	29
COMM - Assessing health needs: a public health diagnosis of two Dublin communities	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), Dublin City University (DCU), Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme	17
RESP - Assessing COVID-19 response strategies: lessons, legacies and future preparedness	Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (Finland)	29
SENS - Reuse of sensitive individual data – Methods and tools for a federated approach	EUPHA-PHMR, Population Health Information Research Infrastructure, Institute for Health Sciences (Spain), Robert Koch Institute (Germany), Sciensano (Belgium)	28
EHIA - Competences and training needs for better implementation of HIA across Europe	EUPHA-HIA	28
IARC - Cancer prevention for a sustainable future: an interactive workshop for public health specialists	Cancer Prevention Europe (CPE), International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO)	21
PAHN - Developments in evaluating implementation of public policy for the promotion of physical activity and healthy nutrition	University of Limerick (Ireland)	42

PRIM - Sustainable primary healthcare: lessons learned, quick wins and challenges	by NHG - Dutch Council for General Practitioners (Netherlands), European Forum for Primary Care	22
DATA - Better public health: a data centred approach to interoperability, with international information standards	GGD-GHOR (Netherlands)	32
WALK - Art, architecture, atmosphere and (mental) health - A multi-disciplinary walking experience in Dublin	EUPHA-PMH, EUPHA-ENV, EUPHA-URB	52
YRF - Young Researchers' Forum	ASPHER, EUPHA	94

1.6. Late breaker session

Climate change is a health emergency

Organised by EPH Conference, EUPHA

Friday 10 November 2023, 12:50-13:50

Many people in the world, both in Europe as elsewhere, are now experiencing the health impacts of the climate emergency first-hand. Bush fires one day and floodings the next. As climate change accelerates, the health impacts on the most vulnerable populations become increasingly pronounced and alarming. Extreme weather events, disrupted ecosystems, and changing disease patterns are affecting the well-being of people worldwide. Marginalized communities, including women and girls, refugees, the elderly, and those living in poverty, face disproportionate risks and consequences from the climate crisis. Recent reports, such as the UNFPA and Queen Mary University of London joint study, underscore the exacerbation of existing inequalities. The study revealed alarming connections between climate change and adverse health outcomes, including earlier deliveries, stillbirths, and interruptions to maternal health services due to climate-related damage to health facilities. Gender-based violence and child marriage are on the rise as families under stress seek to marry off their daughters. Climate-induced migration, both internal and cross-border, is increasing. Concurrently, climate change is associated with rising violent crime rates and deteriorating mental health, particularly among youth.

In this roundtable, we addressed critical questions, including:

- Preparedness for climate emergencies: How can we enhance our readiness to respond to climate-related health crises, particularly when vulnerable populations are most at risk?
- Education of the public health workforce: How can we equip our public health workforce with the knowledge and tools needed to understand and address the health impacts of climate change effectively?
- Protection of the most vulnerable: What policies, strategies, and local initiatives can be implemented to protect and support the most vulnerable populations, particularly in the face of climate change-induced challenges?

Moderator:

- Regien Biesma-Blanco, Chair of the International Scientific Committee, 16th EPH Conference Dublin 2023

Panellists

- Marija Jevtic, President EUPHA Environment and health section
- Jutta Lindert, President EUPHA Public mental health section
- Debbi Stanistreet, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Irish Doctors for the Environment
- Brigit Toebes, Professor of Health Law, University of Groningen; Scientific director Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health, Netherlands
- Peter van den Hazel, Vice-President EUPHA Environment and health section
- Sinead Dart-O'Flynn, Irish Doctors for the Environment, The Reforestation Project
- Marleen Bekker, Wageningen University and Research, Netherlands

1.7. Additional meetings

Two semi-closed meetings were held on Wednesday 8 November:

- ROAM Reproductive Outcomes and Migration. An International Collaboration: Consortium meeting
- RIVER-EU: Consortium meeting

1.8. Media representation

In collaboration with the Communication Department of Dublin City University, press invitations were sent. Press releases were issued on the Dublin 2023 Conference Statement, climate change as a health emergency and the presentation of the climate litigation guide for public health professionals. Media representatives included The Lancet, PLOS ONE, Springer Nature, The European Correspondent, eClinicalMedicine, Fáilte Ireland and Sunday Independent, Ireland. Read the Press releases [here](#).

1.9. Dublin 2023 Conference Statement

We are at another turning point in our shared human history, and we must respond effectively. The ways in which humans feed themselves have always mattered but now the links between our food, our health, and our ecosystem must be attended to. Action must be both immediate, and sustainable. Read the full Dublin 2023 Conference Statement [here](#)

1.10. Exhibition

The following sponsors and exhibitors were present at the EPH Conference 2022 in Berlin:

- EPH Conference
- EUPHAnxt
- EUPHA
- Moderna
- Springer Nature
- Oxford University Press
- WHO
- European Publishing
- EuroHealthNet
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- HealthData@EU Pilot
- HaDEA
- Covidence
- ASPHER
- Conduent
- University of South Wales
- National Screening Service

Irish pavilion:

- National Care Experience Programme
- Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)
- Pharma Nord Ireland
- RCSI School of Population Health
- Clan Willam Health
- RedZinc
- Capventis

1.11. Accreditation

The 16th European Public Health Conference, 9 – 11 November 2023, Dublin, Ireland, has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 20

European CME credits (ECMEC®s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

Each participant can only receive the number of credits he/she is entitled to according to his/her actual participation at the event once he/she has completed the feedback form. Cf. criteria 9 and 23 of UEMS 2016.20.

The breakdown of ECMEC®s per day:

9.11.2023 - 8.00

10.11.2023 - 7.00

11.11.2023 - 5.00

The EACCME® awards ECMEC®s on the basis of 1 ECMEC® for one hour of CME with a maximum of 8 ECMEC®s per day. Cf. Chapter X of UEMS 2016.20.

1.12. Social programme

Welcome Reception

Thursday 9 November, 19:00 – 20:30

The Welcome Reception was held at the conference venue The CCD. Attendance was for free.

Social Evening

Friday 10 November, 19:30 – 00:00

This year we had a dinner buffet that we alternate with Irish folklore dancing. There was ample opportunity to enjoy your food while meeting colleagues and friends.

For well over a century, the Croke Park has been headquarters of the Irish Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA). Every September, the Association's two annual marquee events - the All-Ireland Football and Hurling Championship Finals – attract a capacity over 80,000 fans, to witness the pinnacle of Gaelic games action - in this world-renowned stadium.

The dinner was held in the Hogan Suite overlooking the inspiring manicured turf of Croke Park - a thrilling and dramatic setting for our social evening.

2. DUBLIN 2023: 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 Regional Office for Europe, ECDC and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. European (public) health networks and organisations actively participated in the conference programme.

2.1. Number and origin of delegates

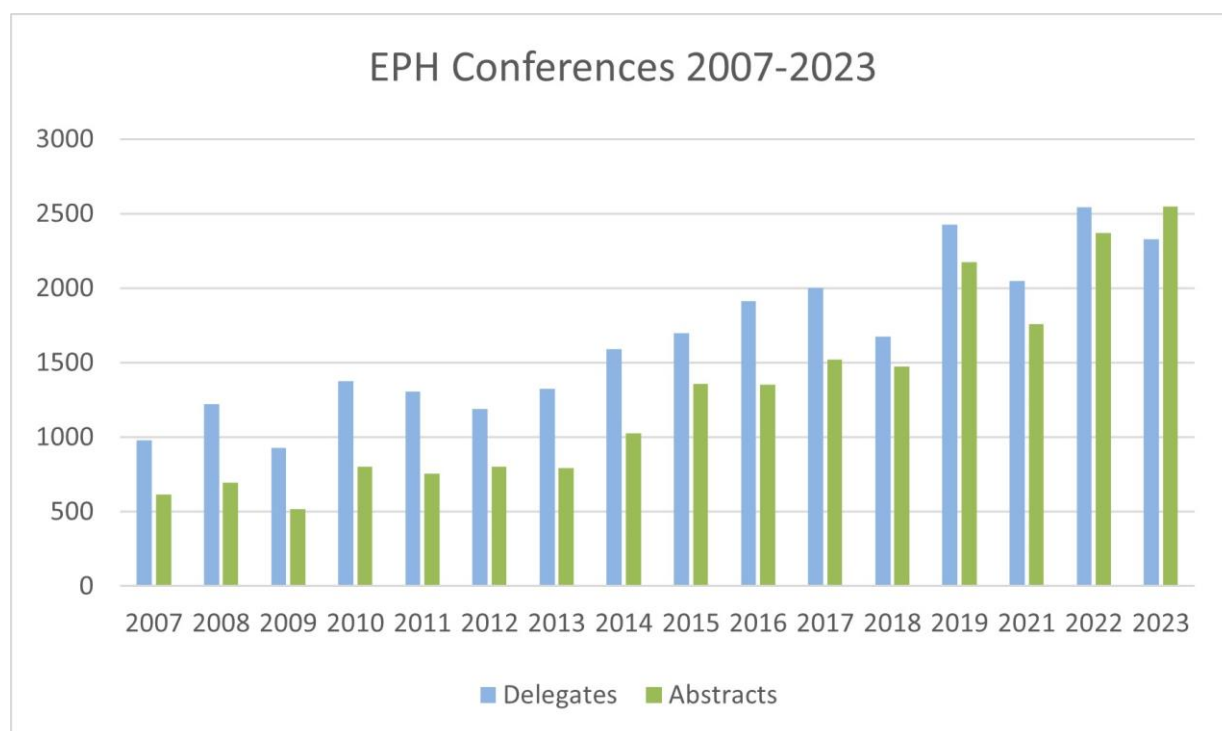
The EPH Conference registered 2.328 delegates, including pre-conference only registrations.

In the past decade the number of delegates has increased steadily from 1.200 in Malta (2012) 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 the COVID-19 pandemic the EPH Conference was organised as a virtual event, which resulted in lower numbers than for an in-person event (2.048). Coming back to in-person only conference in 2022 resulted in a record number of 2.544 participants in Berlin.

Also the number of submitted abstracts has grown significantly to 2,550 in 2023 (2.293 single abstracts and 257 workshop abstracts).

The figure below shows the gradual increase in the number of registrations and abstracts of the EPH Conferences.

Figure 1: Overview of conference registrations and abstract submissions 2007-2023*



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

Table 3: The number of single abstract submissions per country, Dublin 2023

Country	No.
Italy	289
Ireland	167
UK	164
Germany	150
Portugal	109
Netherlands	92
France	90
Finland	84
Sweden	70
Belgium, Israel, Spain	57
Bulgaria	53
Austria	51
Denmark, USA	49
Switzerland	41
Canada	40
Norway, South Korea	39
Turkey	37
China	34
Australia	29
India, Slovenia	23
Poland	21
Lithuania, Serbia, Tunisia	20
Hungary	18
Brazil, Czechia, Greece	17
Croatia	14
Colombia, Cyprus, Georgia, Romania	12
Syria, Taiwan	11
Kazakhstan, Russia, Slovakia	10
Armenia	9
Japan	8
Lebanon, Mexico	7
Nepal, Pakistan, Qatar, South Africa, Thailand	6
Malta, United Arab Emirates	5
Albania, Algeria, Latvia, Ukraine	4
Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria	3
Argentina, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Grenada, Iceland, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Moldova, Morocco, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Tanzania	2
Cambodia, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Kenya, Kuwait, Philippines, Uganda, Yemen	1

Table 4: Overview of registrations Dublin 2023

Type of registration	No.
Full conference registrations	1668
Day registrations only	159
Students, full conference	400
Pre-conference only	101
	2328

Most registrations were received from Ireland (370), followed by United Kingdom (212), Italy (188) and Germany (173).

Table 5: Number of registrations per country, Dublin 2023

Country	No.
Ireland	370
UK	212
Italy	188
Germany	173
Netherlands	152
Belgium	114
Finland	98
France	93
Denmark	88
Norway	83
Portugal	78
Sweden	67
Austria	49
USA	46
Spain	43
South-Korea	39
Switzerland	36
Hungary	31
Greece	28
Canada	26
Poland	24
Australia	22
Bulgaria, Serbia, Slovenia	17
Czech Republic	14
Japan, Lithuania	13
Romania, Turkey	10
Malta	9
Croatia	8
Slovakia, Taiwan	7
China, Georgia, Ghana, Latvia, Lebanon, Ukraine	6
Armenia, Brazil, India, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg	5
Cyprus, El Salvador, Iceland, Kosovo, South Africa	4
Bermuda, Qatar, Singapore	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates	2
Albania, Anguilla, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Gibraltar, Grenada, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, Montenegro, Montserrat, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, Reunion, Sri Lanka, St. Helena	1

2.2. Participation from students

As for previous EPH Conferences, the EPH Conference Foundation paid special attention to the participation of students. A special registration fee for this category (€ 400) was set up.

In total, 400 students registered for the conference (365 - Berlin 2022, 352 - Virtual Event 2021, 390 - Marseille 2019, 218 - Ljubljana 2018).

2.3. Ferenc Bojan Young Investigators Award session

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 **Djoeke Besselink** from *Hanzehogeschool Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands* with a presentation *Changes in health of older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic: a longitudinal cohort study*.

2.4. The Jouke van der Zee Fund: participation from lower-middle and upper-middle income countries

For many years, the European Public Health Association and the EPH Conference Foundation have been supporting participants from low- and middle-income countries financially. To make the support more sustainable, both organizations have set up a fund for this in 2020. The Jouke van der Zee Fund generously offers waivers of registration fees to delegates to attend and present their latest research at the annual EPH Conference.

Financial support to participants from these countries and presenting experts was granted also in 2023. Support consisted of a waiver of registration fees. In total, 39 public health professionals from lower-middle and upper-middle income countries in the WHO European Region could be supported by these grants (14 in 2022, 30 in 2021, 59 in 2019, 41 in 2018).

3. EPH 2023: ORGANISATION

3.1. Organisation of the conference

The 16th European Public Health Conference took place in Dublin, Ireland from 8 to 11 November 2023. The conference was held at The Convention Centre Dublin. For Dublin 2023, one large auditorium and sixteen session rooms were available. The breakout rooms varied in size.

Co-organisers of Berlin 2022 were:

- EPH Conference Foundation
- European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

International Partners:

- European Commission
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- ASPHER
- EuroHealthNet
- WHO Regional Office for Europe
- ECDC
- EHMA

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 representatives of EUPHA, appointed members 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, ECDC, WHO Regional Office for Europe and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies).

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. The ISC 2023 was chaired by Prof. Regien Biesma-Blanco, University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG), Groningen, the Netherlands.

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: Charlotte Marchandise, Executive Director; Floris Barnhoorn, Deputy Director; Robert Klarecki, Conference Officer; Maaïke Droogers, Deputy Director EUPHA; 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.

3.3. Local support

The Chair of the 16th EPH Conference, Prof. Anthony Staines, made a great effort in successfully finding the national conference partners in Ireland and raising awareness for the conference resulting in an astounding number of Irish delegates. We are grateful to Prof. Anthony Staines for his unwavering commitment and pleasant cooperation to make the EPH Conference 2023 a success.

The Local Support Committee provided assistance in the selection of abstracts at the preparatory meeting in June 2023.

In particular we want to thank Emer O' Hara, Faculty of Science & Health at the Dublin City University, for all the support to the EPH Conference.

4. DUBLIN 2023: VISIBILITY

The Announcement of the EPH Conference 2023 was distributed to the delegates of the 15th EPH Conference in Berlin, Germany in November 2022. A presentation of the theme was given in the closing session of EPH Conference 2022. 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 16th 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 Conference 2023 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 30.000 readers.
- Website: the EPH Conference website was updated regularly.
- Twitter, LinkedIn and Conference App: short messages were posted regularly.
- 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 Conference App

The EPH Conference uses a branded App with an open part available to anyone and a closed event part available to Conference participants only. The App was linked to the online programme and the open access Abstracts Supplement. The App included: Info on keynote speakers, venue map, exhibitors, partners, attendees and voting system for the best poster.

The Dublin 2023 event was downloaded by 1.628 attendees, 510 messages were sent, 391.631 pages were viewed (programme items: 119.000, posters: 32.100, institutions: 1.140).

5. DUBLIN 2023: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES

EPH Conference 2023 was well organised, of scientific good quality and reached the objectives it set out to achieve: the quality of Dublin 2023 Conference was rated 4,12 on 5 point scale.

The intensive collaboration with other European health organisations is seen as positive. For Dublin 2023, a large number of European NGOs and international health organisations were involved in organising the plenary programme, pre-conferences and sessions.

The main purpose of the 16th 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 for 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. Dublin 2023 was no exception to this with over 2,300 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 80 countries from Europe and beyond. The professional background of the participants showed a balanced mix of research, policy, practice and training. The majority of the delegates have an academic background and this share has changed little in recent years. The absolute and relative number of delegates with a background in policy making, public health practice and education also remains the same.

The conference aimed at increasing knowledge and skills among European public health professionals. The programme of the EPH Conference 2023 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.

The publication of accepted abstracts in the open access Abstract Supplement to the *European Journal of Public Health* added to the objective of increased exchange and dissemination of 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 Regional Office for Europe, ECDC, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies) has broadened. In many sessions, 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 Regional Office for Europe and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Members of the ICC have become partner of the conference for specific activities or have taken responsibility for organising a plenary session, pre-conferences and workshops.

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 Conference 2023, 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. ASPHER and EUPHA successfully organised the Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) again. The YRF is meant for postgraduate students (MPH, MSc, MRes, PhD, etc) and early career researchers and offering them the opportunity to present their work in a friendly, supportive forum and receiving feedback from mentors and peers.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASPHER - Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region
 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
 EPH Conference – European Public Health Conference
 EPHA - European Public Health Alliance
 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
 HaDEA - The European Health and Digital Executive Agency
 IUHPE – International Union for Health Promotion and Education
 Observatory – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
 OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
 WHO – World Health Organization
 YRF – Young Researchers’ Forum