

Draft Annual report 2023

EUPHA- Health Impact Assessment section (EUPHA-HIA)

Goals for 2023

- Analysis of challenges in applying the guiding principles of Health in All policies (HiAP) (and consequently of HIA) at local, regional, or national governmental level, and the advocacy role of PH institutions in this context.
- Keeping raising collaboration links with other EPHA sections for promoting both human health and sustainable development.
- Analyze the competency framework for HIA professionals across Europe and identify key elements for the design of a capacity-building program that enables a broader practical application of HIA.

Collaboration with section members

Presidents of the section set up a working group to which section's members were invited by email to analyze possible competency frameworks in HIA, and thus define a training program that facilitates a broader application of HIA in Europe. During 2023, up to five online meetings were held for generating the program for the pre-conference that took place in Dublin as well as for preparing a questionnaire that will be circulated in 2024. The results of the pre-conference and this survey are expected to be published in 2024.

Activities at the 16th EPH conference November 2023

1. **Wednesday 8th November 2023, 12:30-17:00 hours. Pre-conference: “ Competences and training needs for better implementation of Health Impact Assessment (HIA)”.**

CHAIRS: **Dr. Piedad Martín-Olmedo**, president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor in Health Protection at the Andalusian School of Public Health (Granada, Spain), **Dr. Odile Mekel**, EUPHA-HIA's vice-president; Landeszentrum Gesundheit Nordrhein-Westfalen (LZG.NRW) (Bochum, Germany)

PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS:

- **Dr. Liz Green**, Programme Director, Public Health Wales. Title: “Skills and knowledge framework from Wales: enabling competence for health and equity in Health Impact Assessment (HIA)”.
- **Dr. Astrid Knoblauch**, researcher and consultant at Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute (Allschwil, Switzerland). Title: “Skills and capacity needs for HIA implementation in the extractive industries sector in sub-Saharan Africa”.
- **Dr. Martin Birley**, HIA consultant (UK). Title: “HIA competences analysis from my experience”.
- **Dr. Joanna Purdy**, Public Health Development Officer at the Institute of Public Health in Ireland. Title: “HIA competences analysis from my experience”.
- **Dr. Luciana Costa**, Health Promotion and Prevention of NCDs, National Institute of Health Dr Ricardo Jorge, Lisbon, Portugal. Title: “HIA capacity building and training needs in Portugal”.

- **Francesca Villiani and Ben Cave**, HIA consultants (Italy and UK, respectively). Title: “HIA/Health in Environmental assessment trainings at IAIA”
- **Dr. Margaret Douglas**, Public Health Scotland and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, University of Glasgow (UK). Title: “Building Capacity for HIA in Scotland”.
- **Dr. Monica O`Mullane**, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow, Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century (ISS21), University College Cork (Ireland). Title: “Developing a Health Impact Assessment Implementation Model- Enhancing Intersectoral Approaches in Tackling Health Inequalities’ (HIA-IM)”.

2. Thursday 9TH November at 16:40-17:40. Round table: Environmental stressors on health economics and policies – challenges and pitfalls.

Organized by: EUPHA-ECO, EUPHA-HIA, EUPHA-ENV. Thursday 9TH November at 16:40-17:40. **CHAIRS:** **Dr. João Vasco Santos**, president of EUPHA-ECO; Department of Community Medicine, Information and Health Decision Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto (Portugal); **Dr. Piedad Martín-Olmedo**, president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor in Health Protection at the Andalusian School of Public Health (Granada, Spain)

Reference: European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.240, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.240>

SPEAKERS:

- **Marco Martuzzi**, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy. Title: “*Economic assessment in environmental HIA*” (abstract not published)
- **Brecht Devleeschauwer**, Sciensano, Brussels, Belgium. Title: “*Towards environmental health inequality impact assessment*” (abstract not published)
- **Marija Jevtic**, President of EUPHA-ENV. University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Medicine, Novi Sad, Serbia.
- **Vlatka Matkovic**, Health & Environment Alliance, Brussels, Belgium. Title: “*Integration of well-being into health impact assessment: Horizon EU-funded UBD Policy (Urban Burden of Disease Policy)*” (abstract not published)

3. Friday 10th November at 16:40-17:40. Round table: An exploration of the EAT Lancet Commission on healthy diets for sustainable food systems.

Organized by EUPHA GH, EUPHA-HIA, EUPHA LAW, EUPHA FN; **Chairperson(s):** Piedad Martin-Olmedo and Odile Mekel (EUPHA-HIA section). **CHAIRS:** **Dr. Regien Biesma**, vice-president of (EUPHA-GH); Global public health specialist/ epidemiologist at University of Groningen (Netherlands); **Dr. Giuseppe Grosso**, president of EUPHA-FN section; Professor (Associate) at University of Catania (Italy)

Reference: European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.495, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.495>

SPEAKERS:

- **Thom Geertsema**, Groningen Center Health Law, Faculty of Law, University of Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands

- **Ben Cave**, Ben Cave Associates Ltd, Leeds, UK
- **Mary Rose Sweeney**, Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
- **Desislava Vankova**, Medical University of Varna, Varna, Bulgaria
- **Nikhil Gokani**, University of Essex, Colchester, UK

4. **Saturday 11th November at 9:00-10:00 h. Oral presentation: Health assessments: impact, technology.**

CHAIRS: Martina Giusti (Italy), PhD student in Biomedical Science and Research Fellow at the University of Florence; **Júlia Martinho (Portugal)**

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Audrey Rocabois, C Philippat, A Crépet, M Vrijheid, R Slama**. Health impact assessment of the chemical exposome in European children. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.580, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.580>
- **Leonor Guariguata, S Nayani, R De Pauw, B Devleeschauwer**. Evaluating achieving tobacco control targets in Belgium using modelled projections. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.581, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.581>
- **Alister Hunt and E Eaton**. Quantifying the health impacts of alternative urban development scenarios using the HAUS tool. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.582, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.582>
- **S Sousa, G Albuquerque, M Severo, A R Costa, P Moreira, N Lunet, P Padrão**. Development and validation of a photograph-based instrument to assess nutrition literacy: the NUTLY. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.583, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.583>
- **C Krah, M Bahramian, D Burke, P Hynds, A Priyadarshini**. Quantifying Metabolic Food Waste in Ireland from Excess Food Intake. European Journal of Public Health, Volume 33, Issue Supplement_2, October 2023, ckad160.584, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad160.584>

Other activities

Vice-president, **Dr. Odile Mekel** took part in the **EUPHA-Green Club meeting**, which aims at proving advice to both EUPHA and the EPH Conference Foundation in their efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the conference. The Green Club is intended to brainstorm and advise the organisers of the annual EPH Conferences on how to decrease the impact on the environment. Members of this club met to evaluate the achievements made in the organization of the EPH-Dublin and prepare the upcoming one in Lisbon.

Annual Section meeting

The **Health impact assessment - Join the network** was held on Thursday 9th November at 14:00-15:00. **CHAIRS: Dr. Piedad Martín-Olmedo (PMO)**, president of EUPHA-HIA section; professor in Health Protection at the Andalusian School of Public Health (Granada, Spain); **Dr. Odile**

Mekel, EUPHA-HIA's vice-president; Landeszentrum Gesundheit Nordrhein-Westfalen (LZG.NRW) (Bochum, Germany)

The meeting was well attended by approximately 20 persons

PMO welcomed everybody and pointed out to the activities of the HIA section during the EPHC2023. She reported back about the pre-conference on competences and training demands, carried out the day before. JtN participants were interested to know more about HIA trainings opportunities. One of the goals of the pre-conference was to map the competences related to HIA and training offers. Other JtN participants pointed to online / webinar type of training offers. It will be checked, if such HIA training opportunities could be listed at the HIA section website (without being inclusive / comprehensive/ quality assured).

For the next presidency time of the HIA section, two persons applied to this function: Dr. Martín-Olmedo and Dr. Inna Feldman. The JtN-participants thanked Piedad and Inna for their application. The majority of the votes went to Piedad, who was grateful for the trust the voters have in her, accepted the election results, and will be president of the section for the upcoming three years.

JtN participants acknowledged to colleagues of EUPHA-HIA section and health group of IAIA for their work on the reference document: *“Human health: Ensuring a high level of protection. A reference paper on addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. As per EU Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU. International Association for Impact Assessment and European Public Health Association”*, published in 2020. It has been quite useful for colleagues in France involved at local level.

JtN participants proposed the following issues to be potentially developed for next EPH-Lisbon or as independent actions:

1. A preconference skill-building seminar on HIA principles was highly demanded.
2. A workshop on experiences to address HIA of Climate Change (CCh).
3. To work towards a broader HIA implementation by creating actions that involved decision-makers and academia. A session with practical experiences would be very valuable.
4. Air pollution related to CCh was addressed as an important stressor, especially the study of the links between ozone, CCh and health. EUPHA-HIA section can support this type of HIA-research driven by promoting a research consortium. A workshop with experiences on how this has been addressed in different regions or countries could be also developed for next EPH conference.
5. Linking HIA to One Health framework as developed by the University of Wageningen by conducting a HIA of the proposed EU One Health strategy. This type of initiatives could also be developed at country level presenting and sharing experiences in a workshop for EPH-Lisbon.

Participants observed that comprehensive HIA were seen as too heavy, and therefore not conducted / commissioned. To this respect, it was remarked that HIA is not an one-person exercise, but it includes the involvement of multiple disciplines and persons. See PhD-thesis of Liz Green (Green, S. E. (2023). *Health impact assessment (HIA) as a tool to mobilise 'health*

in all policies'. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University].
<https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20230906sg>)

HIA on local level, quantification

In France, Portugal and Spain HIA is increasingly conducted on local level, e.g. on local policies or in the context of urban planning processes. Data availability and access to them on local level is an issue. Quantitative data may help to inform the HIA, but participants stressed the importance of qualitative data / evidence too. Regarding quantification Odile Mekel reminded participants the oral presentations session 9G at Saturday, 11/11/23 (see point 4). In this context, it was remarked, that quantification of HI are often called HIA, without having a specific link to a proposed program/plan/project etc. The methodology of quantification of health impacts is important for the appraisal phase in HIA but it is preferred not calling it HIA.

Quality of HIA

Participants are interested in this issue. At the EPHC 2018 a (capacity building) workshop was dedicated to this issue and colleagues are referred to resources developed by Ben Cave and by Liz Green.

Reference document:

- Winge Fredsgaard M, Cave B, Bond A. *A review package of Health Impact assessment reports of development projects*. Ben Cave Associates Ltd, Leeds, 2009. Available at: <https://www.scams.gov.uk/media/5749/hia-review-package-ben-cave-assoc.pdf>
- Green L, Parry-Williams L, Edmonds N. *Quality Assurance Review Framework for Health Impact Assessment (HIA)*. WHIASU, Public Health Wales, June 2017. Available at: <https://phwwhocc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Quality-Assurance-Review-Framework-for-HIA.pdf>

Next steps

The lively discussions showed the importance of networking and collaboration amongst the HIA community. Piedad and Odile thanked everyone for their active participation in this JtN-meeting and encouraged everyone to contact them if they wanted to follow up these discussions. One effective mechanism for this is to submit a workshop for the next EPHC in Lisbon. Workshops organised by the HIA-section in collaboration with other EUPHA sections is a good format to discuss specific issues more in depth. Submission date for workshop abstracts will be communicate as soon as available. As preparation and co-ordination takes time, the sooner colleagues contact PMO / OM for this, the better.

General communications with section members

The section communicates mainly by email through the EUPHA Maillist.

Piedad Martín-Olmedo, president of EUPHA-HIA section

Odile Mekel, vice-president of EUPHA-HIA section

January 12th 2024