

17TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

**Sailing the waves of European public health: exploring
a sea of innovation**

CCL, Lisbon, Portugal

12-15 November 2024



SUMMARY REPORT

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The 17th European Public Health Conference, Lisbon 2024, is a collaboration of the European Association of Public Health, European Public Health Conference Foundation, Associação Nacional dos Médicos de Saúde Pública and Associação Portuguesa para a Promoção da Saúde Pública.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
INTRODUCTION	4
1. LISBON 2024: PROGRAMME	5
1.1. Plenary programme.....	5
1.2. Parallel programme.....	7
1.3. Abstract and presentation prizes	9
1.4. Pre-conference programme.....	9
1.5. Lunch symposiums	9
1.6. Additional meetings.....	13
1.7. Media representation.....	13
1.8. Lisbon 2024 Conference Statement.....	13
1.9. Exhibition	13
1.10. Accreditation	14
1.11. Social programme	14
2. Lisbon 2024: DELEGATES.....	15
2.1. Number and origin of delegates.....	15
2.2. Participation from students	17
2.3. Participation from LMICs	17
2.4. Ferenc Bojan Young Investigators Award session	18
2.5. The Jouke van der Zee Fund.....	18
3. EPH 2024: ORGANISATION	19
3.1. Organisation of the conference.....	19
3.2. EPH Conference Office	19
3.3. Local support	20
4. LISBON 2024: VISIBILITY	21
4.1 Conference App.....	21
5. LISBON 2024: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES.....	22
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	24

INTRODUCTION

The 17th European Public Health Conference was held from 12 to 15 November 2024 and was attended by 3,023 delegates from 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, 24 pre-conferences, 125 workshops, 51 oral sessions and 22 poster walks.

The EPH Conference also offered a new format called PechaKucha - a storytelling format in which a presenter shows 20 slides for 20 seconds per slide. There were 34 PechaKucha 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.

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 took 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. LISBON 2024: 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 Lisbon 2024 Conference consisted of seven plenary sessions including an opening and a closing session.

Opening Ceremony

Wednesday 13 November, 11:45 – 12:45

Moderator:

- Ricardo Mexia, Chair of the 17th EPH Conference 2024

Speakers:

- Sara Cerdas, Former Member of the European Parliament 2019-2024, Portugal
- Lorena Boix, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission
- Ana Paula Martins, Minister of Health, Portugal

Plenary 1: Navigating the Artificial Intelligence (AI) wave: overcoming barriers and unleashing the potential of AI in transforming European public health

Wednesday 13 November, 14:00 – 15:00

Organisers: WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Moderators:

- Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Director, Division of Country Health Policies and Systems, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Dimitra Panteli, Programme Manager/Senior Health Systems Analyst, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Facilitator:

- Stefan Buttigieg, Manager of the National Contact Point for eHealth, Malta

Speakers/Panellists:

- Martin McKee, Professor of European Public Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- Katharina Ladewig, Director, Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Public Health Research, Robert Koch Institute, Germany
- Lorena Boix, Deputy Director-General, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission
- Keyrellous Adib, Technical Officer Data Science and Digital Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Francisco Goiana da Silva, Nova Medical School, University Nova of Lisbon, Portugal

Plenary 2: Global health: bridging research and policy for real-world impact

Wednesday 13 November, 18:00 – 19:00

Organisers: EUPHA, ASPHER

Moderators:

- Iveta Nagyova, President EUPHA

- Henrique Barros, President ASPHER and Professor of Epidemiology, School of Medicine, University of Porto, Portugal

Facilitator:

- Elena Petelos, President EUPHA Global health section

Speakers/Panellists:

- Emma Rawson-Te Patu, President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, Director of ManuKahu Associates, New Zealand
- Charles Agyemang, Professor of Global Migration, Ethnicity & Health, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Agnès Buzyn, Professor of Haematology, Paris-Sorbonne University, and Former Minister of Solidarity and Health, France
- Moredreck Chibi, Public Health Innovation Lead, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Charlotte Marchandise, Executive Director EUPHA

Plenary 3: Tackling health inequalities in times of crisis

Thursday 14 November, 10:30 – 11:30

Organisers: EuroHealthNet

Moderator:

- Caroline Costongs, Director EuroHealthNet
- Cristina Abreu Santos, Vice-President Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA), Portugal

Keynote speakers:

- Fran Baum, The Stretton Institute, The University of Adelaide, Australia (by video message)
- Katarina Ivanković Knežević, Director for Social Rights and Inclusion, Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Panellists:

- Didier Jourdan, UNESCO Chair 'Global Health and Education', University of Clermont-Auvergne, France
- Jill Litt, Professor of Environmental Health in the Environmental Studies Programme, University of Colorado, USA and Senior researcher, Barcelona Institute of Global Health (ISGlobal), Spain

Plenary 4: Harnessing social marketing for interdisciplinary health management: enhancing public health outcomes

Thursday 14 November, 14:00 – 15:00

Organisers: European Health Management Association

Moderator:

- Tiago Correia, Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal, and Board Member of the European Health Management Association

Speakers/Panellists:

- Marina Macchiaiolo, Rare Diseases and Medical Genetics Unit, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital, Italy, and President of the Italian Committee for the United World Colleges (UWC)
- Stanislava Boskovic, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Stefano Capolongo, Department of Architecture, Construction Engineering and Built Environment (ABC), Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- George Valiotis, Executive Director of Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi)

Plenary 5: One Health in Europe: from concept to practice

Friday 15 November, 10:30 – 11:30

Organiser: European Commission

Moderator:

- Ricardo Mexia, Chair of the 17th EPH Conference 2024, President EUPHA Infectious diseases control section

Keynote speaker

- Roser Domenech Amado, Director for One Health, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission

Speakers/Panellists:

- Stef Bronzwaer, Cross-Agency One Health Task Force, European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- Barbara Häsler, Royal Veterinary College, United Kingdom
- Susana Guedes Pombo, Chief Veterinary Officer, Portugal, President World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)
- Eva Zažímalová, Member of European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, Professor of Plant Anatomy and Physiology, Charles University, Czech Republic

Closing Ceremony

Friday 15 November, 15:15 – 16:00

Moderator:

- Ricardo Mexia, Chair of the 17th EPH Conference 2024

Speaker:

- Ricardo Baptista Leite, Chief Executive Officer at HealthAI - The Global Agency for Responsible AI in Health

European Public Health Week 2025

- Charlotte Marchandise, Executive Director EUPHA

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

- Martin McKee, President European Public Health Conference Foundation

Welcome to the 18th EPH Conference 2025, Helsinki, Finland

- Ilmo Keskimäki, Chair of the 18th EPH Conference 2025

1.2. Parallel programme

The parallel programme addressed a wide array of public health issues and solutions 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).

Scientific workshops, round tables, skills building seminars, practice sessions

There were 68 scientific workshops held, 36 round tables, 14 skills building seminars and 7 practice sessions.

PechaKucha

There were 34 PechaKucha sessions. **Parallel sessions with oral presentations**

These 60-minutes sessions consisted of 8-minute oral presentations with few minutes of discussion around a common theme. Most sessions were co-chaired by two people. In total, 119 oral presentations were accepted for 24 sessions.

Pitch sessions

Pitch presentations (5-minutes) consisted of 27 sessions with in total 214 accepted presentations.

E-poster walks

The e-poster walks, moderated by an experienced chair person, were held concurrently with the parallel programme: twenty-two 60-minute walks with 15 posters. In total, there were 349 accepted e-poster presentations.

E-poster displays

In total, 1633 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	Scientific session	Round Table	Skills building seminar	Practice session	Oral	Pitch
A	Innovating Public Health: From Research to Action and Policy	3	3	2	1	1	1
B	Revolutionizing Public Health and Healthcare: AI and Digital Health	5	3	-	-	2	1
C	Health Beyond Borders: Global Health Challenges and Sustainable Solutions	5	3	-	-	2	1
D	Equity in Health: Bridging Gaps to Universal Coverage	6	1	1	1	1	1
E	Environmental Health: Innovating Policies and Practices	3	2	1	1	1	3
F	Fostering our habitat: Climate Emergency, Urban Health	7	1	1	-	-	2
G	Easing the Burden: Responding to the Threat of Chronic Diseases	4	1	-	2	1	3
H	Transforming Health Systems: Strength, Resilience, Efficacy	2	5	-	-	3	1
I	Tackling Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology, Vaccines, Preparedness	4	1	1	-	2	3
K	Empower and Educate: The Future of Health Literacy and Promotion	6	1	1	-	1	2
L	Health Policies: Engaging in Public Debates and Decision-Making	1	5	1	1	1	2
M	Mental Health Matters: Advancements in Public Mental Health	4	1	2	-	3	1
N	Caring for Our Next Generation: Equitable Health from Childhood to Adulthood	4	2	-	1	2	2
O	Inclusive Health: Addressing the Needs of Migrants, LGBTI, and Minorities	6	-	1	-	2	2
P	Data-Driven: Assessments for Informed Policy-Making and Foresight	6	2	1	-	1	1
Q	Building Capacity: Learning and Ethics for the Health Workforce	2	5	2	-	1	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):

Carin Staland-Nyman

Halmstad University, Sweden

Abstract: Labor market participation in people with intellectual disability – a follow-up study in Sweden

Anouk van Duinkerken

Nivel, Netherlands

Abstract: Pandemic-related PTSD and associated risk factors in the general adult population in the Netherlands

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

Anouk van Duinkerken

Nivel, Netherlands

Abstract: Pandemic-related PTSD and associated risk factors in the general adult population in the Netherlands

The prize for the best poster presentation was awarded to:

Angelica Valz Gris

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy

Abstract: Health Impact Assessment in Personalized Prevention: three applications on pharmacogenomic testing

1.4. Pre-conference programme

The pre-conference programme (24) was held on Tuesday 12 November 2024.

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

1.5. Lunch symposiums

Lunch symposiums were held on all days of the main conference during the extended lunch hours.

Focus on respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in older adults: Disease burden and the potential public health impact of prevention

Organised by GSK

Commercial determinants of NCDs in the WHO European Region: A call to action

Organised by WHO Regional Office for Europe

Everything you want to know about EUPHA

Organised by the European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

Crawl, Walk, Run: A Commonsense Approach to Data and System Modernization for Public Health and Disease Surveillance Programs

Organised by Conduent, Healthcare solutions

Reimagining public health services in Ukraine: leadership and action for change amid the war

Organised by USAID Public Health System Recovery & Resilience Activity in collaboration with Pact, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) and European Institute of Public Health Policy (EIPHP)

Avoiding future Respiratory Tripleemics: what do we need to do collectively in Europe?

Organised by Sanofi

Data-driven health policies: Informed decision-making for Cervical Cancer elimination in Europe

Organised by MSD

Mapping and changing the food environment in Europe: from theory to practice

Organised by the European Public Health Nutrition Alliance (EPHNA)

The making of a Public Health Leader: unveiling leadership journeys

Organised by EUPHANxt, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Table 2: Pre-conference programme and number of delegates at EPH 2024

Pre-conference	Organised by	Delegates
Implement and prevent: cancer prevention across the life course (IPCP)	<i>Cancer Prevention Europe</i>	29
Bridging health literacy and health data: towards a competency framework to navigate the European Health Data Space (BHLI)	<i>EUPHA-HL, -PHMR. Co-organizers: Technical University Munich (Germany), Sciensano (Belgium), WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Literacy</i>	63
Unlocking international health insights: discoveries from The Commonwealth Fund Surveys (COMM)	<i>The Commonwealth Fund</i>	25
Economic evaluation of public health interventions: a step-by-step approach (ECON)	<i>EUPHA-ECO, OECD, APES</i>	54
Developing curricula that empower the public health workforce to lead digital transformations in health (DECU)	<i>EUPHA-DH, ASPHER DGPH</i>	23
Applying strategic foresight methods in public health and policy making (FORE)	<i>EUPHA-FS</i>	35
Navigating the digital tide: preparing public health for the AI Revolution (DIGI)	<i>EUPHA-DH</i>	49
From insight to impact: advancing equitable vaccination across Europe (VACC)	<i>RISE-Vac, RIVER-EU, AcToVax4NAM</i>	70
Bridging gaps in health monitoring: innovative approaches to obtain data from hard-to-reach populations (PHMR)	<i>EUPHA-PHMR, -MIG, -PHPP, -SGMH</i>	26
Establishing the effectiveness of complex health promotion interventions: shining light on alternatives (HPRO)	<i>EUPHA-HP</i>	25
Introductory training on behavioural and cultural insights for better health (BCI)	<i>RIVM Behavioural Unit (Netherlands), WHO Regional Office for Europe Behavioural and Cultural Insights Unit</i>	33
Methods and analyses in social security, work and health research: from mixed methods to citizen science (SSWH)	<i>EUPHA-SSWH</i>	18
Involving vulnerable groups in public health research and practice (CAPH)	<i>EUPHA-CAPH, -SGMH, -MIG</i>	33
Revamping prevention, preparedness and response plans – translating evidence to impactful implementation (PREV)	<i>European Commission DG SANTE, Health Security Unit</i>	47
Exploring the European Health Data Space: a journey guided by the HealthData@EU Pilot project (EHDS)	<i>HealthData @EU pilot</i>	66

Best practices in EU-wide projects contributing to achieving the objectives of EU Health policies (NFP4)	<i>European Health and Digital Executive Agency, Joint Action on increasing the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs) – NFP4Health</i>	53
Using Systems Thinking to enhance knowledge dissemination and promote healthy behaviour (IARC)	<i>International Agency for Research on Cancer</i>	41
School health literacy: from evidence to policy to practice (SCHO)	<i>EUPHA-HL, -CAPH. Co-organisers: Technical University of Munich (Germany), University of Applied Sciences Fulda (Germany), WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Literacy at TU Munich (Germany), University of Minho (Portugal), Imperial College London, and London South Bank University (UK)</i>	41
From lessons learned to innovative methods – strengthening the exchange of syndromic surveillance systems globally (SSSG)	<i>Robert Koch-Institut (Germany)</i>	21
Scenario-based workshop Pandemic Preparedness. An interdisciplinary approach to scientific advice during pandemic outbreaks (PAND)	<i>Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness Center, Erasmus MC (Netherlands)</i>	18
Boosting research impact: essential manuscript writing skills for emerging public health scientists (WRIT)	<i>EUPHA-EPI, -CHR, -ECO, EUPHAnxt</i>	12
Young Researchers' Forum (YRF)	<i>ASPhER and EUPHA</i>	35
Art, architecture, atmosphere and (mental) health. A multi-disciplinary walking experience in Lisbon (WALK)	<i>EUPHA-URB, -PMH, -ENV, -DH</i>	20
Conferência De Saúde Pública Da Lusofonia	<i>EPH Conference, EUPHA, Portuguese Association for Public Health, National Association of Public Health Doctors (Portugal)</i>	195

1.6. Additional meetings

Semi-closed and closed meetings were held on:

Monday 11 November

- Conferência de Saúde Pública da Lusofonia, organised by APPSP, ANMSP, EPH Conference
- RIVER-EU, Consortium meeting
- Pace Project meeting

Tuesday 12 November

- Conferência de Saúde Pública da Lusofonia, organised by APPSP, ANMSP, EPH Conference
- EUPHA Governing Board

1.7. Media representation

Press releases were issued on the Lisbon 2024 Conference Statement and the new EUPHA Strategy. The Lisbon 2024 Conference Statement was signed by 20 public health associations and organisations. Media representatives included The Lancet, Springer Nature, Tagesspiegel, PLOS One. Read the Press releases [here](#).

1.8. Lisbon 2024 Conference Statement

Read the full Lisbon 2024 Conference Statement [here](#).

1.9. Exhibition

The following sponsors and exhibitors were present at the EPH Conference 2024 in Lisbon:

- EPH Conference
- EUPHA and EUPHAnxt
- ASPHER
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention US
- Conduent
- Covidence
- ECDC
- EU Funding opportunities (HaDEA)
- EuroHealthNet
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- European publishing
- HealthData@EU Pilot
- InFact UK Ltd
- Oxford University Press
- Pfizer Portugal
- Springer Nature
- Standard Bio
- Wales School for Social Prescribing Research
- WHO Regional Office for Europe

1.10. Accreditation

The 17th European Public Health Conference, Lisbon, Portugal 13/11/2024 - 15/11/2024, has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with **15.0 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 22 of UEMS 2023.07. The breakdown of ECMEC®s per day:

13.11.2023 - 5.00

14.11.2023 - 6.00

15.11.2023 - 4.00

The EACCME® awards ECMEC®s on the basis of 0,5 ECMEC® for 30 minutes of CME with a maximum of 8 ECMEC®s per day. cf. Chapter XIII of UEMS 2023.07.

1.11. Social programme

Welcome Reception

Wednesday 13 November, 20:00 – 21:30

The Welcome Reception was held at the Pátio da Galé, Praça do Comércio. Attendance was free of charge.

Social Evening

Thursday 14 November, 19:30 – 00:30

The dinner was held in the Estufa Fria - a greenhouse with three distinct gardens located in Eduardo VII Park. It was a great setting for our social evening.

2. Lisbon 2024: 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

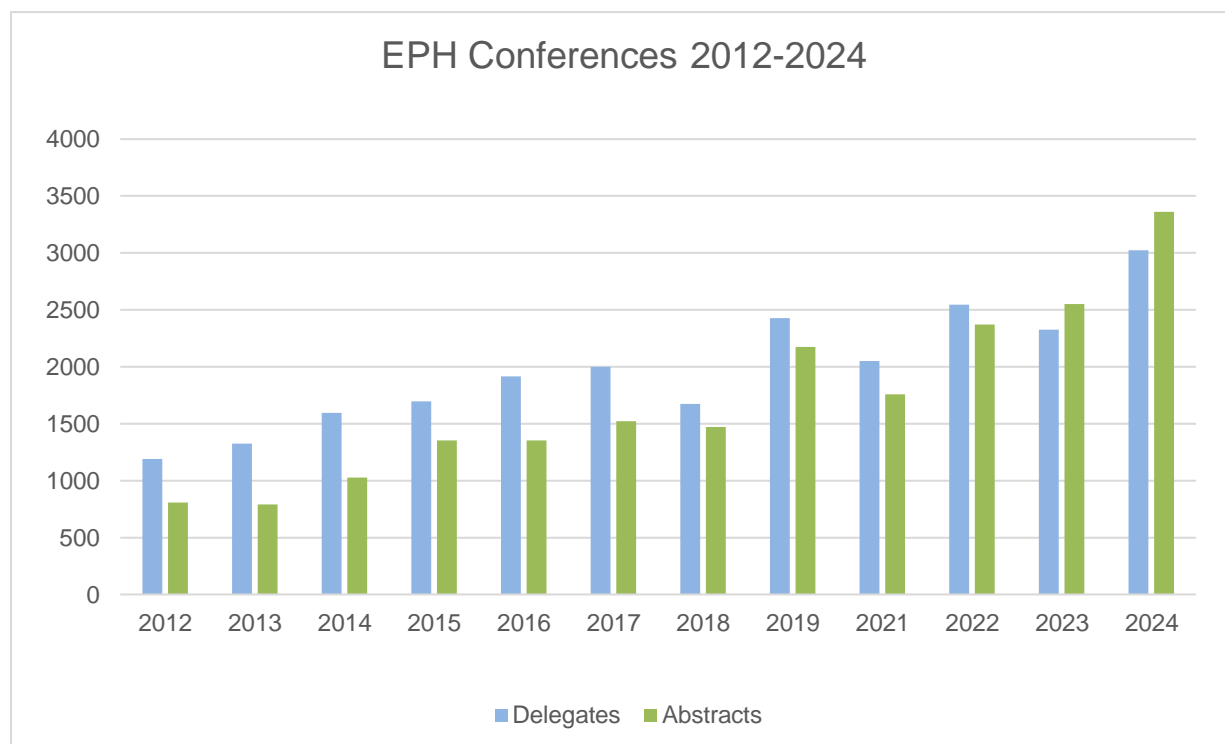
The EPH Conference registered a record number of 3.023 delegates, including pre-conference only registrations.

In the past years 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 an in-person only conference in 2022 resulted in 2.544 participants in Berlin (2022) followed by 2.328 delegates in Dublin (2023).

Additionally, the number of submitted abstracts has grown significantly to 3.364 in 2024 (3.052 single abstracts and 312 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 2012-2024*



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

Table 3: The number of single abstract submissions per country, Lisbon 2024

Country	No.		
Italy	378	Japan	26
Portugal	250	Cyprus, Czechia, Slovenia	24
United Kingdom	234	Australia	22
Germany	212	Taiwan	21
Netherlands	132	Lithuania, Mexico, Romania	18
Ireland	111	Armenia	15
France	103	Croatia	14
Finland	91	United Arab Emirates	12
Sweden	88	Colombia, Kazakhstan	11
Türkiye	84	Ukraine	10
Belgium	76	Bangladesh, Georgia, Malta	9
Austria	67	Albania, Hong Kong, Slovakia	8
South Korea	64	Luxembourg	7
Spain	60	Estonia, Latvia, New Zealand, Pakistan	6
Switzerland	59	Singapore	5
United States	58	Philippines, Russia, Rwanda, South Africa	4
Israel	56	Chile, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Ghana, Nigeria	3
Norway	53	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania	2
Brazil	52	Bahrain, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Yemen, Zimbabwe	1
Canada	49		
Serbia, Tunisia	46		
Hungary, Poland	45		
Greece	42		
Bulgaria	40		
Denmark	38		
China	31		
India	29		

Table 4: Overview of registrations Lisbon 2024

Type of registration	No.
Full conference registrations	2.165
Day registrations only	138
Students, full conference	480
Pre-conference only	240
	3.023

Most registrations were received from Portugal (363), followed by Italy (246), Germany (237) and United Kingdom (223).

Table 5: Number of registrations per country, Lisbon 2024

Country	No.		
Portugal	363	Iceland	23
Italy	246	Serbia	22
Germany	237	Japan	21
United Kingdom	223	Australia, Ukraine	19
Netherlands	213	Bulgaria, Czech Republic	18
Belgium	127	Malta, Romania	14
Finland	114	Croatia	12
France	89	Cyprus, New Zealand, Slovakia	11
Ireland	82	Estonia, Taiwan	10
United States of America	81	Angola, China, Luxembourg	9
Norway	76	Latvia, United Arab Emirates	8
Austria, Denmark, Sweden	73	Armenia, Kazakhstan, Mexico	7
Poland	51	Faroe Islands, Georgia, Mozambique, Tunisia	6
Spain	49	Albania	5
South-Korea	47	El Salvador, Moldova, Qatar, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore	4
Switzerland	44	Cape Verde, Egypt, India	3
Brazil	41	Ecuador, Hong Kong, Lebanon	2
Canada	40	Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Libya, Macedonia, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Vietnam	1
Hungary	39		
Turkey	38		
Greece	37		
Lithuania	28		
Philippines, Slovenia	26		
Israel	25		

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, **480** students registered for the conference (Dublin 2023: 400, Berlin 2022: 365, virtual event 2021: 352, Marseille 2019: 390, Ljubljana 2018: 218).

2.3. Participation from LMICs

The European Public Health Association and the EPH Conference Foundation support participants from low- and middle-income countries by offering them a special registration fee (€ 400).

In total, **101** participants from LMICs registered for the conference.

2.4. 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 **Anouk van Duinkerken** from *Nivel, Netherlands* with a presentation: *Pandemic-related PTSD and associated risk factors in the general adult population in the Netherlands*. Anouk van Duinkerken was awarded a certificate and waiver of registration fees for the next EPH Conference.

2.5. The Jouke van der Zee Fund

For many years, the European Public Health Association and the EPH Conference Foundation have provided financial support to participants from low- and middle-income countries. 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 2024. Support consisted of a waiver of registration fees. In total, **51** public health professionals from lower-middle and upper-middle income countries in the WHO European Region could be supported by these grants (2023 - 39; 2022 - 14; 2021 - 30; 2019 - 59; 2018 - 41).

3. EPH 2024: ORGANISATION

3.1. Organisation of the conference

The 17th European Public Health Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal from 12 to 15 November 2024. The conference was held at The Lisbon Congress Centre. For Lisbon 2024, one large auditorium and sixteen session rooms were available. The breakout rooms varied in size.

Co-organisers of Lisbon 2024 were:

- EPH Conference Foundation
- European Public Health Association (EUPHA)
- Portuguese Association for the Promotion of Public Health (APPSP)
- Portuguese Association of Public Health Doctors (ANMSP)

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 166 public health experts from 33 countries, across Europe as well as in Australia, Canada, Brazil, Israel and the USA. 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 2024 was chaired by Prof. Sónia Dias, Dean and Full Professor at the National School of Public Health, NOVA University, Lisbon, Portugal.

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; Lydia Rink, Conference Coordinator and advisory

PCO; Jessica van Diemen, Exhibition Officer; José Velthuis, Office Manager and Nicholas Bishop, Financial Officer.

3.3. Local support

The Chair of the 17th EPH Conference, Dr Ricardo Mexia, and the Chair of the International Scientific Committee Prof. Sónia Dias, played a crucial role in securing national conference partners in Portugal and raising awareness of the conference resulting in an astounding number of Portuguese delegates. We are grateful to Dr Ricardo Mexia and Prof Sónia Dias for their unwavering commitment and pleasant cooperation to make the EPH Conference 2024 a success.

The Local Support Committee provided also assistance in the selection of abstracts at the preparatory meeting in June 2024.

4. LISBON 2024: VISIBILITY

The announcement of the EPH Conference 2024 was distributed to the delegates at the 16th EPH Conference in Dublin, Ireland in November 2023. A presentation of the theme was given in the closing ceremony of the EPH Conference 2023. 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 17th 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 the EPH Conference 2024 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 35.000 readers.
- Website: the EPH Conference website was updated regularly.
- X, LinkedIn and the 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 information on keynote speakers, venue map, exhibitors, partners, attendees and a voting system for the best poster.

The Lisbon 2024 event was downloaded by 1.980 attendees. There were 324 messages sent, 462.816 pages viewed (programme items: 150.280, institutions: 898) and 101 appointments made through the App.

5. LISBON 2024: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES

Feedback from delegates at the EPH Conference indicated that it was well-organized and of high scientific quality, meaning the conference successfully met its objectives.

The intensive collaboration with other European health organisations is seen as positive. For Lisbon 2024, 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 17th 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 renowned for their excellent organization, high number of participants, and broad program covering relevant public health topics. Lisbon 2024 was no exception, with over 3,000 delegates, high overall satisfaction from participants, and a varied program featuring plenary sessions, workshops, oral presentations, pitch sessions, and electronic posters.

Delegates attended from over 80 countries across 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 2024 was varied with nearly all sessions mixing 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* contributed to the objective of increasing knowledge exchange and dissemination. .

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 partners of the conference for specific activities or have taken responsibility for organising a plenary session, pre-conference or workshop.

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 collaboration, as the organisers actively invite other networks to their activities.

At the EPH Conference 2024, 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