



An independent scientific and professional
voice for public health in Europe

ANNUAL REPORT

EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION – EUPHA

2014

The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. EUPHA was founded in 1992. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together around 16'000 public health professionals for information exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Our mission is to be the proactive platform for public health professionals and health service researchers and be a bridge between research and policy/practice.

EUPHA membership benefits:

- All EUPHA members can participate in all activities of EUPHA.
- All EUPHA members can participate in the annual scientific European Public Health Conference with a membership reduction of €75.
- All full members have direct access to the electronic version of the European Journal of Public Health and can subscribe for a hard copy subscription for a significantly reduced price.
- All full members are part of the EUPHA book club where you can buy books published by our partner – Oxford University Press – at 20% discount.
- All full members of EUPHA are also members of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, at no additional charge.

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 you would like to work with EUPHA? Look into our possibilities of associate member.
- Does your country not (yet) has a national public health association and you wish to pursue setting up on? Join our network as an individual member.

More information on membership can be found at:

<http://www.eupha.org/site/memberships.php>

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Welcome EUPHA Executive Council



Walter Ricciardi, EUPHA president
2010-2014

Executive Council 2014

Walter Ricciardi, president
Martin McKee, president-elect
Stan Tarkowski, past president
Markus Kaufmann, treasurer
Judith de Jong, secretary
Peter Allebeck, EJPH council
Kristina Alexanderson, section council
Julian Mamo, international conference council

On behalf of the EUPHA Executive Council, it is my pleasure to present you this report summarizing our activities in another important year for EUPHA. There are three words I would like to use to summarize EUPHA 2014:

- Professionalisation

This year has been the final year of the reorganisation of the structure and tasks of EUPHA and the EPH Conference Foundation. This professionalisation was started in 2012 and the new structure is now clearly in place with EUPHA as the umbrella association for the public health community and the EPH Conference Foundation as organiser of the annual scientific conferences.

- Vision

We are pleased to present our members with the new EUPHA strategy 2014-2020 with a clearer vision on our role, our activities and the expected outcomes. We have gone beyond visionary, as - under the leadership of our incoming president - we already developed various activities to further enhance the voice of public health professionals in Europe.

- Sustainability

In times of economic crisis and cutbacks, I am pleased to inform you that EUPHA has well prepared for this by diversifying its sources of own income. This makes EUPHA a strong and sustainable organisation in Europe.

This was my last year as EUPHA president. I have enjoyed the friends and colleagues, the challenges and the innovative solutions, the discussions and company and I am glad that I will continue to support EUPHA as past president and chair of the International Scientific Committee for the Milan 2015 EPH conference.

I would like to thank my wonderful colleagues in the Executive Council for their input and efforts to make all this happen, to support EUPHA and keep EUPHA going strong. A special thanks to my predecessor, Stan Tarkowski. Stan has been a dedicated president-elect, conference organiser, president, and past president. When he joined the EC in 2008, he had no idea that with the reorganisation in EUPHA and my two terms as president, he would be one of the longest EC members in the history of EUPHA. I would like to thank all EUPHA members for their support, their vision and their constructive thinking for EUPHA. Their continued dedication is what makes EUPHA successful.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Dineke, Floris and the rest of the EUPHA office for their continuous support, steering and vision. Their outstanding professionalism is as always combined with warm dedication and a good sense of humour, all of which are necessary to run EUPHA.

Welcome EUPHA office



Dineke Zeegers Paget, Executive Director



Floris Barnhoorn, Deputy Director

We have been very busy this year and this is reflected in this report. Not only do we host and organise the EPH Conference office, but we also had two extra big tasks at EUPHA office: finalising the reorganisation; and preparing for the adoption of the new EUPHA strategy 2014-2020.

But of course, our normal three priorities also received our full attention:

- Assist and support our members in their activities;
- Represent the public health community at European level; and
- Provide evidence-based information.

Under the pleasant and strategic guidance of our Executive Council, we have joined forces with our sections, Four Pillar leads and our members to make sure that our three priorities received the attention they deserved. We had the opportunity this year to visit several of our members; our Executive Council and several section presidents were at the heart of European policy discussions and our sections and members continued to provide the evidence-base we so much need.

We were fortunate to have our team reinforced by a new EUPHANxt coordinator (Giacomo Scaioli), who has done so much more than pushing EUPHANxt forward. Our management assistant – even though now retired – will continue to support the team. Our website was improved again allowing an even easier system to combine website updates with production of the newsletter.

We are still a small and understaffed office, but with very dedicated staff. With the reorganisation in place, the increase in responsibilities linked to both the new strategy and the EPH conferences, we are, however, in dire need of more staff.

Assist and support our members in their activities

EUPHA members 2014

At the end of October 2014, we have 69 members from 40 countries:

- 39 national associations of public health from 33 countries;
- 3 individual members from 3 countries;
- 18 institutional members from 14 countries; and
- 9 international members.

The possibility of global membership for organisations that endorse the principles of EUPHA and desire to collaborate with EUPHA has not yet been used. Following the agreement with the World Federation of Public Health Associations, all EUPHA members are also members of the WFPHA.

Full members

Albanian Epidemiological Association	Central Asian Public Health Association – Kazakhstan
Armenian Public Health Association	Public Health Association of Latvia
Austrian Public Health Association	Lithuanian Public Health Association
Belgian Association of Public Health	Macedonian Association of Social Medicine SZSM
Society of Social Medicine - Public Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Malta Association of Public Health Medicine
Partnership for Public Health – Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dutch Public Health Federation NPHF
Bulgarian Public Health Association	Norwegian Public Health Association
Croatian Public Health Association	Polish Association of Public Health
Czech Society of Public Health and Management of Health Services	Portuguese Association for Public Health Promotion
Danish Society of Public Health	Romanian Association for Public Health
Health Promotion Union of Estonia	Serbian Public Health Association
Finnish Society of Social Medicine	SAVEZ - Slovak Public Health Association
French Society of Public Health SFSP	Slovenian Medical Society - Slovenian Preventive Medicine Society
German Society of Medical Sociology	SESPAS – Spain
German Public Health Association DGPH	Swedish Association of Social Medicine
Cooperation Union of Public Health Hochschulen HOGE	Swiss Society for Public Health
Hungarian Association of Public Health Training and Research Institutions NKE	Public Health Association - Turkey
Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians	UK Society for Social Medicine
Italian Federation of Public Health Scientific Societies FISPEOS	UK Faculty of Public Health

Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health

Institutional members

Public Health and Reforms Center - Azerbaijan
Scientific Institute of Public Health - Belgium
Faculty of Public Health MU-Sofia - Bulgaria
National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) - Finland
EHESP - France
School of Public Health, University of Georgia - Georgia
NRW Centre for Health – Germany
Health Research Board - Ireland
Health Services Research Laboratory-Department of Public Health - University of Siena - Italy
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Rome - Italy
Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory - Italy
RIVM – The Netherlands
Maastricht University, Department of International Health – The Netherlands
NIVEL – The Netherlands
National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development – Romania
Center for Public Health Research CSISP - Spain
Karolinska Institute, Department of Public Health Sciences - Sweden
University of East London, School of Health, Sport and Bioscience - UK

Individual members

Prof Constantinos Phellas - Cyprus
Dr Lilia Turcan - Moldova
Mr Saveliy Rudzsky – Ukraine

International members

ASPHER
EACH
ESQH
Euronet – MRPH
European Association for Dental Public Health
European Forum for Primary Care
European Health Management Association
IUHPE - Europe
UEMS - Section for Public Health

The network

In our database, we have 16'085 entries of which 5578 are EUPHA members (35%). This is both an increase in numbers (+672) and an increase in percentage (from 34 to 35%). Full members of EUPHA are individuals who joined EUPHA through their membership in a national public health association. In 2014, we had 4369 of these full members, an increase from last year (2013: 4132 full members).

Country visits

This year was the year of country visits. We visited representatives of our members in Austria, Croatia, Italy, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. At the annual meeting of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (May 2014), we met with the president of our Spanish, Norwegian, and UK member and further elaborated our collaboration with the African Federation of Public Health Associations.



Two EUPHANxt coordinators at the EUPHA stand at the SiTI conference in Riccione, Italy, in October 2014

Representing the public health community at European level

Advocacy

Under the leadership of our incoming president, Martin McKee, 2014 has been a year of advocacy, of letting our voice be heard. Over the months we addressed and supported different issues touching on public health, where we felt support from the public health community was very necessary. The actions included:

- Joining EPHA and over 90 other NGOs in expressing our concern for the reorganisation of DG Sanco in a call on European governments to reverse the decision to move DG Health's competence for medical products to DG Internal market (September and October).
- Publishing a EUPHActs stating that health monitoring is an essential element of an evidence informed public health policy cycle (September).
- Giving our support to the newly nominated EU Commissioner for Health, Dr Vytenis Andriukaitis from Lithuania (September).
- Supporting the WHO statement that more evidence is needed on the use and misuse of electronic cigarettes (September).
- Supporting the joint WFPHA-AFPHA statement regarding the current Ebola situation (August).
- Defending the right to editorial freedom following 'The Gaza letter in The Lancet by Dr Richard Horton' (August).
- Supporting the planetary health vision that takes into account our interdependence and interconnectedness of the risks we face, published as a manifesto in The Lancet (March);
- Calling for more action following the acceptance of the EU Tobacco Products Directive (February).

Another important activity where EUPHA is one of the leading associations (together with EHMA and HSR Europe) is to set up an ERAnet on public health and health services research.

Networking

The visibility of EUPHA as a solid partner with a research background has been even further developed. Activities were aimed at WHO Europe and the European Union (both Commission and executive agencies such as ECDC and the Joint Research Centre).

Our networking activities highly depend on the willingness and availability of our experts and we would like to thank the Section presidents and the Executive Council for their hard work here.

We are pleased to be represented in:

- EU Expert panel on effective ways of investing in health;
- WHO Europe – Advisory Committee for Health Research;
- Advisory forum to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control;
- WHO European Regional meeting; and
- APHEA board.

In 2014, EUPHA received and accepted many invitations to be active in meetings, conferences and panels. And we managed to attend:

- Meeting with the Healthcare Quality Group staff at the European Commission Joint Research Centre (February).

- Coordinated/Integrated Health Services Delivery - WHO High-level International Consultation (April).
- EU summit on chronic diseases (April).
- ASPHER Deans and Directors (May).
- Inprofood workshop WHO EURO (May).
- Meeting Food for schools at the EU Joint Research Center (May).
- WHO Europe informal discussion on NCD (May).
- Expert roundtable event on 'Policy options to improve care for patients with heart failure' (June).
- Conference on European Reference Networks for highly specialised providers (June).
- UK Food health forum (September).
- European Health Forum Gastein (October).
- Evening networking dinner Malmo for public health students (October).

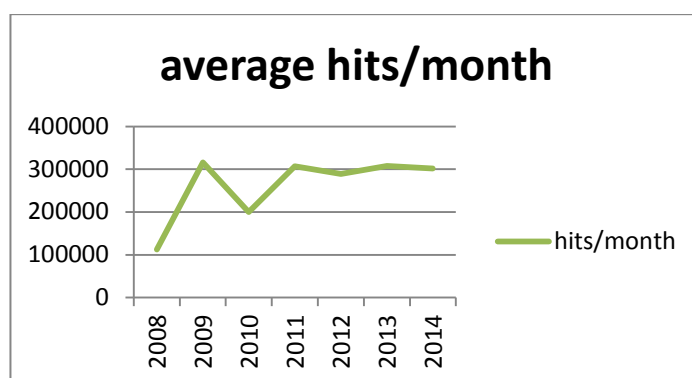
EUPHA also joined a number of conferences as partner:

- European Diabetes Leadership Forum 2014 (March);
- International conference on Urban Health (March, co-organised by our section on Urban public health);
- 5th European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health (April, co-organised by our section on Migrant and ethnic minority health);
- The international dimension in comparative health services research (May, co-organised by our section on Health services research); and
- 2nd International Conference on Law enforcement and Public Health (October).

Website

The website continues to be an excellent visibility tool for EUPHA. It includes information on who we are, our activities, our members and our publications and press releases. Since 1 July, the website no longer hosts the EPH Conference website, which was set up as a separately running website at www.ephconference.eu.

Website hits/month over the past 7 years:



The EUPHA twitter account (@EUPHActs) is available on our opening page and has been extensively used this year to advertise the EUPHA activities as well as retweet important news. This more proactive approach to twitter has more than doubled our followers in 2014 (2013: 384; 2014: 821).

The twitter account is also linked to our Facebook page, where further development, however, is still desirable.

Provide evidence-base information

EUPHA sections

EUPHA sections are networks on specific public health topics. At the moment, EUPHA has 19 active sections and one proposed section. The average number of members in a section's network is 990 (last year 892). EUPHA sections organize different activities throughout the year that range from:

- Satellite meetings;
- Project proposals;
- Newsletters;
- Mailing members;
- Representing EUPHA in advisory bodies of international organisations;
- Representing EUPHA at meetings and conferences; and
- Pre conferences and workshops linked to the EPH Conference.

This year, two sections were very actively representing EUPHA based on the priorities in European public health. The president of the EUPHA section on chronic diseases attended several meetings of WHO and the European Commission and the president and vice-president of the EUPHA section on food and nutrition did the same.

EUPHA Section	No. Of members
Child and adolescent public health	1271
Chronic diseases	1170
Environment-related health	730
Ethics in public health	896
Food and nutrition	909
Health impact assessment	614
Health promotion	1906
Health services research	1688
Health technology assessment (proposed)	187
Infectious diseases control	790
Injury prevention and safety promotion	449
Migrant and ethnic minority health	823
Public health economics	987
Public health epidemiology	2008
Public health genomics	304
Public health monitoring and reporting	728
Public health practice and policy	1830
Public mental health	914
Social security health	788
Urban public health	816

In November 2014, the Governing Board will decide on establishing a new section on Health Technology Assessment.

In Glasgow, the EUPHA sections are organising/co-organising:

- 10 pre conferences, with 12 sections involved;
- 19 workshops, with 16 sections involved;
- 2 lunch meetings by two sections;
- And presidents of two sections (chronic diseases and infectious diseases control) are plenary panelists.

And all sections are organising their annual meetings before and during the conference.

EUPHA pillars

At the end of 2013, it was decided to re-launch the Four Pillar networks of EUPHA. Four new pillar leads were found and an invitation to our members and the sections to propose representatives was sent out.

The objective of the EUPHA pillars is to have specific networks set up for Research, Policy, Practice and Training and education, where representatives from EUPHA members and EUPHA sections discuss activities developed or to be developed by EUPHA. With the new strategy for EUPHA 2014-2020, the Four Pillars are specifically asked to look at:

- Setting up of an ERA-net on public health and health services research (Research pillar);
- Increasing the advocacy possibilities of EUPHA (Policy pillar);
- Organising – in collaboration with partners – a system for best practice exchange (Practice pillar); and
- Formulating and implementing core competencies for a strong public health workforce (Training and education pillar).

In this first year, the networks are slowly being set up and activities for the coming years will be planned during the annual meetings of the Four pillar networks.

EUPHANxt

EUPHANxt is a network 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 790 subscribers (October 2014). Activities include:

- Advising students on possible internships;
- Developing a new strategy linked to the EUPHA 2014-2020 strategy;
- Networking with other student-related organisations;
- Contacting members on their activities for the younger generation;
- Organising two skills-building events during Glasgow 2014; and
- Writing a commentary to the European Journal of Public Health (expected publication date: December 2014).

European Journal of Public Health - EJPH



The European Journal of Public Health is a multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health, publishing contributions from social medicine, epidemiology, health services research, management, ethics and law, health economics, social sciences and environmental health. The EJPH is published bimonthly. The journal provides a forum for discussion and debate of current international public health issues with a focus on the European region. In each issue of the EJPH, EUPHA organises the European public health news, a section of the EJPH with contributions from the EUPHA president; EUPHA office; WHO Europe's Regional Director; European Commission; and the EPH Conference Foundation.

EUPHA members have direct access to the electronic version of the EJPH by logging on to the EUPHA database. If you have forgotten your login and password or you have difficulties accessing the EJPH, please contact membership@eupha.org. If you are not sure you are a EUPHA member, please contact your national association.

Original manuscripts submitted and published during 2005-2014:

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Until 20th October 2014
<i>Manuscripts received</i>	336	427	503	490	656	719	782	861	932	733
<i>% accepted</i>	24	16	19	21	29	20	21	19	17	18
<i>Manuscripts published</i>	105	97	92	84	104	89	125	176	186	167

Brief statistics on manuscripts

During the past year, manuscripts have been submitted from 58 countries from all continents. The highest number of submissions was received from United Kingdom (70), The Netherlands (66), Spain (60), China (54), Italy (54), Sweden (40) and Germany (33).

The highest number of accepted papers originated from The Netherlands (25), the United Kingdom (22), Sweden (13), Denmark (10), Finland (8) and Spain (8).

In addition to original manuscripts, 11 editorials and 11 Viewpoint articles have been published from December 2013 – October 2014. Each of the six issues also had a section with European public health news from EUPHA and partner organisations.

Reviewers

During the past year, 474 persons from 42 different countries have been helpful in reviewing manuscripts. Most reviewers originated from the United Kingdom (65), followed by the Netherlands (58), Sweden (41), the United States (36), Italy (31), Denmark (24) and Spain (24).

Impact factor

The impact factor has remained at around 2,5 during the past years, and actually marginally declined the past two years, after some years of steady increase. This can to a large extent be explained by an increasing number of articles published during the past years. This inflates the denominator, but not the nominator, since citations are more frequent to papers published in the first year of the two year period.

Partners

Our partners in the organization of the EJPH are:

- Oxford University Press, the official publisher of the journal;
- Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, where the editorial office is based; and
- Swedish Research Council, offering a grant to host the editorial office in Sweden.

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Newsletter

The EUPHA newsletter was created in March 2006 with the aim 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 Europe. The newsletter is free of charge and available to all those with an interest in public health. With 13'513 subscribers this year from 149 countries, the newsletter continues to be one of the most visible tools of EUPHA.

The content of the newsletter has been updated to include more interesting news and a special section with the publications in the EJPH.

Distribution data by Region

Region	No. of countries		No. of subscribers	
	2013	2014	2013	2014
Europe	54	54	11182	12446
Americas	19	20	301	353
Africa	40	38	215	230
Asia/South Pacific	32	37	398	481
Total (October 2014)	145	149	12096	13513

Top 5 ranking countries subscribed to the newsletter by region

Rank	Europe	Americas	Africa	Asia/South Pacific
1	Denmark	United States	Ghana	India
2	France	Canada	Nigeria	Australia
3	United Kingdom	Brazil	Cameroon	Pakistan
4	Italy	Peru	Gambia	South Korea
5	Netherlands	Colombia	South Africa	Nepal

EUPHA actively invites our members and our partners to further distribute the newsletter, announce its publication in their tools as well as them to make the EUPHA newsletter available on their website. Our partner in Africa, the African Federation of Public Health Associations and the Ethiopian Public Health Association are also distributing the newsletter to their network.

Projects

EUPHA continues to be contacted by a large number of institutions/universities to be a partner in European projects. In 2014, EUPHA was a partner in the submission of the following projects:

Project name	Main partner	Submitted under	Date	Role EUPHA	Result
PRECeDI	Catholic University Rome	Marie Curie	April	Facilitator	Successful
Tender for meetings	GOPA Cartermill SA	EU Health programme	February	Assistant	Not successful (2 nd)
HABITS	University of Granada, CSISP	H2020	February	Disseminator	Not successful
Self-care	Epposi	H2020	February	Disseminator	Not successful
PACE	DIPEX	H2020	March	Disseminator	Not successful
CoCoAHA	UOC/EPHA	H2020	April	Disseminator	Not successful
CSA RRI for Health	Innovatec	H2020	April	Workshop organizer and Disseminator	Not successful
SagaCITY	University of Manchester	H2020	April	Disseminator	Submitted
ODISEA	University of Kosice	H2020	October		Submitted

PRECeDI (Personalized Prevention of Chronic Diseases) is a consortium of 11 organisations of which seven are academic institutions and four non-academic. The project duration is four years. PRECeDI consolidates the joint research and innovation activities within five domains of personalized prevention of chronic diseases:

- Identification and validation of biomarkers for primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases (CVD); secondary prevention of Alzheimer (AD); tertiary prevention of head and neck cancer (HNC);
- Economic evaluation of genomic applications;
- Ethical-legal and policy issues surrounding PM;
- Sociotechnical analysis of the pros-and cons of informing healthy individuals on their genome; and
- Identification of organizational models for the provision of predictive genetic testing.

The project is funded under the Marie Curie Programme of Horizon 2020. Future PhD students at the partners' universities will be seconded to other universities, institutes or private companies. EUPHA will host four researchers in the project period.

EPH Conference

In 2013, the separate foundation 'EPH Conference' was set up to coordinate and organise the European Public Health Conferences at the initiative of EUPHA. EUPHA still 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
- Observatory
- WHO Europe

All these partners are represented in the advisory International Conference Council, where main topics, themes and possible keynote speakers are discussed. They are also all invited to provide experts for the International Scientific Committee, responsible for the scoring of the submitted abstracts and workshops.

On the 1st of July, the new EPH Conference website was launched.



New website: www.ephconference.eu

Brussels 2013



Brussels 2013 website:

<http://ephconference.eu/conference-2013-brussels-62>

- Brussels 2013 summary report
- Programme Booklet
- Photo Gallery
- Plenary sessions - videocasts
- Presentations from plenary sessions
- List of partners and sponsors
- List of exhibitors
- Conference Evaluation Report

The 6th European Public Health Conference was attended by over 1,300 delegates from over 60 countries worldwide. The programme consisted of six plenary sessions with twenty speakers, 75 parallel sessions, 30 moderated poster sessions and ten poster walks. Delegates could choose from 14 pre-events on public health topics before the conference. During the conference, around seven Lunch Meetings and a Film Festival on Human Rights and Public Health were offered.

Glasgow 2014



Programme planning meeting June 2014

Glasgow 2014: **'Mind the gap: reducing health inequalities in health and health care'**

www.ephconference.eu

#ephglasgow

- Prof. Alastair Leyland is the chair of Glasgow 2014
- Over 1'000 abstracts received (new record)
- More than 1'400 participants to attend
- For the first time: public engagement

Glasgow 2014 is organized by the EPH Conference Foundation, EUPHA and the UK Society for Social Medicine. Partners are:

- University of Glasgow
- Visit Scotland
- People make Glasgow
- EuroHealthNet
- ASPHER
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- European Commission
- Open Society Foundation

Milan 2015

The 8th European Public Health Conference: **'Health in Europe – from global to local policies, methods and practices'** will be held in Milan, Italy from 14 to 17 October 2015.

Prof. Carlo Signorelli is the chair of Milan 2015.

<http://ephconference.eu/future-conferences-33>

#ephmilan



The 48th Annual conference of Sitl, the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, will take place at the same time, at the same location. EUPHA will be organising a plenary session on 'Global public health: what is expected from Europe?'.

EuroHealthNet, the European Commission, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and ASPHER are organising the other plenary sessions.

Vienna 2016



The 9th European Public Health Conference: 'All for Health – Health for All'

will be held at the Austria Conference Centre in Vienna, Austria from 9 to 12 November 2016. Organisers are: the EPH Conference Foundation, EUPHA and the Austrian Society for Public Health.

Prof. Thomas Dorner is the chair of Vienna 2016.

<http://ephconference.eu/future-conferences-33>

#ephvienna

EUPHA 2014-2020 – Voicing knowledge. Enhancing capacity.

The new strategy of EUPHA for 2014 to 2020 builds on the successful strategy 2008-2014. The strategy identifies three objectives:

1. The first is to be the leading voice for public health in Europe, recognised as a source of the best scientific evidence and independent of vested interests.
2. The second is to build capacity and knowledge in the field of public health and health services. In too many European countries, public health functions remain weak and public health professionals are undervalued. We will work with our member associations and with other key actors, such as the European Commission and the WHO to remedy this situation.
3. The third is to prepare future generations of public health leaders, helping them to build their skills, not only in technical areas but also in advocacy and communication, so that they can make the world a better place for themselves and their children.

Outlook 2015



Martin McKee, EUPHA president 2014-2016

I feel a tremendous sense of privilege to take over as President of EUPHA, but also some trepidation. I owe my predecessor, Walter Ricciardi, a tremendous debt. He has been a truly inspirational president, combining vision, commitment, outstanding technical ability, and humanity. I have written a more extensive appreciation of his contribution in the December edition of the European Journal of Public Health so for now I will just say a profound thanks,

not just for what he has contributed to EUPHA but also for what I know he will continue to do as Past President. I also want to add my thanks to Stan Tarkowski, who has made a tremendous contribution to EUPHA over many years and to wish him well for the future. And of course, I must thank Dineke, Floris, and the team in the EUPHA office for guiding and supporting me over the past two years as President Elect.

I am taking over at a time when public health in Europe is facing challenges that we have not seen for several generations. An economic crisis that was caused by the irresponsibility of highly paid people in the financial sector has been exploited by politicians to launch a sustained attack on the European social model. They have used it to drive down wages and undermine solidarity, turning a blind eye to the misery that this entails, with the increasing toll of suicides only the visible tip of the iceberg. In some countries, politicians have diverted attention from their failed economic policies by blaming the most vulnerable, in particular migrants. Popular disillusionment with politics is driving voters into the arms of political parties with messages reminiscent of the 1930s. In some countries, mainstream politicians are even calling for abandonment of their international commitments to human rights. At a time like this a strong voice for public health is needed more than ever.

EUPHA is committed to providing that voice, both as the largest public health association in Europe, with members across our continent, and in alliance with other like minded organizations. We have a new strategy that sets out how we will implement our vision of a better Europe. As well as providing a strong, authoritative, voice for public health, it commits us to build capacity and knowledge and to support the next generation of public health professionals to continue our work and make Europe a better and healthier place. I am grateful to all those who contributed to this excellent document.

I look forward to working with our sections and pillars to make our strategy a reality. Among them we have many inspirational leaders, whose commitment and hard work can too easily be overlooked.

We have already started this process. Our voice is increasingly being heard. We have a new, more visible image, with plans for a new website and logo. And we are making a difference. Together with other European organizations, and with the support of several national governments and Members of the European Parliament, we challenged the proposal by Jean-Claude Juncker to move pharmaceutical policy from the health to the enterprise portfolio. We were successful. But while we take pleasure in this success, we are not complacent and recognize that there is much more to do. We will continue to speak out, both in public and less visibly, taking advantage of our now strong links with policy makers in individual countries and at a European level. We may face challenges, but we have many opportunities, including the appointment of a new Lithuanian European Commissioner who is as deeply committed to health as we are.

In these ways, we will ensure that our voice is heard in the European corridors of power. We have several immediate priorities, such as ensuring that the importance of public health is adequately recognized by DG Research, something that has not been the case in recent years. In this way we will use our voice to strengthen capacity and evidence. However, we know that threats to public health often appear first in some of the smaller countries, where the public health community is weakest. We will never forget that EUPHA is a grouping of national associations and is there to speak out on behalf of them when they feel that a European voice might help.

The challenges are great, but our skills and commitment to public health are too. Together, we can really make a difference for the better.