



European Public Health Conference

Vision and Strategy 2017 - 2020

Introduction

Since 1992, the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) has organized EUPHA conferences annually. In 2012, it was decided to establish a separate conference Foundation to organise the conferences which since then were called European Public Health Conferences. The EPH Conference Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation

EPH Conference Foundation aims to contribute to the upholding and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity building, knowledge acquisition and transfer and strives to achieve this object through, inter alia, holding scientific conferences on public health in Europe at regular intervals at the initiative of EUPHA.

Why organise a 'live' conference?

In an increasing 'virtual' world, it is important for the public health network in Europe to come together in the 'real world' at regular intervals to meet and gather face to face. The purpose is to create deeper individual and group connections that will enrich ongoing, online interaction. The EPH Conference is the biggest annual public health event in Europe bringing together research, practice, policy and education.

What makes the EPH Conference special?

The EPH Conference is the only conference in Europe with a focus on a broad array of public health issues, combining the exchange of knowledge with the building of capacity. It has become the platform for the younger generation of public health professionals to share their work with others and join the existing network. The conference has increased its focus on the policy implications of research.

Vision and objectives 2017-2020

In order to ensure the continued success of the EPH Conferences and to set a clear vision and mission for the EPH Conferences, this document sets out the objectives for the EPH Conferences from 2017 to 2020.

Objective 1: To voice, exchange and build knowledge in public health in Europe and beyond

In the past decade around 83% of the submitted abstracts were on research. In the coming period, the conference will maintain a strong research base, as this is the conference's unique strength, but at the same time, it will develop more knowledge building in the areas of policy, practice and training/education.

The number of policy abstracts submitted for single presentations remained rather low over the last decade: only 6%. On the other hand, policy issues are well represented in the plenary sessions and in the workshops. Through skills-building workshops, this trend will be further developed. The policy impact of the conference has increased over the years. As of 2015, a yearly press conference was added to the conference. The elaboration of a conference-linked Declaration (e.g. the successful Vienna Declaration) both increased visibility as well as general support and unity within the public health community.

The number of practice abstracts also remained low with only 7%. Practice is not very often part of the plenary or workshop programme. Further development of public health practice at the conferences is therefore desirable.

Training/education abstracts number lowest with under 4%. Further development of knowledge and capacity is one of the main objectives in the coming period. Skills-building workshops and EUPHANxt sessions will be continued.

Focus 2017-2020

- Continue the policy character of the plenary sessions and workshops. Invite more top policy makers to be active in the programme;
- Continue with the organisation of Late Breaker sessions and Press Conferences;
- Continue with the Conference Declaration focusing on public health policy implications;
- Continue with the publication of an easy-to-read introductory magazine;
- To attract more practitioners, continue with offering credits for continual medical education;
- Continue with the different formats and scoring of practice abstracts;
- Introduce a 'Stand up public health practice' session, with examples from public health practice;
- Organise a conference track on strengthening the public health workforce.

Objective 2: To enhance the communication between research, policy, practice and training/education

EPH Conferences aim to enhance the interaction between research, policy and practice. Since 2013, all abstract submitters have to include two key messages indicating the policy implications of their work. This can be seen as a first step towards communicating (research) work to policy, practice and training.

Focus 2017-2020

- Continue with the key messages and produce a short content report for the conference;
- Introduce 'Summary of the Day' with emphasis on the impact of research on policy and practice.

Objective 3: To create opportunities for increased networking

The networking function of the EPH Conference is important added value. Several activities have already been developed over the years, including Join the Network meetings (EUPHA sections), country meetings (EUPHA national associations), extended lunch hours, etc.

Focus 2017-2020

- Continue to organise a 'live' conferences;
- Facilitate networking at the conference venue (e.g. more sitting areas to meet, etc.);
- Continue with the Join the Network meetings organised by EUPHA sections;
- Encourage more networking possibilities for specific groups ;
- Allow the broadest group of delegates to participate in the Welcome Reception (at no costs) and Conference Dinner & Dance (low cost);
- Further develop the Conference App to allow for networking .

Objective 4: To further the capacity of the public health network by ensuring skills building activities

Since 2014, the EPH Conference offers European accreditation credits from the UEMS-EACCME. These credits are used for continual medical education. The collaboration with EUPHA and Oxford University Press on the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH) Abstract Supplement has continued and includes a three-months access to the full EJPH for all conference delegates. Specific capacity building workshops are usually well attended and highly appreciated.

Focus 2017-2020

- Continue the organisation of skills building workshops and pre conferences;
- Continue with offering European Accreditation for the conference (UEMS);
- Continue with the complimentary three-months access to the EJPH for all delegates;
- Continue organising the Ferenc Bojan award session.

Objective 5: To facilitate the impact of each conference beyond the conference days

A face-to-face conference has a direct impact on the delegates attending the conference. It is, however, essential to continue the impact of each conference beyond the conference days. Several activities have already been put in place and should be continued. These include the Conference Declaration, the EJPH editorial and the open, easy-to-read publication linked to the conference. The development of a content report based on the key messages may be developed in the near future.

Focus 2017-2020

- Continue with the past conference webpage to allow publications linked to the conference to remain visible and accessible;

- Continue with a Conference Declaration;
- Continue with the open, easy-to-read publication and editorial to the EJPH
- Provide a content summary based on main messages from the parallel and plenary programme

Objective 6: To increase the activities for ‘greening the conference’

Since 2015, EPH Conference have become more environmentally conscious. In 2016, a workshop on greening the conference was organised and efforts to reduce the environmental impact were published on the website and in the Programme Book. Efforts to further green the conference are a focal point in the organisation of the EPH Conferences. The EPH Conference has health and the environment high on its agenda and should aim if not for footprint negative, at least for becoming a footprint neutral conference.

Focus 2017-2020

- Install a ‘Green Club’ to oversee what needs to be done, how it can be done as well as to monitor progress;
- Set up a sustainability plan for the EPH Conference including clear goals and indicators.

Objective 7: To ensure a continued high scientific standard and a smooth organisation of the conferences

Since 2013, the organisation of the EPH Conferences have been centralized at EUPHA office, under the supervision of the EPH Conference Executive Board. With the help of external staff and a local support committee, the conference is organised following a clearly prescribed format and structure as laid down in the Conference Manual. The conference is evaluated at various levels to improve on efficacy and efficiency each year.

Focus 2017-2020

- Evaluate on a yearly basis the organisation and contents of the conference;
- Ensure the scientific quality of the conference by continuing the scoring of abstracts and workshops by an independent International Scientific Committee
- Ensure a good balance between space, networking possibilities and the growing number of participants;
- Ensure the independence of the EPH Conference organisation by making use of The Code of Good EPH Conference Practice and ethical committee;
- Ensure a firm and sound financial basis of the EPH Conference Foundation;
- Adapt on a yearly basis the EPH Conference Manual on conference organisation
- Clarify the core activities to stay at the EUPHA office and the activities that can be outsourced