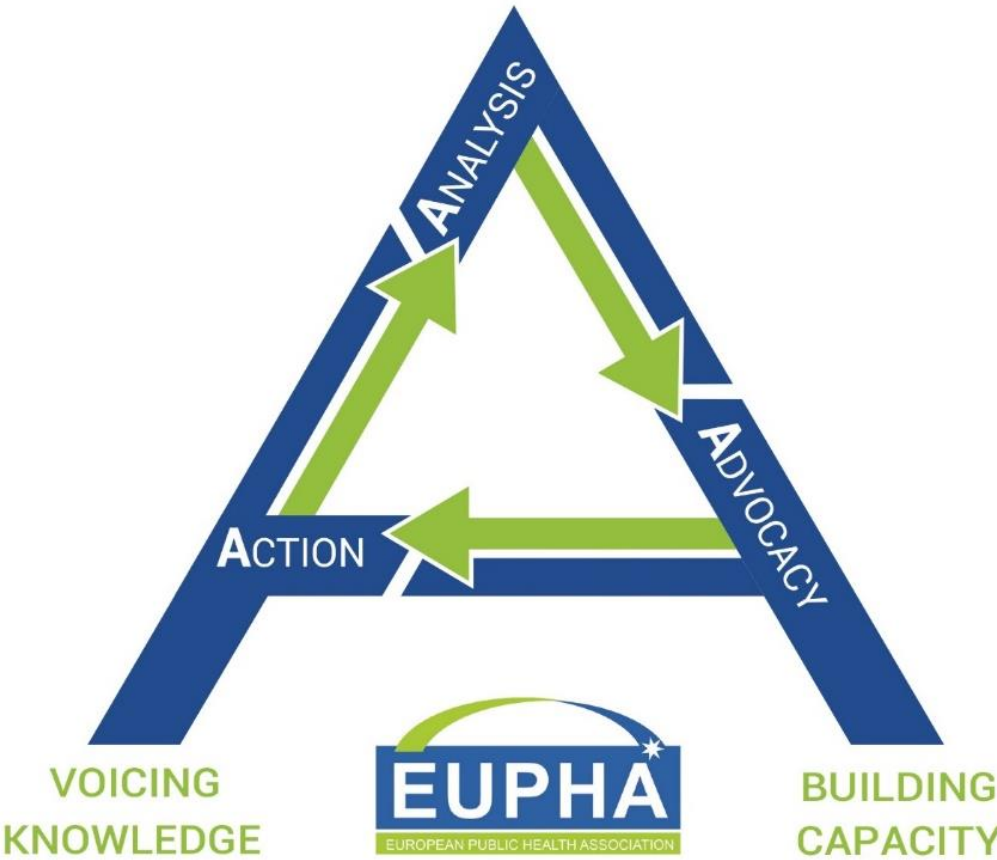


# European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2023



In 2023, EUPHA received co-funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme.



Co-funded by  
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# About EUPHA

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is the umbrella organisation for public health associations and institutes in Europe. EUPHA has 83 members from 47 countries. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

EUPHA membership benefits:

- EUPHA members are included in the European-wide network of public health experts.
- EUPHA can endorse the national and local advocacy initiatives of members.
- EUPHA members can join public health advocacy on European level, thereby shaping the public health policy in Europe and worldwide.
- EUPHA members can participate in all EUPHA activities and have access to EUPHA's learning & resources module with capacity and skills building materials.
- EUPHA members benefit from an 80 Euro reduction on the registration fees for all European Public Health Conferences.
- EUPHA members can publish news items in the EUPHA newsletter free of charge.
- EUPHA members publishing in the European Journal of Public Health can have a 20% reduction of the Open Access charges.
- EUPHA

Charlotte proposition

EUPHA Membership Benefits:

## • Advocacy, Networking and Policy Influence

- EUPHA members are connected with a dynamic European-wide network comprising over 39,000 public health experts and partners from institutions and NGOs

- Insights into EU policies and decision-making processes, actively participating in campaigns within the influential "Brussels bubble."

- Opportunities to contribute to consultations, ensuring members' voices are heard in shaping European and global public health policies.

- EUPHA can endorse national and local advocacy initiatives initiated by its members, amplifying their impact on public health issues.

- Actively engage in European-level public health advocacy, contributing to the development of policies that resonate globally and contribution to consultations

## • Collaborative Action, Learning and Resources

- Full participation in all EUPHA activities, including exclusive access to the Learning & Resources Module, featuring materials for capacity and skills building.

- Access to a platform for disseminating the latest research and work of EUPHA Sections, fostering information sharing and collective impact.
- Leverage EUPHA's network through sections, conferences, summer-school, EU projects to facilitate collaborative actions
- Participation to mentorship programs to support the next generation of Public Health professionals

• Promotion, Visibility and Financial Benefits:

- 80 Euro reduction on registration fees for attendance at all European Public Health Conferences
- Members can publish news items in the EUPHA newsletter at no cost
- 20% reduction on Open Access charges when publishing in the European Journal of Public Health, enhancing visibility and accessibility of research.

Interested in joining us?

- Are you a national public health association? Then join us as a full member.
- Are you an institute interested in being part of the largest public health professional network in Europe? Then join us as an institutional member.
- Are you a European or international NGO and would you like to work with EUPHA? Look into our possibilities of associate membership/partnership.
- Does your country not (yet) have a national public health association and you wish to pursue setting up one? Join our network as an individual member and we will support you in setting up a national public health association.
- Are you interested in EUPHA but not located in Europe? Look into our possibilities of global membership.

More information on membership can be found at: <https://eupha.org/join-our-network>.

Contact us

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## Summary

On behalf of the EUPHA Executive Council, it is our pleasure to present this report highlighting EUPHA's key activities in 2023. EUPHA, with the support of its members, sections, young professional network (EUPHAnxt) and partners engaged in a large number of activities, aimed at building capacity and strengthening the voice of public health professionals and bringing the evidence into the policymaking process.

### *The importance of public health in 2023*

With the continuing war in Ukraine and additional conflicts that the European region is facing in 2023, EUPHA can only condemn these actions, not merely from a humanitarian perspective, but also by perceiving peace as the basic necessity for the public's health.

We continue to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic and make use of the momentum to ensure that in future we will be better prepared for a pandemic or any other health emergency. New structures are put in place to improve our preparedness and response, including, at global level, the pandemic treaty, and the European Union (EU) establishing the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority. We follow these developments closely and provide input on how these structures and mechanisms should be shaped. At our very own conference, the 16<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference in Dublin, Ireland taking place 8 till 12 November 2023 (EPH2023), there are also several sessions dedicated to lessons learned and future preparedness.

EUPHA remains a science-based organisation, recognised as an independent and trusted voice of and for public health. EUPHA is the go-to organisation for science advice on public health! The European Journal of Public Health, the European Public Health conferences, and the EUPHA sections are essential tools here. The European Journal of Public Health is in the top 25% of journals (Q1 SJR), which is a pleasant new development. At the 16<sup>th</sup> European Public Health conference EUPHA (co-)organised a dazzling number of 110(!) sessions, thanks to the active contributions from EUPHA sections and EUPHAnxt.

'Public health: Global issues, local actions' was the overarching theme of the 2023 European Public Health Week, which is a EUPHA initiative, and this year being the fifth edition. This year's Week a total of 224 events in 39 countries were organised, showing that the Week is truly a week for the whole of the European region and beyond.

The long-wished-for mentoring programme kicked-off in 2023. The physical distancing measures and very limited in-person networking activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in young professionals having near to zero networking opportunities. Noticing this impact and our young professionals' network requesting to 'get back in the game' as well as make up for the missed networking time, the EUPHAnxt mentoring programme started. The interest was tremendous, with over 160 young professionals applying.

Continuing our activities following our triple A strategy (**A**dvocating for public health, from a scientific **A**nalysis basis, and by taking **A**ction) is supported and acknowledged through the operating grant that we received from the European Union's Health Programme. We feel thankful for being awarded this grant, which co-funds 60% of our activities in 2023, and it allows us to continue to invest in the public health community. Unfortunately, there are currently no perspectives on continuing this very important funding scheme and together with other health organisations, we've called for reinstalling this fund, as these grants allow health civil society organisations to efficiently and sustainably support EU policy making while guaranteeing their independence from vested interests.

2023 is also the year in which we take forward our long-standing collaboration with the World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe and formalise our partnership in a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The MoU's basis is synergising our efforts for public health, including uptake of evidence in policy and decision-making. Topics for collaboration (to be re-assessed every other year) include mental health; behavioural and cultural insights; health

equity, social and economic determinants of health, and investment for health; strengthening the public health community; primary care; and non-communicable diseases. A new step of this MoU is also to connect more with local stakeholders through the WHO Healthy Cities and Regions Network, in alignment with the long-lasting evidence showing how important the local levers are to promote people's health : air quality, physical activity, housing, urban planning, accessibility, access to health care, inclusivity, climate resilience...It aligns with the EU Urban Agenda, and with the Health in All Policies, Health for All Policies approach.

### *Change of executive director*

2023 saw a change in the leadership of the EUPHA office with Marieke Verschuuren stepping down as Executive Director and Charlotte Marchandise joining as the next Executive Director.



“ Thrilled to embark on this new journey with EUPHA, advocating for this essential association, championing the perspective that health is a political choice necessitating equity-focused and intersectoral action based on cutting-edge evidence. I am looking forward to working with all its members and partners towards impactful initiatives in the times ahead. ”



Charlotte Marchandise  
EUPHA Executive Director



**EUPHA**  
EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

### *EUPHA's key activities*

We structure this annual report according to the 8 goals as listed in the 5-year work plan belonging to the EUPHA strategy 2020-2025:

#### **Goal 1: Support our members in their work at the national, regional and local level**

We continued to collaborate with our members. With this year having a 'tripping forward' session the day after our annual meeting of members (Governing Board meeting), hosted by one of our members, the Dutch Federation for Health, in which members can share experiences with running a national public health association and reaching advocacy goals. During the session two cardboard pillars will be filled with offers and requests from national associations, which will be the basis from which EUPHA as the umbrella organisation, can twin organisations for mutual learning. Throughout the year continuous professional development content was uploaded on the EUPHA Learning and resources module, including skills building seminars from the European Public Health Conference 2022 (EPH2022). And our members actively participated in the fifth European Public Health Week (EUPHW), which took place between 22 and 26 May 2023, and was again very successful with 224 events in 21 languages across 39 countries.

#### **Goal 2: Consolidate and expand the partnership**

In 2023, we continued our partnerships with the European institutions and agencies, most notably WHO Europe, the European Commission, HERA, ECDC, and EMA. Throughout the year we interacted with Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) by participating in its civil society forum, in which we provided input on the future of HERA and its mandate. With the World Health Organisation Regional Committee for Europe we formalise our long-standing collaboration with a memorandum of understanding (see previous page 'importance of public health in 2023'). And we continued to be represented at the ECDC Advisory Forum. Through collaboration with other civil society organisations in the field of health, we found synergies to make our cause for public health and make change happen,

including with Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), EuroHealthNet, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), European Health Management Association (EHMA), and the World Federation for Public Health Associations. And with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and European Cancer Leagues (ECL) as daily partners, we had another successful European Public Health Week.

### **Goal 3: Stimulate and facilitate mutual learning**

The need for continuously enhancing capacity remains a priority for EUPHA. EUPHA and its sections and partners organised 109 sessions at the 16th European Public Health conference in Dublin, thereby encouraging continuous learning for public health professionals. The EUPHA office welcomed one secondee working in the framework of an EU-funded project to stimulate researchers' exchange in the field of personalised prevention (ExACT project). And the EUPHA sections were actively organising webinars throughout the year (n=11), including a series from the EUPHA Foresight in public health section.

### **Goal 4: Actively stimulate the younger generation to be part of the EUPHA network**

The EUPHANxt team continued to engage the next generation of public health generation by increasing the information exchange (i.e. newsletters and social media) and offering a new opportunity in 2023, i.e. the EUPHANxt mentoring programme. An overwhelming number of mentees applied (more than 160). Despite also a good number of mentors (representatives from the EUPHA Section Council, EUPHA Governing Board and EUPHA Executive Council), i.e. n=36, we still had to let down several interested mentees. Groups of three or four mentees are matched with a mentor and the first edition (pilot) of the EUPHANxt mentoring programme kicked-off in September 2023. The programme will run for six months, after which we will evaluate this new tool. The existing tools of the abstract tutoring programme and the EUPHA fellows at the conference are continued. EUPHA facilitated three internships; covering topics related to public health economics and core competencies, funding opportunities for public health, strengthening public health in the East of the WHO/Euro region, and strengthening the next generation of public health professionals. Last but not least, we co-organised the Young Researchers Forum at EPH2023 with the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region.

### **Goal 5: Keep health a priority on the European and national agendas**

We continued being visible at European level by being active both in written advocacy (statements, the European public health news in the European Journal of Public Health) as well as participating in European meetings (e.g. the European Alcohol Policy Alliance conference, planetary health round tables and climate change policy debates in Brussels). At the national level, EUPHA supported the letter sent by the UK Faculty of Public Health to the prime minister on Child Food Insecurity; and our strategic advisor participated in the Riga University Research Week 2023 in Latvia and met with the national public health institute to discuss opportunities to jointly improve public health in Europe.

### **Goal 6: Strengthening public health research in Europe**

EUPHA remains a science-based organisation, recognised as an independent and trusted voice of and for public health. EUPHA is the go-to organisation for science advice on public health! The European Journal of Public Health, the European Public Health conferences, and the EUPHA sections are essential tools here. The current impact factor of the journal is 4.4 which remains the same as last year, but a marked increase from 3.367 in 2021. In 2023 the journal moved to a virtual editorial office, after years of support from the editorial team based at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden; and we thank them for their efforts and work. This year's European Public Health Conference took place in Dublin, with, again, an impressive number of delegates (over 2,2k). EUPHA sections continued to be extremely active, giving EUPHA visibility all year round. For example, sections were involved in the European Commission's Health Policy Platform Thematic Networks, organised skills-building

webinars, provided input to public consultations and calls for evidence, the EUPHA-LAW section co-organised the Strategic litigation conference in Liverpool, UK and much more.

### **Goal 7: Deliver the right evidence at the right time**

By monitoring what is being discussed at European level, EUPHA managed to publish statements, reactions to public consultations, inputs for calls of evidence, be active on social media and more, which led to more invitations to meetings to deliver the evidence at the right time at the right place (e.g. EUPHA was accepted to the WHO Civil Society Commission). The Rapid Response Team, our mechanism for delivering evidence in a short time-span, was continued and we organised a media training session for this team. The EUPHA Rapid Response Team was activated six times, following media queries on, amongst others, long COVID and mask wearing.

### **Goal 8: Support implementation of the SDGs and all policies for a healthy Europe**

In 2023, the EUPHA Global health initiative was installed. This initiative aims to serve as a platform for the discussion of the theoretical foundations for global health as well as for advocating for global health within EUPHA and beyond. Furthermore, the theme of the 2023 European Public Health Week (a EUPHA initiative) was 'Public health: Global issues, local actions'.

'Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity' is the theme of the 2023 European public health conference and the related [conference statement](#) urges European leaders to adopt a holistic perspective; legislate for sustainability; promote education and awareness; foster intersectoral collaboration. EUPHA calls on all its members and partners to endorse this statement and stand together to create a food landscape that enriches both humanity and our planet.

As always, we are extremely grateful with the continued support of so many willing and expert volunteers. A big thank you to our section presidents and vice presidents, the EUPHANxt coordinators and to our members, for their strategic input.



Iveta Nagyova  
EUPHA president 2020-2024



Marieke Verschuuren  
EUPHA executive director  
(until 1 September 2023)



Charlotte Marchandise  
EUPHA executive director  
(as of 1 October 2023)

#### **EUPHA Executive Council 2023**

Iveta Nagyova, president  
Tit Albrecht, incoming president  
Martin McKee, past president  
Thomas Dorner, treasurer  
Peter Allebeck, editor-in-chief EJPH  
Alastair Leyland, section council  
Monica Brînzac, EUPHANxt  
Marieke Verschuuren & Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA executive director  
Dineke Zeegers-Paget, EUPHA strategic advisor



## Goal 1: Support our members in their work at the national, regional and local level

### Advocacy in support of our members

All member representatives in the EUPHA Governing Board received regular updates on EUPHA statements and public consultations (see under Advocacy) and were asked to further disseminate or co-sign these. One of the more visible statements is the statement about the Ukrainian War, which was quickly followed by EUPHA section statements, notably the EUPHA Children and Adolescent Public Health section and the EUPHA Law and Public Health section. An overview of all EUPHA's advocacy activities can be found [here](#).

### European Public Health Week

The fifth European Public Health Week (EUPHW) took place between 22 and 26 May 2023, and was actively supported by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the European Commission. The EUPHW aims to connect those who contribute to better public health across the WHO European Region, promote collaboration among the public health community, and boost EUPHA's profile and visibility. The theme and overall purpose of this annual initiative is to join forces for healthier populations. Each day of the week focused on a specific public health theme. For each theme of the EUPHW, there was an official kick-off webinar co-hosted by one of our partners and EUPHA:

- **Monday 22 May: Mental health for all**  
Daily partner: WHO Regional Office for Europe, supported by Mental Health Europe and European Commission DG SANTE
- **Tuesday 23 May: Diversity in health**  
Daily partner: EUPHA and supported by AGE Platform Europe, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless and the European Institute of Women's Health
- **Wednesday 24 May: Access to care**  
Daily partner: The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- **Thursday 25 May: Prevention and control of chronic diseases**  
Daily partner: The Association of European Cancer Leagues
- **Friday 26 May: Global health emergencies and response**  
Daily Partner: The World Federation of Public Health Associations

A total of 224 events and activities in 21 languages across 39 countries were organised – once again showing the tremendous interest for public health across the European Region.

### EUPHA learning and resources module and EUPHA webinars

This year, we further developed the EUPHA learning and resources module, where a collection of resources for EUPHA members is gathered, including skills building webinars. In 2023, we also included recordings of [webinars](#) powered by EUPHA:

- **How can policymakers incorporate uncertainty (as modelled through foresight) into policy evaluation**  
*Organised by: EUPHA Foresight section*

- **Migrant healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: why we should worry about health systems and governance**  
*Organised by: GLOHRA Project PROTECT, in collaboration with EUPHA Health Workforce Research (EUPHA-HWR) and Public Health, Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania*
- **Stepping up the Prevention of Violence Against Healthcare Workers**  
*Organised by: EHMA and EUPHA-HWR*
- **Virtual round table on women's rights and human rights**  
*Organised by: EUPHAnxt, EUPHA working group on SDG5 and others*
- **International Women's Day - Health policy and global health crises: why we need feminist intersectional approaches and what to learn from COVID-19?**  
*Organised by: EUPHA-HWR, EUPHA-PHPP, EUPHA-SGMH, EUPHA-MIG, EUPHA Working Group on SDG5, EUPHAnxt*
- **Modelling healthcare expenditure by disease in OECD countries**  
*Organised by: OECD and EUPHA-ECO*
- **30 years of the Dutch Public Health Foresight Study– Lessons Learnt**  
*Organised by: Dr Henk Hilderink, EUPHA Foresight section president*
- **Evidence-Based Public Health: The Contentious Interface Between Evidence and Public Health**  
*Organised by: EUPHA-EPI, Stanford University, METRICS, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*
- **The Ghosts of Christmas - Stories on Foresight**  
*Organised by: EUPHA-FOR*
- **WHO Global Health Foresight: looking forward to best harness the power of science and research**  
*Organised by: EUPHA-FOR*

## **EUPHA members**

By October 2023, EUPHA has 83 members from 47 countries:

- 45 national associations of public health
- 28 institutional members
- 8 individual members
- 2 global members

**Green** marks new members since 2023. **Red** indicates the members that left.

### ***National public health associations that are a member of EUPHA in 2023:***

- **Albania**  
Albanian Epidemiological Association
- **Armenia**  
Armenian Public Health Association
- **Austria**  
Austrian Public Health Association
- **Belgium**  
Belgian Association of Public Health
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Society of Social Medicine - Public Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Association of Public Health Workers in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Bulgaria**  
Bulgarian Public Health Association
- **Croatia**  
Croatian Public Health Association

- **Cyprus**  
Cyprus Epidemiology and Public Health Association - CyEPHA
- **Czechia**  
Czech Society of Social Medicine and Health Care Management
- **Denmark**  
Danish Society of Public Health
- **Estonia**  
Health Promotion Union of Estonia
- **Finland**  
Society for Social Medicine in Finland
- **France**  
French Society of Public Health
- **Germany**  
German Public Health Association DGPH  
[German Society of Medical Sociology](#)  
[Kooperationsverbund „Hochschulen für Gesundheit e. V“](#)
- **Greece**  
Panhellenic Union of Public Health Physicians of National Health System (PEIDY E.S.Y)
- **Hungary**  
Hungarian Association of Public Health Training and Research Institutions – NKE
- **Israel**  
Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians
- **Italy**  
Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health
- **Kazakhstan**  
Central Asian Public Health Association
- **Latvia**  
Public Health Association of Latvia
- **Lithuania**  
Lithuanian Public Health Association
- **Malta**  
Malta Association of Public Health Medicine
- **Netherlands**  
Federation for Public Health - Netherlands  
Public Health Network Netherlands – PHNed  
GGD GHOR Netherlands (Regional Public Health and medical emergency Services)
- **Norway**  
Norwegian Public Health Association
- **Poland**  
Polish Society of Public Health
- **Portugal**  
Portuguese Association for Public Health Promotion  
Portuguese Association of Public Health Doctors  
[Portuguese Society of Public Health](#)
- **Republic of North Macedonia**  
Macedonian Association of Social Medicine – SZSM
- **Romania**  
Romanian Public Health and Health Management Association
- **Russia**  
Russian Society for the Prevention of Noncommunicable diseases (*membership suspended*)
- **Serbia**  
Serbian Public Health Association

- **Slovakia**  
SAVEZ - Slovak Public Health Association
- **Slovenia**  
Slovenian Medical Society - Slovenian Preventive Medicine Society  
Chamber of Sanitary Engineers of Slovenia - Institute of Public and Environmental Health
- **Spain**  
SESPAS – Spanish Association of Public Health and Healthcare
- **Sweden**  
Swedish Association of Social Medicine
- **Switzerland**  
Swiss Society for Public Health  
Swiss Public Health Doctors - SPHD
- **Turkey**  
Turkish Public Health Association
- **United Kingdom**  
UK Faculty of Public Health  
UK Society for Social Medicine

***Institutional members of EUPHA in 2023:***

- **Belgium**  
Sciensano
- **Cyprus**  
University of Nicosia Medical School –  
Department of Primary Care and  
Population Health  
European University Cyprus –  
Department of Medicine and  
Department of Health Sciences
- **Finland**  
National Institute for Health and Welfare  
(THL)
- **France**  
EHESP – School of Public Health
- **Georgia**  
School of Public Health, University of  
Georgia
- **Germany**  
Federal Centre for Health Education  
(BZgA)  
NRW Centre for Health  
Fulda Public Health Centre
- **Greece**  
CSFM & HSR-PH Lab, School of  
Medicine, University of Crete  
Laboratory of Health and Road Safety  
(LaHeRS) and the Primary Health  
Care Unit (PHC-HMU) of the Hellenic  
Mediterranean University
- **Hungary**  
University of Debrecen
- **Ireland**  
Institute of Public Health
- **Italy**  
Health Services Research Laboratory-  
Department of Public Health –  
University of Siena  
**Catholic University of the Sacred Heart  
Rome**  
Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory  
The Bridge Foundation  
**Health City Institute**
- **Luxembourg**  
Luxembourg Institute of Health
- **Netherlands**  
RIVM – Dutch National Institute for  
Public Health and the Environment  
NIVEL – Netherlands Institute for Health  
Services Research  
Maastricht University, Department of  
Inter-national Health  
Aletta Jacobs School of Public Health
- **Norway**  
**Department of Global Public Health and  
Primary Care (IGS), University of  
Bergen**
- **Portugal**  
NOVA National School of Public Health  
(NOVA NSPH)
- **Romania**  
National School of Public Health,  
Management and Professional  
Development  
Department of Public Health of the  
Babeş-Bolyai University

- **Russia**  
Research Institute for Healthcare  
Organization & Medical  
Management of Moscow  
Healthcare Department (NIIOZMM)  
(membership suspended)
- **Serbia**  
Institute of Public Health of Sabac,  
Serbia

- **Sweden**  
Karolinska Institute, Department of  
Global Public Health
- **United Kingdom**  
University of Liverpool, Law & Non-  
Communicable Diseases Unit

**Individual members of EUPHA in 2023:**

Andorra **Josep Romagosa Massana**  
Georgia **Helen Phagava**  
Kosovo **Naim Jerliu**  
Moldova **Lilia Turcan**

Moldova **Oleg Lozan**  
Russia **Diana Denisova**  
Turkey **Serpil Keskin**  
Ukraine **Saveliy Rudzsky**

**Global members of EUPHA in 2023:**

- **Kuwait:** Prof Ibrahim Shady, Mansoura University, Faculty of Medicine
- **Nepal:** Dr Ashik Banstola, Public Health Perspective

**EUPHA members from the Russian Federation**

The Executive Council has decided that the membership of Russian associations and organizations will be suspended until the Executive Council is of the opinion that the situation in Ukraine has sufficiently improved. This means that there can be no collaborations with EUPHA at the governing and organizational level. However, individual professionals that are part of EUPHA's network through these members can still access EUPHA's resources and take part in webinars and events on a personal title. In this way, we keep on supporting individual public health professionals and thus contributing to the Russian people being able to access adequate public health services and execute their right to health.

**Goal 2: Consolidate and expand the partnership**

As a European organisation, EUPHA continued to invest in strong relationships with our European partners. Yet many of the challenges that we face are global and this means that we work together with global partners as well. We take a broad view not just geographically but also in the issues we engage with, recognising how policies in other sectors can have profound consequences for health. This means that we invest in broad alliances, including not only the 'usual public health suspects', but also partners from other disciplines and sectors.

EUPHA is a deliberately collaborative organisation, meaning that we are always keen to establish partnerships to build stronger evidence and increase the impact of our advocacy. Some of our partnerships are based on formal memorandum of understandings (MoUs) or work programmes, while others are more informal (see box 1).

## Box 1. EUPHA partners

### European institutions and agencies

**ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**

*EUPHA has a 5-year [collaboration agreement](#) with ECDC*

**EMA – European Medicines Agency**

*EUPHA is an [eligible organisation for EMA](#) and member of the EMA Policy Officers Group (POG)*

**HERA - European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority**

*EUPHA is represented in the [Civil Society Forum](#) of HERA's Advisory Forum*

**World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe**

*EUPHA has official Non-State Actor (NSA) status for WHO Regional Office for Europe. WHO Register of non-State actors is available [here](#). And as of November 2023 MoU.*

### Civil Society Organisations

**[ASPHER](#)** - Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region

**[EFPC](#)** - European Forum for Primary Care

**[EHMA](#)** - European Health Management Association

**[EPHA](#)** - European Public Health Alliance

**[EuroHealthNet](#)** - European Partnership for Health, Equity and Wellbeing

**[ISE](#)** - Initiative for Science in Europe

**[WFPHA](#)** - World Federation of Public Health Associations

### Multi-partner initiatives

**[EU4Health Civil Society Alliance](#)**

**[Coalition for Vaccination](#)** is a group of European associations of healthcare professionals and student associations in the field of health and vaccination.

EUPHA participates in the **[EU Health Policy Platform](#)** and is active in several of the networks and stakeholder groups that are hosted on this platform.

### EUPHAnxt partners

- Global Health Next Generation Network
- EuroNet MRPH – European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health
- European Federation of Psychology Students' Association
- European Medical Students' Association
- Swedish Organisation for Global Health
- Child Family Health International
- Irish Global Health Network Student Outreach Group
- Nachwuchsnetzwerk Öffentliche Gesundheit
- International Pharmaceutical Students' Federation

### Global level

- EUPHA is a regional member of the World Federation for Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and as such an observer in the WFPHA general assembly

## Goal 3: Stimulate and facilitate mutual learning

The need for continuously enhancing capacity remains a priority for EUPHA. The exchange of knowledge is essential here and EUPHA has the tools to facilitate this. The EUPHA resources module, which was launched in 2021, provides peer-to-peer videos with EUPHA members and partners sharing their experiences with e.g., advocating for public health. The European Public Health (EPH) conferences also are an important tool for capacity building. In 2023, the following skills building sessions are (co-)organised by EUPHA at the EPH conference:

- 3.N. - Skills building seminar: Publishing and disseminating your research: How to get published, and what then?

- Organised by EUPHA
- 4.I. - Skills building seminar: Sharp Pencils, Clear Minds: Translating research to policy through effective policy briefs  
Organised by Sciensano; EUPHA-CHR; EUPHAnxt
- 7.I. - Skills building seminar: Applying behavioural sciences to public health policy-making  
Organised by EUPHA, WHO Euro, IBTN, UCL-CBC, UPJS
- 8.I. - Skills building seminar: Improving your elevator pitch: convincing a policymaker in a matter of seconds  
Organised by EUPHA, EUPHAnxt
- 10.I. - Skills building seminar: A seat at the table: Engaging patients and citizens in public health policy-making  
Organised by Sciensano, EUPHAnxt
- 11.G. - Skills building seminar: Navigating the ocean of data: unpacking ethical values in Health Technology Assessment  
EUPHA-HTA; EUPHA-ETH; EUPHAnxt; HTAi

Another activity that EUPHA took on in 2023 to stimulate the exchange of experiences and mutual learning was the ‘tripping forward’ session, an exchange of experiences between national public health associations on the management of their association and reaching their advocacy goals.

## Goal 4: Actively stimulate the younger generation to be part of the EUPHA network

### EUPHAnxt

EUPHAnxt is a unique network within EUPHA for students and early career researchers, policymakers and professionals in the field of public health. EUPHAnxt is a free and open initiative that aims to collect the active contribution of students, young researchers, practitioners and policymakers interested in European public health issues, in order to sensitize and involve them into the European and multidisciplinary network of public health associations. The EUPHAnxt network currently has 4,037 subscribers (in 2021: 3,383, 2022: 3,790). EUPHAnxt also has a seat in the EUPHA Executive Council to ensure that the voice of the next generation is heard when planning new activities and projects.



Monica Brînzac,  
Overall  
Coordinator



Jinane Ghattas,  
Conference  
Manager



Charlotte Myers,  
Communication  
Manager

### *Activities at the European Public Health Conference 2023*

EUPHAnxt has become increasingly visible at the European Public Health Conference. For EPH2023, EUPHAnxt is involved in 1 plenary session, 2 pre-conferences, 5 skills-building workshops, 3 workshops, 4 round table workshops, 3 other sessions and as stand in the exhibition hall.

- PL3 - Plenary 3: Building the future One Health workforce  
Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER),  
European Health Management Association (EHMA)
- Pre-conference - Master that elevator: how to effectively pitch your research to policy makers. A capacity building session for young professionals  
EUPHAnxt, EuroNet MRP
- Pre-conference - A hands-on introduction to qualitative research methods in public health  
EUPHA-EPI; EUPHAnxt
- Join the network! Come meet us and our subscribers over lunch hour.
- How to survive the EPH conference? – session for first time attenders
- The making of a leader: women leaders in public health - A session for young public health professionals
- Workshop: Keeping health at the forefront: A debate on health priorities of the European Union
- Pro/con workshop: Whether AI will decrease health inequalities or deepen them?
- Skills building seminar: Publishing and disseminating your research: How to get published, and what then?
- Skills building seminar: Sharp Pencils, Clear Minds: Translating research to policy through effective policy briefs
- Round table: Implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Challenges and opportunities from European countries
- Workshop: Digital public health in Europe - What is the new normal?
- Round table: Legal determinants of health - what do (global) public health professionals need to know?
- Round table: Is public health possible when LGBTQI+ individuals are criminalised? A roundtable and call to action
- Skills building seminar: Improving your elevator pitch: convincing a policymaker in a matter of seconds
- Skills building seminar: A seat at the table: Engaging patients and citizens in public health policy-making
- Round table: Public health and climate change: a litigation toolkit for public health practitioners
- Skills building seminar: Navigating the ocean of data: unpacking ethical values in Health Technology Assessment

#### *Activities at the European Public Health Week 2023*

For the European Public Health Week 2023, EUPHAnxt has organised two events:

- Webinar on Skills and Competencies for Global Emergency Response in cooperation with Young WFP
- Online campaign How to identify mental health conditions in your friends? In cooperation with IPSF

#### *Communications EUPHAnxt:*

- Newsletters in 2023: 10
- Facebook 2023: 545 page likes, 600 followers (2022: 561 page likes, 561 followers. 464 page likes and 561 followers in 2021)
- Twitter 2023: 1,630 followers (1,515 followers in 2022, 1,371 followers in 2021)
- Instagram 2023: 617 followers (484 followers in 2022, 288 followers in 2021)

#### *Abstract tutoring programme*

The successful abstract tutoring programme was continued. Young health researchers could submit their abstract to receive advice for improvement before officially submitting. In total, 25 abstracts were reviewed by 16 reviewers. This is a similar number of abstracts as in 2022 (28).



Of these 25 abstracts, 20 were finally submitted and 18 were accepted (90% and it was higher than in 2022 - 63%). The programme was actively advertised by EUPHANxt to increase its reach.

#### *European Public Health conference Fellowship Programme*

The EPH Conference Fellowship Programme – launched in 2018 by EUPHA and EUPHANxt – offers students and young professionals an opportunity to participate at the conference with an active role. In 2023, EUPHANxt received 35 applications from students, young professionals and professionals from Europe and abroad. The gender balance was once again in favour of women. Six selected fellows are given the opportunity to work alongside the EUPHANxt and the EPH conference teams to disseminate information about the conference through various communication platforms. The fellows also get the chance to have mentoring sessions with senior public health experts. The role of the selected fellows is to follow all sessions on a specific topic of their interest and report on these sessions in the form of short interviews with the speakers. In briefing sessions with the section president from the related topic, the fellows were informed about the ins and outs of the topic. Furthermore, the fellows contribute to the daily podcast named YUPT (Yesterday's Update, Plans for Tomorrow). This YUPT is made available every morning at the start of the conference day.

#### *Mentoring programme*

In 2022, a new mentoring programme was developed, which was launched in 2023. Following two years of very limited opportunities for meaningful networking, EUPHANxt pushed for improving this necessary aspect of professional lives, especially to young professionals. The goal of this programme is to link students and young professionals to mentors, who are themselves established public health professionals. It is an opportunity for experts to share career advice and research-related activities, and for mentees to get to know the European Public Health field and its stakeholders. 163 applicants applied for the mentoring programme, out of which 140 were selected and will start their mentoring journey.

### **Goal 5: Keep health a priority on the European and national agendas**

In 2023 with the support of the Operating Grant, EUPHA continued to engage in a vast amount of advocacy activities at European level. The members of our Executive Council - particularly Iveta Nagyova (EUPHA president), Martin McKee (EUPHA past president) - and the presidents of the EUPHA sections and EUPHA office staff have really stepped up and have been representing EUPHA, providing the evidence for EUPHA statements and done all in their powers to make EUPHA visible at European level. This has resulted in a large number of statements and active participation at key meetings. Below are some highlights of our advocacy work in 2023. For a full overview of all published advocacy, please see this [webpage](#).

#### **Published advocacy**

##### *Statements led by or co-authored by EUPHA*

##### *EUPHA response to call of evidence on a comprehensive approach to mental health*

EUPHA responded to the call of evidence on a comprehensive approach to mental health. Read our response [here](#).

##### *One year of war in Ukraine: we cannot allow 'war fatigue' to kick in*

Today one year ago, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine. The amount of human suffering and systemic destruction that have happened since are beyond comprehension. EUPHA reiterates the calls made one year ago, which are, unfortunately, still as valid today as they were one year ago.

Read the [full EUPHA statement here](#).

*EUPHA statement on priorities for the EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2024: more attention for chronic diseases, elderly and young people, health inequalities, and civil society engagement needed*

The European Commission has launched a targeted stakeholders' consultation to seek input for the EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2024. Although EUPHA appreciates this opportunity for stakeholders to provide input, we argue that for setting priorities for EU health policy, we need an integrated assessment across sectors building on concepts and measures such as burden of disease, demographic developments, future scenario studies and societal needs. The lack of such an integrated assessment approach results in important omissions in the current set of priorities, including a lack of focus on chronic diseases beyond cancer, addressing the impact of ageing populations and stimulating healthy ageing, ensuring the health of young people and preparing the next generation of (public) health professionals, and tackling health inequalities. Last but not least, among the current priorities there is no acknowledgement of and support for the role of civil society organizations in developing and implementing the EU4Health Programme.

Read the full statement [here](#).

*Health should be included in impact assessment EU climate target*

The European Commission launched a call for evidence in relation to a 2040 climate target for the EU. While economic, social, environmental, and fundamental rights and equality impacts are considered in the call, health impacts are strikingly missing. EUPHA and its Environment and health section argue in their response to the call that both individual and population health should be used more intensively as a strong argument in motivating all sectors and decision makers in taking initiative towards a 2040 climate target. Read the full response [here](#).

*Joint statement on sustainable funding for (health) civil society organisations*

EUPHA, together with other members of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, calls upon the European Commission DG Sante to reinstall the multiannual framework for Operating Grants for health civil society organisations. These grants allow health civil society organisations to efficiently and sustainably support EU policy making while guaranteeing their independence from vested interests.

Read the full statement [here](#).

*EUPHA provides evidence for Mid-Term Review LGBTIQ Equality Strategy*

On 14 September 2023, EUPHA responded to the call for evidence related to the mid-term review of the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. The response and related evidence was provided by EUPHA Sexual and gender minority health section. Read our response [here](#).

*The Dublin Statement 2023*

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.

*Statements endorsed by EUPHA*

*EUPHA Joined WFPHA to Stand in Solidarity with the Ugandan LGBT Community*

On 5 May, the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) published a statement in which it expresses solidarity with the Ugandan LGBT Community and denounces the Anti-Homosexuality Act passed by the Ugandan Parliament on March 21, 2023. By co-signing this statement, EUPHA has joined the WFPHA in their call on the Ugandan President, Parliament and Government to foster an inclusive and safe environment for all citizens, while safeguarding the human rights of each individual, irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The statement is available here: [EUPHA Joined WFPHA to Stand in Solidarity with the Ugandan LGBT Community – Denounce the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Act \(2023\) | WFPHA](#)

### EUPHA supports civil society call for EU mandatory alcohol labelling

EUPHA joins a major alliance of European civil society leaders in urging senior EU officials and Commissioners to issue a mandatory alcohol labelling proposal as soon as possible. In particular, the alliance calls to

- respect consumers' right to information by issuing a proposal for mandatory on-label provision of energy value, full nutrition declaration, and list of ingredients for all alcoholic beverages (wines, beer, and spirits) as soon as possible;
- ensure that basic nutrition information is available on label for consumers to access easily at all times and without the need of additional tools and skills.

Labelling of alcoholic beverages is an important measure to implement as part of a broader strategy to fight alcohol related harm, alongside other effective policy tools proposed in the European Beating Cancer Plan, the WHO SAFER recommendations and the WHO European Framework for Action on Alcohol 2022-2025.

Read the full letter to European Commission officials [here](#).

### EUPHA endorses two joint statements from the 2022 Thematic networks of the EU Health Policy Platform

EUPHA participated in two of the 2022 thematic networks that were hosted on the EU Health Policy Platform and undersigns these:

The '[DisQo anti-discrimination & health equity](#)' joint statement was led by the European Public Health Alliance. The statement addresses that despite increasing evidence showing that structural, institutional, and interpersonal racism and discrimination impact both physical and mental health inequities in multiple ways the issue has gained too little attention in the public health domain thus far. The statement identifies five key priorities for addressing the issue in a constructive, respectful, and participatory way.

The [Mental Health in All Policies](#) joint statement was led by Mental Health Europe. This joint statement calls for a Mental Health in All Policies approach, i.e., for public policies across sectors to promote population mental health and wellbeing by initiating and facilitating action within different non-health public policy areas and describes the win-win situation for such an approach.

### **EUPHA representation in European meetings and groups**

The visibility of EUPHA as a solid partner with a research background has been strengthened. EUPHA continues to build the capacity and knowledge of policy-oriented organisations and has an official seat in:

- WHO European Regional Committee meeting, as accredited non-state actor.
- WHO Technical Advisory Group on Behavioural Insights and Sciences for Health (EUPHA president Iveta Nagyova)
- WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Applied Epidemiology Targets (EUPHA-HWR, Ellen Kuhlmann)
- WHO EUR Reference Group of Azerbaijan (Maaïke Droogers, Deputy director)
- WHO EUR Regional Director's Advisory Council on Innovation for Noncommunicable Diseases (EUPHA president Iveta Nagyova)
- WHO Youth4Health network (Monica Brînzac, EUPHAnxt coordinator)
- WHO Healthy Cities Annual Conference (Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA Executive Director)
- WFPHA General Assembly (Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA Executive Director)
- WFPHA Public Health Leadership Coalition (Martin McKee, EUPHA past president)
- Council of Young WFPHA (Monica Brînzac, EUPHAnxt coordinator)
- Advisory forum to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), (Aura Timen – EUPHA-IDC)
- EU Health Policy Platform (EUPHA deputy director Maaïke Droogers);

- HERA Advisory Board (EUPHA-IDC, Ricardo Mexia)
- European Commission - DG SANTE, EU Health Policy Platform - Thematic Network "Tackling health inequalities through anti-discrimination policy mainstreaming" – DisQo (EUPHA-MIG, Bernadette Kumar)
- European Commission - DG SANTE, EU Health Policy Platform - Mental Health in all policies Thematic Network (EUPHA-PMH, Jutta Lindert)
- European Commission - DG SANTE, Health Security Committee (Former EUPHA-IDC, Aura Timen)
- European Commission eHealth Stakeholder Group (EUPHA Digital health section president Anna Odone)
- EMA Policy Officers Group of eligible organisations (Elena Petelos, EUPHA Health technology assessment section and Maaïke Droogers, EUPHA deputy director)
- EMA Eligible organisation and member of the Policy Officers Group (POG) (Maaïke Droogers, Deputy Director; and Elena Petelos, EUPHA Working group on access to medicines)
- European Climate Pact Ambassador (EUPHA-ENV, Marija Jevtic).
- EU-HTA net (health technology assessment) on Stakeholder involvement (EUPHA-HTA - Chiara de Waure and Elena Petelos);
- European Committee on Infection Control (EUCIC) (EUPHA-HTA)
- Global AMR R&D Hub, an initiative to tackle the threat of resistant pathogens designed to make the use of international resources even more effective (EUPHA-IDC)
- European Commission's Coalition for Vaccination (ad hoc)
- AMR Stakeholder Network (EUPHA-HTA, Elena Petelos)
- DigiCare4You project International Stakeholder Advisory Board (Dineke Zeegers, strategic advisor)
- EFPC PRIMORE phase II research board (EUPHA-HSR, Johan Hansen)
- European Association for the Study of Obesity (EASO) Sounding board of our Taxonomy of Obesity as an NCD Initiative (EUPHA-CHR steering committee, Sarah Cuschieri)
- European Cancer Organisation HPV Action network (EUPHA-CHR, Julian Mamo)
- Gender and Health Hub – GHH (EUPHA Working group on gender equality and Women Empowerment, Elena Petelos)
- Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) for the Horizon Europe Project KNOWING (EUPHA-ENV, Marija Jevtic)
- Stop Unhealthy Food Marketing (EUPHA-LAW, Amandine Garde)
- European Expert Group of Orphan Drug Incentives (EUPHA-HTA, Chiara de Waure/Elena Petelos)

### Website and social media

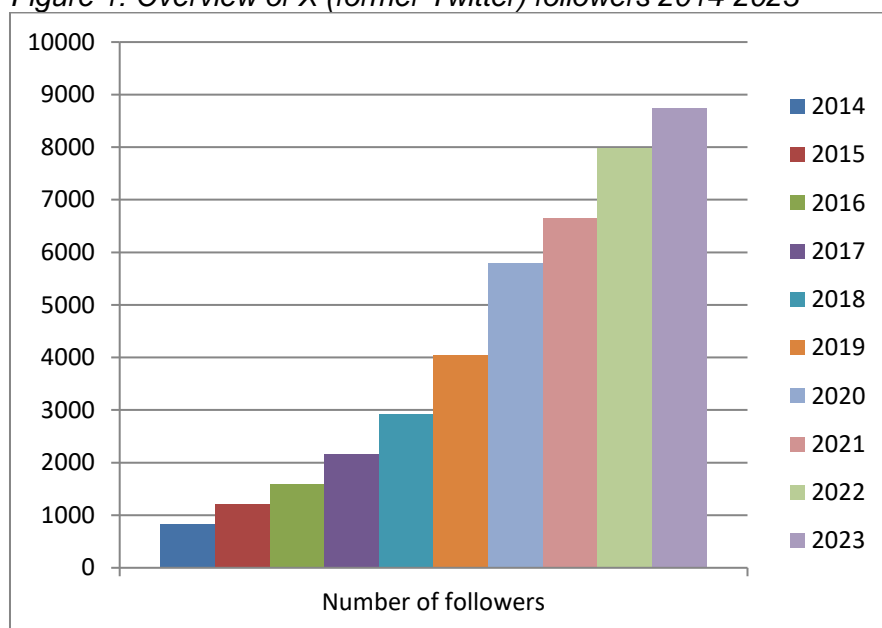
The EUPHA website continues to be an excellent visibility tool for EUPHA. The average number (January-September) of hits increased to 375,067 per month (2022: 346,592, 2021: 331,592).

#### *Twitter*

The EUPHA X account (@EUPHActs) is available on the EUPHA website home page and is the main social media tool for advocacy and dissemination. During the European Public Health Week and the Conference, twitter has been used intensely (#EUPHW2023 and #EUPHAatEPH2023). The number of followers has increased significantly over the years (see Figure 1). In October 2023 the @EUPHActs X account had 8,742 followers



Figure 1: Overview of X (former Twitter) followers 2014-2023\*



\* All numbers represent the numbers of followers in October of the concerned year

An overview of EUPHA sections with X accounts is provided below in table 1.

Table 1: EUPHA section's X accounts with numbers of followers in 2021, 2022 and 2023

Name of the section	Official acronym	X Account	Followers 2021	Followers 2022	Followers 2023
Child and adolescent public health section	EUPHA-CAPH	<a href="#">@CaphEupha</a>	110	164	229
Chronic diseases	EUPHA-CHR	<a href="#">@ChronicEupha</a>			59
Digital health	EUPHA-DH	<a href="#">@euphadh</a>	300	380	440
Environment and Health	EUPHA-ENV	<a href="#">@EUPHA_ENV</a>	62	107	157
Food and Nutrition	EUPHA-FN	<a href="#">@EUPHA_FN</a>	42	57	58
Global health – initiative	EUPHA-GH	<a href="#">@eupha_gh</a>			27
Health Workforce Research	EUPHA-HWR	<a href="#">@EUPHA_HWR</a>	201	244	272
Health Promotion	EUPHA-HP	<a href="#">@EUPHA_HPS</a>	479	525	534
Health technology Assessment	EUPHA-HTA	<a href="#">@EUPHA_HTA</a>	584	652	707
Health Services Research	EUPHA-HSR	<a href="#">@hsr_europe</a>	473	482	478
Infectious Disease Control	EUPHA-IDC	<a href="#">@Euphaidc</a>	651	839	948
Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion	EUPHA-INJ	<a href="#">@Euphainjury</a>	34	47	65
Law and public health	EUPHA-LAW	<a href="#">@EUPHA_LAW</a>		46	147
Oral health	EUPHA-OH	<a href="#">@euphaOH</a>	143	161	190
Public Health Monitoring and Reporting	EUPHA-PHMR	<a href="#">@PHMRsection</a>	721	790	793
Public Health Policy and Politics	EUPHA-PHPP	<a href="#">@EPH_PHPPsection</a>	745	783	833
Sexual and Gender Minority Health	EUPHA-SGMH	<a href="#">@EUPHA_SGMH</a>	317	438	490
Urban Public Health	EUPHA_URB	<a href="#">@EUPHA_UPH</a>	137	166	188

All sections can be found in this [X list](#).

### *LinkedIn & Facebook*

In 2023, we started to increase our posting on LinkedIn as we see that many of our stakeholders are active here. With our increased visibility on LinkedIn we also see a steep increase in followers on our EUPHA LinkedIn, which now has 9,014 followers (4,800 followers in 2022 and 2,549 followers in 2021).

The EUPHA Facebook page is not used as extensively as the Twitter and LinkedIn channels. However, high-level announcements are distributed via Facebook, too, and the number of followers has increased since 2021; on Facebook we have 3,600 followers (3,400 followers in 2022, 3,318 followers in 2021).

### *EUPHA newsletter*

The EUPHA newsletter aims to build the knowledge of public health professionals worldwide and to increase the visibility of EUPHA as an association that builds capacity, knowledge and policy in the field of public health, with an emphasis on the European Region. The newsletter is published monthly, free of charge and available to all those with an interest in public health.

With 32,603 subscribers (30,300 subscribers in October 2022 and 27,916 subscribers in October 2021) from 175 countries worldwide, the newsletter continues to be one of the most visible and highly appreciated tools of EUPHA. EUPHA actively invites members and partners to further distribute the newsletter by announcing its publication in their tools as well as encourages them to make the EUPHA newsletter available on their website. This year, we have been more active in sharing the newsletter on our social media, and encouraging more people to subscribe.

## **Goal 6: Strengthening public health research in Europe**

EUPHA has three very successful tools for providing the evidence base: the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH), the EUPHA sections and the European Public Health Conference (EPH).

### **The European Journal of Public Health**



The European Journal of Public Health is a *fully Open Access* international multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health. Among disciplines covered are social medicine and community health, epidemiology, health services research, health policy, ethics and law, health economics, social sciences, environmental and occupational health.

The journal provides a forum for public health science and policy with a focus on the European region. Contributions on relevant global health issues are also welcome.

The journal is part of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

### *Brief statistics on manuscripts*

The number of original manuscripts received has increased after the dip of submissions in 2022, while the proportion of accepted manuscripts has increased. The last years' strong variations are most probably due to both the COVID-19 pandemic and transition to open access, reflecting changes in the quality of submitted manuscripts. The impact factor increased to over 4 in 2022 and has remained on that level. Although the increase is partly due to a change in method for establishing the impact factor, the fact that is remains on this level is a good sign. Moreover, the EJPH is in the top 25% of journals (Q1, SJR).

Table 2: Overview of EJPH's statistics

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Jan-Sep 2023
Manuscripts received	932	893	959	901	950	1047	974	1511	1058	546	478*
% accepted	17%	21%	20%	21%	21%	21%	19%	12%	14%	26%	35%
Manuscripts published	186	185	195	180	181	192	195	194	203	145	109**
Impact Factor	2.459	2.591	2.751	2.431	2.782	2.459	2.234	2.391	3.367	4.424	4.4***

\*Including original manuscripts (432), commentaries (19), editorials (10), viewpoints (1), and population health information supplements (16).

\*\*Original manuscripts including short reports and systematic reviews, published in four issues of 2023.

\*\*\*Clarivate no longer uses three decimal places for Impact Factor.

In the four issues published in 2023, 109 original manuscripts, 8 editorials, 3 viewpoints, 1 commentary and 1 obituary were published. Each of the four issues also had a section with European public health news from EUPHA and partner organizations.

In 2023 (until September 30), manuscripts have been submitted from 56 countries from all continents. The highest number of submissions with a decision were received from China (84), the United Kingdom (40), Sweden (34), Italy (28), Finland (24), France (23), Germany (23), the Netherlands (21), Spain (19), Poland (14), the United States (12), and Denmark (10).

The highest number of accepted papers originated from Sweden (24), the United Kingdom (23), Finland (17), the Netherlands (16), Italy (12), Germany (12), France (11), Denmark (10), Spain (6), the United States (6), and China (5).

### Supplements

In 2023 two supplements were produced:

- Abstract supplement of the 2023 HEPA Europe Conference, the European Network for the Promotion of Health-Enhancing Physical Activity, that focused on Implementing Health-Enhancing Physical Activity Research: From science to Policy and Practice
- 16th European Public Health Conference, abstract supplement. Held 8-11 November 2023 in Dublin, Ireland.

### Partners

Our partners in the organisation of the EJPH are:

- Oxford University Press, the publisher of the journal and;
- Department of Public Health Sciences at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, where the editorial-in-chief is based.

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Polona Barber

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### **EUPHA Sections**

In order for EUPHA to be able to provide the evidence in a wide array of topics, EUPHA is using thematic networks called EUPHA sections. It is therefore essential that EUPHA sections are supported in all their activities. EUPHA sections are networks on specific public health topics (see table 3). In 2023, EUPHA has a total of 26 operational sections and 2 initiatives. The sections continue to have a large interest with number of section members rising for all sections.



Table 3: Overview of EUPHA sections' membership in 2021, 2022 and 2023

EUPHA Section	2021 No. of members	2022 No. of members	2023 No. of members
Child and adolescent public health – CAPH	3036	3361	3694
Chronic diseases – CHR	2802	3086	3413
Digital health – DH	928	1289	1672
Environment-related health – ENV	2278	2618	3009
Ethics in public health – ETH	2070	2317	2549
Food and nutrition – FN	2156	2392	2674
Foresight – FS	205	302	401
Global health initiative - GH			384
Health impact assessment – HIA	2134	2378	2620
Health literacy initiative - HL			326
Health promotion – HP	4486	4970	5409
Health services research – HSR	3408	3773	4087
Health technology assessment – HTA	1315	1507	1704
Health Workforce Research – HWR	849	1077	1276
Infectious diseases control – IDC	2096	2362	2579
Injury prevention and safety promotion – INJ	1071	1177	1285
Law and public health – LAW	498	703	893
Migrant and ethnic minority health – MIG	2187	2417	2633
Oral health – OH	205	297	371
Public health economics – ECO	2297	2551	2822
Public health epidemiology – EPI	4693	5200	5704
Public health genomics – PHG	790	888	993
Public health monitoring and reporting – PHMR	2600	2928	3231
Public health policy and politics – PHPP	4055	4474	4851
Public mental health – PMH	2405	2778	3136
Sexual and gender minority health – SGMH	905	1120	1310
Social security, work and health – SSWH	1711	1885	2061
Urban public health – URB	2089	2304	2523

All EUPHA sections are active at the 16<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference (EPH2023) with a total of 10 pre-conferences, 51 workshops, 6 skills building seminars, 31 'join the network'-meetings, and 1 plenary session. Next to being active at the EPH Conference, sections have been active throughout the year, for example through sending regular newsletters and other updates, organising events during the EUPHW, and writing statements (see under goal 5).

This is just a selection of the activities of our sections. For a full overview of all the activities of our sections, please see our dedicated webpages for the [EUPHA sections](#).

## European Public Health conference

At the initiative of EUPHA, the annual scientific European Public Health conferences are organised. EUPHA provides the main input for these conferences, and collaboration has been set up with a large number of international NGOs and international organisations, including:



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

### Dublin 2023

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

8-11 November 2023

Co-chairs: Anthony Staines and Regien Biesma-Blanco

A record number of 2,550 abstracts have been submitted for the European Public Health Conference (EPH Conference) 2023 in Dublin

The conference in Dublin is attended by over 2200 delegates.

### #EUPHAatEPH2023

EUPHA is very active at the 2023 EPH conference. Sessions (co-)organised by EUPHA:

⚡ 13 Pre-conferences

✳️ 1 plenary

📝 51 workshops

📖 6 Skills building seminars

🤝 31 Join the network meetings

### Lisbon 2024 announcement:

Sailing the Waves of European Public Health: Exploring a Sea of Innovation

12-15 November 2024

Chair: Ricardo Mexia and Sónia Dias

## Goal 7: Deliver the right evidence at the right time

EUPHA has several tools to deliver the right evidence at the right time. Timing is of essence, in order for the presented evidence to have an impact.

### EJPH tools

In the EJPH editorials and viewpoints were published on current public health issues and every issue of the EJPH contained the European public health news pages with the latest updates from key European public health actors, including ECDC, WHO Regional Office for Europe, and the European Institutes and agencies.

### Contributing to the evidence base through European projects

In 2023, EUPHA was involved in a number of European projects and kicked started the work on two new projects; one from the EU4Health programme and one from Horizon Europe (research programme). These research projects focus on a variety of public health issues and

receive (co-)funding from the European Union. For a full overview of the EUPHA projects see annex 2.

### **Rapid Response Team**

In order to be able to provide the evidence-base on a large number of public health topics in a short period of time, EUPHA created the Rapid Response Team in 2019. This network of 40 public health experts mainly linked to the EUPHA sections can be contacted when a journalist or policymaker contacts EUPHA to get a response on a question related to a certain topic. This year, the rapid response team came into action several times. Some examples of the responses since January 2023 are:

- The first ever WHO global resolution on behavioural sciences for health was adopted by the 76 World Health Assembly on 29 May 2023. Iveta Nagyova, EUPHA president, contributed to the content of this resolution.
- Research Professional News requested information on travel restrictions imposed by some EU members states but not recommended by the ECDC. An article was produced after response from Ricardo Mexia, EUPHA-IDC section president.
- The Alcohol Labelling Study asked for an interview with regards to a study to evaluate the effectiveness of health information on alcoholic beverages. This was done by Nikhil Gokani, EUPHA-LAW vice-president.

The members of the Rapid Response Team were offered a media training this year, in which experiences were shared with do's and don'ts of engaging with media and presenting to media. The training session was with kind contributions from lecturers from the Escola Superior de Comunicação Social in Lisbon, Portugal.

## Goal 8: Support the implementation of the SDGs and all policies for a healthy Europe

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) make the relationships between health and its wider determinants explicit and tangible. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of global health for the European region is stressed. Fully in line with this goal 8, an initiative for a EUPHA section on Global health was installed. This initiative ensembled interested individuals at the European Public Health conference and aims to serve as a platform for the discussion of the theoretical foundations for global health as well as for advocating for global health within EUPHA and beyond.

'Our Food, Our Health, Our Earth: A Sustainable Future for Humanity' is the theme of the 2023 European public health conference and the related [conference statement](#) urges European leaders to adopt a holistic perspective; legislate for sustainability; promote education and awareness; foster intersectoral collaboration. EUPHA calls on all its members and partners to endorse this statement and stand together to create a food landscape that enriches both humanity and our planet.

## Outlook 2024 – Preparing for our next strategy for strengthening public health in the European region

We are now well into our triple A strategy, with our **A**nalysis of the scientific evidence, providing a solid base for our **A**dvocacy work for evidence-informed, actionable policy-making and that lead to efficient **A**ctions. Slowly we will have to start thinking about our next strategy for strengthening public health in the European region. That's the plan for 2024.

The new EUPHA strategy will have a totally different starting point, with major challenges that the world has faced in the past years, which were disruptive to public health and our societies at large. The new strategy will lead the way forward based on our experience from the COVID-19 pandemic, war and conflict in the European region, and the reality of climate change.

We will continue being the go-to organisation for science advice on public health matters. In parallel, we will strengthen our voice for public health. Public health needs story tellers, cheerleaders and champions, to guide the way to improving the health of populations. More than ever, the need for strong communicators is visible.

We look forward to implementing the MoU with WHO/Euro, which was signed at the end of 2023. We see a wealth of opportunities in our collaboration, including the creation of links between local/regional/national and international levels for knowledge exchange.

On an organisational level, there will also be focus on ensuring a strong financial basis, in order to continue our work on strengthening public health in the European region. Our independence is key here (see our [Code of Good EUPHA practice](#)). The EU operating grants that EUPHA has benefited from the past years have allowed the organisation to be more visible, take more action, and bring the scientific evidence forward for policy and action. Again, here, we express our gratitude for this financial support. It is difficult to understand that this immensely supportive funding mechanism is now stopped, whereas in other sectors, the EU continues operating grants. We will therefore, together with the Executive Council, look into potential new income sources to ensure financial stability for EUPHA in the future.

We are looking forward to yet another exciting year full of EUPHA activities. All this would not be possible without our members, sections, young generation, partners and the EUPHA office team, and the leadership of the Executive Council. We thank everybody for their contributions to EUPHA and hope that we may also count on you in the coming year and beyond.

*November 2023*

Iveta Nagyova, EUPHA president  
Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA executive director

## Annex 1: EUPHA Advisory committees and working groups

### Working group on access to medicines

Newly established in 2023, All citizens in Europe and beyond should have access to essential medicines that are affordable and of high quality. However, the current laws, rules and processes that regulate access of medicinal products – including vaccines – to the market and determine availability and distribution of these products for patients/citizens, do not always have the desired effects. We see problems such as (extremely) high prices, stock shortages, unequal/unfair distribution - as we have seen e.g., during the COVID-19 pandemic -, market access for medicines with very little added value, and persistently inadequately addressed unmet societal needs (e.g., lack of investment in new antimicrobials and in medicines for neglected tropical diseases).

### EUPHA Past Presidents Committee

All past presidents of EUPHA become lifelong members of the Past Presidents Committee (PPC). The Executive Council can request advice from the Past Presidents Committee, and can ask individual members to represent EUPHA in official situations. The Past Presidents Committee can decide, by a majority of votes, to invite other past members of the Executive Council to become members of the Council of Past Presidents. The members of this advisory group of EUPHA are:

- Prof Peter Allebeck, Sweden
- Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Malta
- Prof Marc Brodin, France
- Prof Rainer Fehr, Germany
- Prof Louise Gunning-Schepers, Netherlands
- Prof Ilmo Keskimäki, Finland
- Dr Johan Lund, Norway
- Ms Heidi Lyshol, Norway
- Dr Els Maeckelberghe, Netherlands
- Prof Julian Mamo, Malta
- Prof Martin McKee, United Kingdom
- Prof Klim Mcpherson, United Kingdom
- Prof Alena Petráková, Czechia
- Prof Walter Ricciardi, Italy
- Prof Gunnar Tellnes, Norway
- Prof John-Paul Vader, Switzerland
- Dr Viviane Van Casteren, Belgium
- Prof Heiko Waller, Germany

In 2023 past president Prof Richard Horst Noack from Austria passed away. Read our obituary [here](#).

### *EUPHA Good EUPHA Practice Committee*

The Good EUPHA Practice Committee (GEP) is responsible for the implementation of the Good EUPHA Practice Code for Collaboration with partners and commercial contributors. The purpose of this code is to organise the relationship between EUPHA and partners and commercial enterprises and to provide an ethical and positive approach to cooperation and partnership. To fulfil its mission and its independence, EUPHA should continue to be mainly

self-sustaining. However, securing resources from external sources to fully fulfil its mission must be considered. Members of the Good EUPHA Practice Committee are:

Dr Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA Executive Director  
Prof Judith de Jong, NIVEL, Netherlands  
Dr Els Maeckelberghe, Wenckebach Institute for Medical Education and Training -  
University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands  
Prof Julian Mamo, Public Health Dept, University of Malta, Malta  
Prof Aura Timen, RIVM, Clb\_LCI, Netherlands  
Prof John-Paul Vader, Institute for Social & Preventive Medicine, Switzerland  
Dr Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA, Netherlands

#### *EUPHA Advisory Nominations Committee*

The Advisory Nominations Committee (ANC) is an ad-hoc advisory group to the Governing Board to search for the president, the treasurer or the secretary of the Executive Council.

The ANC consists of:

- Dr Guillaume Dedet, Société Française de Santé Publique, France
- Prof Alastair Leyland, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom
- Prof Martin McKee, The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), United Kingdom
- Dr Marius-Ionut Ungureanu, Department of Public Health of the Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania
- Dr Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA, Netherlands
- Dr Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA, Netherlands

#### *Green Club*

EUPHA has established a working group of environmental experts and environment-conscious colleagues to advise both EUPHA and the EPH Conference Foundation in their efforts to reduce the environmental impact of each conference. The Green Club is intended to advise the organisers of the annual EPH Conferences on how to decrease the impact on the environment, using the European Commission's guidelines on organising sustainable meetings and events as well as the WHO's guide for healthy and sustainable meetings as inspiration. Members of the Green Club are currently:

- Dr Charlotte Marchandise, EUPHA, Netherlands
- Dr Ivan Erzen, National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia
- Prof Marija Jevtic, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Serbia
- Prof Julian Mamo, Public Health Dept, University of Malta, Malta
- Dr Odile Mekel, NRW Centre for Health, Germany
- Dr Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA, Netherlands

#### *EUPHA Working Group on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment*

On International Women's Day 2021, EUPHA announced the formation of a new Working Group on Gender Equality and on Women's Empowerment. This Working Group will focus on capturing the perspectives of all EUPHA Sections to comprehensively map the needs, the priorities and key actioning areas in European and global public health in order to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls and meet Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) of the United Nations. In 2022, the working group is organising a round table at the EPH Conference: *Breaking the barriers: gender equality and women empowerment in public health practice*. Together with EUPHA, the working group has also published a statement on reproductive rights.

Members of the Working Group on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment are currently:

- Monica Brînzac, Cluj School of Public Health, Romania
- Prof Kasia Czabanowska, Maastricht University, Netherlands
- Ms Elizabeth Dalgarno, Manchester University, United Kingdom
- Dr Lorena Dini, Charité Univesitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
- Dr Ellen Kuhlmann, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Germany
- Dr Céline Miani, Bielefeld University, Germany
- Dr Maria Papadakaki, LaHeRS & PHC-HMU, Hellenic Mediterranean University, Greece
- Dr Elena Petelos, CSFM & HSR-PH Lab, Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece
- Dr Sofia Ribeiro, EUPHA (PHPP), Portugal
- Ms Isabel Yordi Aguirre, Division of Country Health Policies and Systems WHO Regional Office for Europe, Italy
- Dr Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA, Netherlands

#### *EUPHA Working Group on Access to medicines*

The working group was established in July 2023

All citizens in Europe and beyond should have access to essential medicines that are affordable and of high quality. However, the current laws, rules and processes that regulate access of medicinal products – including vaccines – to the market and determine availability and distribution of these products for patients/citizens, do not always have the desired effects. We see problems such as (extremely) high prices, stock shortages, unequal/unfair distribution - as we have seen e.g., during the COVID-19 pandemic -, market access for medicines with very little added value, and persistently inadequately addressed unmet societal needs (e.g., lack of investment in new antimicrobials and in medicines for neglected tropical diseases). Access to medicines as an element of Universal Health Coverage therefore is an important topic for EUPHA. Currently, several important developments are ongoing that will impact on access to medicines in Europe, most notably the revision of the EU pharmaceutical legislation, the establishment of the Access to Novel Medicines Platform (NMP) by WHO-Euro as an outcome of the Oslo Medicines Initiative, and the development of a global Pandemic Treaty. This means that there is a clear momentum to bring in the public health perspective and make sure that an evidence-based and equitable population health lens is applied in these policy processes. To help EUPHA in their advocacy for this, EUPHA is calling for experts for an advisory working group on access to medicines.

- Dr Irina Kazaryan, Yerevan State Medical University, Armenia
- Valentina Lorenzoni, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy
- Dr Janet Michel, Inselspital, Switzerland
- Prof Julian Perelman, Nova University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Dr Elena Petelos, CSFM & HSR-PH Lab, Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece
- Dr Andrea Riganti, University of Milan, Italy
- Dr Sujitha Subramanian, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom
- Prof Desislava Vankova, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria, Bulgaria



## Annex 2: Projects

In 2023, EUPHA continued to be contacted by a large number of institutions and universities to be a partner in European projects. These are our current projects and projects completed in the past year.

### *PROPHET*

The PROPHET Project is one of the two projects that kicked-off in 2022. It is funded from the Horizon Europe Programme. The project aims to engage organisations and individuals to contribute to the construction of a Strategic Research Innovation Agenda (SRIA) to adopt Personalised Prevention approaches into EU health systems. In the first year of the project EUPHA led various communication and dissemination tasks within the project.



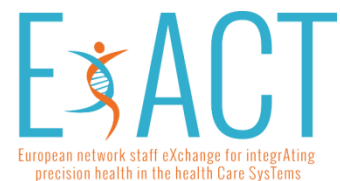
### *HealthData@EU Pilot project*

The HealthData@EU Pilot project is the second project joined by EUPHA in 2022. This is a project that is funded through the EU4Health Programme. It aims to set up concrete foundations for the future so-called European Health Data Space for the secondary use of health data. In 2023, the first year of the project was completed, with several (technical) outcomes, such as a proof of concept for the IT infrastructure. EUPHA contributed, as work package leader, to the dissemination and communication activities. 2023 also marked the start of the second and final year of the pilot project. EUPHA's main role will be coordinating the supplement to the European Journal of Public Health.



### *ExACT: European network staff eXchange for integrAting precision health in the health Care sysTems*

ExACT started early 2019. The exchange project aims to build a community of academic and non-academic entities that generates high quality, multidisciplinary collaboration through exchanging knowledge in research and training activities on precision health. By building up on the PRECeDI Consortium it will include other relevant sectors in order to strengthen and broaden the research and training activities of the existing network and reinforce the international and intersectoral cooperation. By sharing knowledge, building synergies and expertise and encouraging an exchange of best practice among top-level institutions, it will give impetus to the translational efforts necessary to implement precision health into the EU health care systems. The ExACT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme MSCA-RISE-2017 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE). In 2023, the exchanges via ExACT continued, and EUPHA hosted two secondees.



### *RIVER-EU – Reducing barriers to vaccine uptake in underserved communities*

To improve equitable vaccine uptake in underserved communities, a new European research initiative has launched in 2021. RIVER-EU (“Reducing Inequalities in Vaccine uptake in the European Region – Engaging Underserved communities”) is a 5-year (2021-2026) project coordinated by the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG) and funded by the Horizon 2020 Research Programme. Using an interdisciplinary approach, RIVER-EU will collect evidence on health system determinants of high and low vaccine uptake in eight specific contexts, which will be used to identify and/or develop interventions to reduce barriers to vaccine uptake in underserved communities and increase trust in the health system.

