
Minutes of the annual meeting of the EUPHA-Health impact assessment section, 15-10-2020

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

The annual meeting was held as a joint network meeting during the 16th World Congress on Public Health on 15th October 2020 between 11-12 hour, Italian time. Approximately 23 persons attended the meeting using the Zoom application.

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

1. Activities conducted since Marseille 2019, and during 2020

- a. Position paper on 'Addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment', conducted by members of EUPHA and IAIA, with strong support from WHO-Bonn. In finalizing this document, the following activities were conducted:
 - Consultation process: a Webinar (3rd December) and a Survey (14th November 2019 to the 6th of January 2020)
 - Peer reviews
 - Main findings presented at IAIA symposium (5-8 October 2020) <https://conferences.iaia.org/virtual2020/>)
 - Final release: December 2020
- b. Preparation of an article about the consultation process (submission December 2020) in a special volume of the International Journal on Environmental and Public Health Research; guest editor: Dr. Gabriel Gulis.
- c. Documentation of the 2019 pre-conference 'Health Impact Assessment (HIA) institutionalization and multisectoral collaboration in Europe' in an abstracts book available at the EUPHA-HIA section website.
- d. The section is participating in EUPHA's Green Club and produced a report for the Green Club. Link: <https://rfehr.eu/2020/03/12/12-mar-2020-%CF%86-greening-the-european-public-health-eph-conferences-report-for-the-eupha-green-club/>
- e. Collaboration with the Global Working Group on HIA of the International Union of Health Promotion (IUHPE).
- f. Contribution to the campaign HW113 - Monitoring wider population health impacts of COVID-19, organized by the EUPHA section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting during the European Public Health Week (11 May 2020).
- g. Participation in the German Competence Network Public Health COVID-19, Working Group 'Indirect health impacts of COVID-19 mitigation measures'. . Publication of a paper '[Integrated health policy recommendations](#)'

2. Activities during the 16th World Congress on Public Health (Rome, virtual)

- Tue 13th Oct. 12:15-13:15.

4.D. - Workshop: Health Impact assessment of chemical exposure: state of the art and challenges Organized by: EUPHA-HIA, EC JRC, IBS.GRANADA (Spain), EASP (Spain).
Chairperson(s): Piedad Martin-Olmedo - Spain, Stephanie Bopp - Italy

- [Wed 14th Oct. 9:45-10:45](#)

10.D. - Workshop: Health Impact assessment of climate change: monitoring and experiences. Organized by: EUPHA-HIA, EUPHA-PHMR, Public Health Wales.
Chairperson(s): Piedad Martin-Olmedo - Spain, Liz Green - United Kingdom

- [Wed 14th Oct. 19:45-20:45](#)

Workshop: The Place Standard Tool around the world – experience on impact, equity aspects and transferability. Organized by: BZgA (Germany), Scottish Government, Public Health Scotland (UK), EUPHA-PHMR, EUPHA-HIA, JAHEE. Chairperson(s): Christina Plantz - Germany, Kat Hasler - United Kingdom.

- [Thu 15th Oct. 11:00-12:00. via Zoom](#)

JTN13 - Join the network meeting EUPHA Health impact assessment section. EUPHA-HIA

- [Fri 16th Oct. 15:45-16:45](#)

30.K. - Round table: What is and what is not HIA; expectations and realities. Organized by: EUPHA-HIA. Chairperson(s): Gabriel Gulis - Denmark, Jean Simos – Switzerland

- Several oral presentations and posters were also submitted by members of the section

3. Election 2020

After the call for the election of new president and vice-president advertised throughout the Section website and an email sent to members on 27/8/2020, Piedad Martin-Olmedo was the only candidate sending the complete requirements (motivation letter and CV), being therefore appointed as new president. Odile Mekel becomes vice-president.

4. Proposal of a formal Steering committee

The Section's presidents proposed the nomination of a formal steering committee for supporting the activities of the section. The following participants expressed their will to be involved:

- Luciana Costa, Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge (Portugal)
- Isabel Portillo, Osakidetza (Basque Country, Spain)
- Liz Green, Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit Wales, Public Health Wales (Wales, UK)
- Koustuv Dalal, Department of Health Sciences, Mid Sweden University (Sweden)

- Ben Cave, Ben Cave Associates Ltd (England, UK)

Former presidents of the HIA section were also invited by email. Rainer Fehr (University of Bielefeld, Germany) accepted the nomination.

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

- For the 14th European Public Health Conference that will take place in Dublin (Ireland), 10-13 November 2021, participants suggested the following initiatives:
 - Set up a **preconference** for sharing experience on HIA among participants. Liz Green and Julia Nowacki volunteer for managing the process.
 - Piedad and Odile will explore with the scientific committee the possibility that abstracts related to HIA would be evaluated by PH professionals with a broad knowledge on HIA, to facilitate that those abstracts will get a better scoring.
 - It will be proposed to schedule into the official program a **plenary session on HIA**, although it would be necessary to define the scope or precise topic within HIA.
 - Possibility to get sessions for oral presentations with the heading of experience in HIA in the main conference. For that, presidents of EUPHA-HIA section encourage all interested person in sending an abstract related to HIA, to communicate to them about it in advance so they can be aware, and push to the scientific committee for such oral session to be accepted.
 - Another proposed approach: skill building seminars
 - Piedad and Odile encourage participants, especially members of the steering committee, to propose **specific topics for workshops/seminars** that will be presented as activities of the HIA section, better if those are made jointly with other sections within EUPHA and other relevant European institutions in PH. Some of the ideas pointed out:
 - o “how health is being addressing in urban planning”
 - o “how HIA has helped to support the acute response to and recovery plans from COVID-19”
 - o “health in EIA also ... in SEA maybe with UNECE”
 - o “screening cancer programs”
 - Specific questions raised;
 - o Announce at the earliest possible the format of next Conference (physical, virtual, hybrid?)
 - o Avoid cutting down the sessions after they have been designed and proposed (e.g. reducing the proposed time from 90 minutes to 60 minutes).
- Possibility to set up and run one or two webinars on specific topics as the ones previously suggested for the EPH conference as workshops.

The session was closed on time. Participants were very satisfied with the use of Zoom. Piedad and Odile will forward the minutes to participants, and this will also be uploaded to the section website.

Granada / Bochum, November 2020