

2011 Annual Report: EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases

The EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD) was formally established at the 14th EUPHA annual conference in Montreux, Switzerland in 2006 and currently has 582 members. The **aim** of the section is to increase and spread knowledge on chronic disease control. The section seeks to identify common approaches to develop the evidence and information base needed to guide policy and identify best practices for combating chronic diseases, and thus contributing to a sustainable and significant reduction of illness, disability and premature death. Furthermore, the section aims to lead efforts that help eliminate health disparities and negative socioeconomic consequences caused by chronic diseases and that promote health and well-being.

Section's activities in 2011

Workshops

During the 4th EPH conference in Copenhagen the ESCD in cooperation with the WHO/EURO Division of Noncommunicable Diseases will organised a round-table workshop entitled "The Year of Noncommunicable Diseases: Implications of the Global Movement for the European Region". The workshop will be held on 10th November 2011 at 14:00 in the track on Chronic diseases.

Chairs: Dr Gauden Galea, WHO and Dr Iveta Nagyova, EUPHA

Speakers / Panellists:

Dr Gauden Galea, WHO Regional Office for Europe, Non-communicable Diseases and Health Promotion

Dr Charles Price, DG SANCO, European Commission

Dr David Stuckler, Harvard University & Cambridge University

Dr Iveta Rajnicova-Nagyova, EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases

EUPHApedia

Together with the EUPHA section on Public health epidemiology (Giuseppe La Torre, MD MPH) and the EUPHA section on Child and adolescent public health (Dr P. Auke Wieggersma, MD PhD MPH) the ESCD (Dr Iveta Rajnicova Nagyova) has been asked to be a 'tester' of the EUPHApedia. Accordingly, we have provided feedback on functioning of this new EUPHA tool. Moreover, after the official launch of the application we have regularly uploaded chronic disease thematic documents.

EUPHA mailman system

Similarly to the EUPHApedia the ESCD has been regularly using the EUPHA mailman system for distributing information among its members. This mainly concerned up-to-date information on conferences, workshops, initiatives, projects or strategic documents. For example:

27 Jan 2011 Global Health Metrics and Evaluation (GHME) Conference 2011

08 Mar 2011 FYI WHO leaflet on non-communicable diseases

17 Mar 2011 FYI from WHO: European Parliament passes resolution on reducing health inequalities

22 Mar 2011 Book review offer from EJPH

21 Jun 2011 FYI: interesting texts from the recent issue of the EJPH

ESCD website

The update of the section's website has been carried out. New information includes updates of the section's objectives, which is now in line with the 4 EUPHA pillars: research, policy, practice, and education/training. The website also contains information on activities organized by the section since its establishment; workshops and preconference organized during the annual EUPHA conferences. In addition, all ESCD publications have been uploaded, namely texts from the EUPHA conference proceedings and short reports from the European Journal of Public Health:

http://www.eupha.org/site/section_page.php?section_ref=S_CD

Projects

The ESCD has been actively involved in the PHIRE project (founded by the European Commission, DG SANCO/EAHC, Agreement No. 20091214). The project coordinator is EUPHA (Dr. Dineke Zeegers Paget) and the ESCD is responsible for evaluation of the tracer project from the field of chronic diseases: "EUCID – European core indicators in diabetes mellitus" (project number: 2005109). For the evaluation of the EUCID project 50 country informants (CIs) from 23 countries have been identified and agreed to cooperate, out of these 21 CIs from 13 countries responded and completed the questionnaire which makes 43.3% response rate. Even if this response rate has been the highest from the all tracer projects, we still a need to approach more CIs in order to reach the 67% response rate.

Other

The ESCD provided comments to the document "Answer to DG SANCO consultation on chronic diseases" prepared by the European Union Health Policy Forum (EU HPF), representing the collective views of 26 members of the EU HPF.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/interest_groups/eu_health_forum/policy_forum/index_en.htm

Outlook for 2012

- Information: Next year we plan to continue in all the above-mentioned activities, in particular in distribution of relevant chronic disease material via the EUPHA tools – EUPHApedia, EUPHA mailman system and the section's website.
- Projects: We will continue in our activities within the PHIRE project. We also plan to apply for a grant within the International Visegrad Fund to support PH professionals from the Visegrad countries (V4 countries: Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia) and to stimulate their more active participation in the EUPHA activities. Moreover, we plan to more actively search for the possibilities to be involved in other EU projects.
- Workshops/pre-conferences: ESCD plans to organize at least one workshop during the next EPH conference in order to provide a platform for exchange of information, transfer of knowledge and expertise, as well as creation of new partnerships, stimulating involvement in existing projects and planning new projects.
- Publishing: the section will seek opportunities to encourage its members to publish in the European Journal of Public Health and to prepare statements and reports on behalf of EUPHA.
- Cooperation: ESCD plans to continue in active cooperation with the section's strategic partners such as WHO/EURO Division of Noncommunicable Diseases, and we also plan to develop new partnerships. With regard to EUPHA sections, we plan more intensive cooperation with the EUPHA section on Urban public health and Proposed Section on Public Health Monitoring and Reporting. This cooperation should result in organizing common workshops.

30th November 2011

Dr Iveta Nagyova, president
EUPHA Section on Chronic Diseases