

Minutes of the annual meeting of the EUPHA-Health Impact Assessment section, 10-11-2021, 12:50 h – 13:40 h

Piedad Martin-Olmedo, Odile Mekel (presidents of the HIA section)

The annual meeting was held as a joint network meeting during the 14th European Public Health Conference that took place between 10th to 12th November 2021 as a virtual conference, Italian time. Approximately 20 persons attended the meeting using the Zoom application.

After a welcome to participants, presidents of the section informed about the following points:

1. Goals for 2021

- Analysis of how seriously HIA evidence is being considered in the decision and policy making process for adopting actions to reduce the health impacts related to global threats such as COVID-19 or climate change
- Bridging links with other EPHA sections to identify synergies and promote both human health and sustainable development.
- EUPHA-HIA section will work towards promoting building capacity for addressing health considerations and health equity.

2. Activities conducted since Rome 2021, in collaboration with section members and other institutions

- Launching the reference paper on principles for the coverage of population and human health within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure, February 2021 (EUPHA-HIA & IAIA-Health)
- Publishing an article entitled “Lessons from an International Initiative to Set and Share Good Practice on Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment” at the Int. J Environ Res Public Health. (EUPHA-HIA & IAIA-Health)

3. Other activities within EUPHA

- EUPHA section council meeting, February 9 to 10 (Piedad Martín-Olmedo)
- Serious Gaming (Ben Cave)

4. International participation in events on behalf of EUPHA

- Global Working Group on HIA of the International Union of Health Promotion (IUHPE) (Odile Mekel)
- German Competence Network Public Health COVID-19, Working Group ‘Indirect health impacts of COVID-19 mitigation measures’ (Odile Mekel)
- Webinar series promoted by the WHO European Observatory on Health Systems and Politics about “COVID-19 lockdowns and their broader impact: social costs and potential co-benefits” on 02/02/2021.

- Annual IAIA Conference celebrated in Seville, May 18 and May 21st 2021. Roundtable entitled “Smartening health and well-being in IA: From policies to projects” (P. Martín-Olmedo).
- 15th Spanish Environmental Congress organized by the CONAMA Foundation, May 31 and June 3 2021 in Madrid. Presentation of the work of "Human health: Ensuring a high level of protection" (P. Martín-Olmedo).
- Section endorsed the “Health Impact Assessment Guidance: A Manual. Standalone Health Impact Assessment and health in environmental assessment. Institute of Public Health. Dublin and Belfast.

5. Activities during the 14th European Public Health Conference (virtual edition)

1.E. Workshop: Addressing vulnerability within climate change related health impacts.

Wednesday 10th, 16:10-17:10 h. Organized by: EUPHA (HIA), EUPHA (CAPH)

2.H. Workshop: Role of Health impact assessment in the policy-making process for the control of COVID-19 pandemic. Wednesday, 10th, 17:20-18:20 h. Organized by EUPHA (HIA), EUPHA (PHPP), EUPHA (PHMR), European Observatory.

5.N. Round table: Cross country COVID-19 policy learning: politics, arrangements and conditions for legitimate policy. Thursday, 11th, 13:50-14:50 h. Organized by: EUPHA (PHPP), EUPHA (PHMR), EUPHA (HIA), EUPHA (PHE).

9.A. Workshop: The contribution of Environmental Impact Assessments to better health.

Friday, 12th, 11:30-12:30h. Organized by: EUPHA (HIA), EUPHA (ETH), EUPHA (LAW), EUPHA (ENV).

Poster (DM10) Title "Health impact assessment of a voluntary protocol to decrease salt in bread: what can we learn?" Topic Health assessments: impact, technology.

6. New activities to be promoted by the section for next year

- HIA in the context of Dental Health. Possibility to apply HIA to Global strategy
- Approaches to HIA from different PH institutions across Europe (it could also allow to talk about availability of workforce focused to HIA)
- HIA as a driver of HiAP
- How well HIA is being applied to improved health policy or the organization of different sector within the health system. The COVID-19 pandemic left as quite a few experiences on this.
- Quantification from the perspective of characterizing exposure scenarios.
- Participation / Local authorities.

The session was closed on time.

November 2021.