

Minutes EUPHA's Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Section Meeting, 9th EPH Conference Vienna, 11/11/2016

Odile Mekel (President) and Piedad Martin-Olmedo (Vice President) welcomed all participants to the annual HIA section meeting / join the network meeting. This meeting took place during the EPH conference on 11 Nov 2016 and was attended by approximately 10 people.

Workshops at the 9th EPH conference in Vienna

Three workshops are (co-) organized by the HIA section:

- “Reducing the health & environment footprint of European Public Health Conferences”. A joint workshop with the EUPHA section Environment related diseases and EUPHA office.
- A double workshop “Health impact quantification for a culture of “foresight”?” organized by the HIA section. The workshop focuses on practical experiences with existing models and tools for health impact quantification, compares and critically discusses them, and identify appropriate steps forward.
- The workshop “Health assessments in support of decision-making” is jointly organized with the EUPHA sections Health Services Research, Public Health Economics and Public Health Practice and Policy. This health assessment-workshop is the third workshop in a series which was initiated in 2014.

Future activities of the section

Mapping existing legislative frameworks of HIA across Europe with emphasis on discussing the benefits and barriers of making HIA regulatory binding. Piedad-Martin Olmedo will take the lead. In addition to the section members who expressed their interest at the meeting, other members are invited to join this group.

Ideas for potential workshops / pre-conference for the next EPHC in Stockholm:

- Integration of health assessment within urban planning and environmental impact assessment regulation. This workshop could be co-organized with the EUPHA sections Urban Health (already expressed interest) and Environmental related diseases.
- HIA versus economic and political interest. The EUPHA section Public Health Practice and Policy expressed already interest. A joint workshop or a pre-conference seminar are options
- Curricula training on HIA across Europe. Suggested format: round table discussion.
- Continuation of the workshop series on ‘health assessments’ and on ‘health impact quantification’

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- In order to strengthen the HIA activities of partner associations, Odile Mekel is member of the IUPHE¹ Global Working Group on HIA.
- The WHO Sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health is taking place from 13–15 June 2017 in Ostrava, Czechia. Efforts will be made to put HIA on the agenda.

January 2017



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¹ International Union for Health Promotion and Education