

## 2013 Annual Report: EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases

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### ESCD in brief

The EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD) was formally established at the 14<sup>th</sup> EUPHA annual conference in Montreux, Switzerland in 2006 and currently has 1004 members. The **aim** of the section is to increase and spread knowledge on chronic disease control and management. 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.

### 1. Who is who at ESCD?

During the section's annual meeting in 2012 new vice-presidents for the section have been elected:

- Dr David Stuckler; Oxford University, United Kingdom
- Dr Colette Andree; CRP-Santé – Centre for Health Studies, Luxembourg University, Luxembourg & University of Basel, Switzerland

### 2. Pre-conferences / Workshops during the EPH conference 2013 in Brussels

#### Preconference

- At the 6th EPH in Brussels a preconference was organized by the ESCD together with the EUPHA sections on Child and Adolescent Public Health, Ethics in Public Health, and the EUPHaxt. The objectives of the preconference '*Public Health: the Next Step*' was to discuss the thresholds that cause the stagnation of implementation of knowledge into practice and to discuss the value public health research wants to add to society today and the next decades.
- David Stuckler's (ESCD vice-president) speech entitled '*The Body Economic: Why Austerity Kills*', presented shocking and counterintuitive revelations and bold policy recommendations, that present an alternative to austerity—one that will prevent widespread suffering, both now and in the future.
- Approximately 34 participants attended the workshop.

#### Workshop: Pampers or pamper? Should we celebrate an ageing population or fear it?

- Organizers: Workshop organized by EUPHA together with the EUPHA sections on Chronic Diseases, Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Health Services Research, Health Promotion, Ethics in Public Health and Public Health Monitoring and Reporting.

- The workshop discussed the challenges and opportunities of ageing populations in Europe within the context of current economic crisis.
- Approximately 105 participants attended the workshop.

#### **Workshop: An Optimal European Chronic Care Framework: Towards Implementation and Benchmarking**

- Organizers: Epossi – European Platform for Patients Organisations, Science and Industry; and the EUPHA Section on Chronic Diseases
- This workshop outlined key learning and policy recommendations to the practical implementation of Chronic Care Models (CCM) in Europe.
- Approximately 25 participants attended the workshop.

### **3. 1<sup>st</sup> V4 conference on Public Health**

- The EUPHA and the ESCD joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Health conference of Visegrad Four (V4) countries – Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia
- About 120 representatives from the V4 countries came together to discuss the subject at an international conference in Košice, Slovakia on 9–10 May 2013. The main aim of the event was to support further development of public health systems in the V4 countries and to foster multidimensional approach in ensuring healthy life years.
- EUPHA keynote speakers at the V4 conference: Dr. Dineke Zeegers Paget and Prof. Walter Ricciardi
- More at conference web-site: <http://conference2013.savez.sk/>

### **4. Commenting strategic documents**

#### **RIVM / DG SANCO report on chronic diseases and economic activity**

- In April 2013 the DG SANCO report ‘Europeans of retirement age: chronic diseases and economic activity’ prepared by the RIVM – Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment was published.
- This report have been reviewed by the following ESCD members: Prof. Dr. Arpo Aromaa, Finland; Dr. Reza Bidaki, Iran; Dr. Angela de Boer, the Netherlands; Dr. Cécile Boot, the Netherlands; Dr. Madalena Cunha, Portugal; Dr. Mariana Dyakova, United Kingdom; Dr. Marine Gambaryan, MD, MPH, Russia; Dr. Ellina Lytyvak, MD, Canada; Dr. Iveta Rajnicova–Nagyova, Slovak Republic; Máire O’Connor, MB, MRCPI, MPH, FFPHMI, MD, Ireland; Dr. Aleksander Owczarek, Poland; Dr. Barbara Pellizzari, Italy; Dr. Josianne Scerri, Malta and United Kingdom; Dr. Walter Schönfelder, Norway; Erika Wichro, Austria; Sonela Xinxo, MD, MPH, Albania.

#### **EUPHA statement for the Ashgabat WHO conference on NCDs**

- ESCD members have prepared a statement for the WHO European Ministerial Conference on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the context of Health 2020 that took place on 3–4 December 2013 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The process was lead by Dr David Stuckler, section vice-president and the new EUPHA policy pillar lead in collaboration with Dr Iveta Rajnicova–Nagyova, section president.
- ESCD contributed also to the joint NGO statement for the above mentioned WHO Ministerial Conference. The joint NGO statement was delivered on behalf of the NCD Alliance, Framework Convention Alliance, European Association for the Study of Obesity, European Respiratory Society, Smoke Free Partnership, World Cancer Research Fund International, the International Union Against TB and Lung Disease, and European Public Health Association,
- The WHO documents including the NGO statements can be downloaded from the WHO web-site: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/media-centre/events/events/2013/12/ashgabat-conference-on-noncommunicable-diseases>

## 5. Collaboration with the EUPHANxt

- EUPHANxt is a free and open initiative that aims to collect the active contribution of students, young researchers, practitioners and policymakers interested in European public health issues, in order to sensitize and involve them into the European and multidisciplinary network of public health associations.
- Within the framework of collaboration between EUPHANxt and ESCD Ms Sophie Baird, a young International Master of Public Health Student from the EHESP Ecole des Hautes Études en Santé Publique | School of Public Health, Rennes–Paris, spent four months at the Graduate School KISH, Safarik University in Kosice, Slovakia. The outcomes of her research study were also presented at the 6th EPH conference in Brussels, 13–16 November 2013.

## 6. Projects

The ESCD has been actively involved in the PHIRE project (founded by the European Commission, DG SANCO/EAHC, Agreement No. 20091214; Project duration: 09/2010–02/2013). The project coordinator is EUPHA (Dr. Dineke Zeegers Paget) and the ESCD was responsible for evaluation of the tracer project from the field of chronic diseases: "EUCID – European core indicators in diabetes mellitus" (project number: 2005109).

## 7. Representation of section/EUPHA at conferences and other events

Dr. Iveta Rajnicova–Nagyova, president of the EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases, was the formal representation of EUPHA at the WHO European Ministerial Conference on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases in the context of Health 2020 that took place on 3–4 December 2013 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

## 8. Communication

### ESCD website

The section's website has been updated. The web-site contains information on president and vice-presidents, as well as activities organized by the section since its establishment; such as 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. For the section web pages at the EUPHA website, see:

[http://www.eupha.org/site/section\\_page.php?section\\_ref=S\\_CD](http://www.eupha.org/site/section_page.php?section_ref=S_CD)

### EUPHA mailman system

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, e.g.:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 22 Jan 2013 | Updates from the WHO Executive Board   Global Monitoring Framework for NCDs   |
| 23 Jan 2013 | DG SANCO on the reflection process on chronic diseases  |
| 23 Jan 2013 | EIP–AHA updates: European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing<br>European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing   |
| 28 Jan 2013 | First Announcement: 1st V4 Public Health Conference "Adding Years to Life and Life to Years in V4 Countries" to be held in Kosice, Slovak Republic on 9–10 May 2013                                   |
| 14 Feb 2013 | FW: Launch of call for expressions of interest – Horizon 2020 Advisory Groups /<br>Brochure "Communicating EU Research & Innovation – a guide for project participants"<br>– Next Programme Committee |
| 26 Feb 2013 | 10th anniversary of the founding of the Edinburgh Ethnicity and Health Research Group   |
| 27 Feb 2013 | Info on extended deadline for joining the EIP–AHA   |

- 27 Feb 2013 III International Symposium on Wellness & Chronic Care
- 22 Apr 2012 DG SANCO report on Chronic Diseases and Economic Activity, prepared by RIVM | This report was reviewed by ESCD members
- 22 Aug 2013 World Health Report: Research for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
- 22 Aug 2013 RIVM reports for DG SANCO: EU reflection Process on Chronic Disease | Results of the Stakeholder Consultation & Executive Summary
- 30 Sep 2013 ESCD programme highlights | 6th EPH 2013 Brussels
- 06 Nov 2013 Flyer: Program pre-conference workshop "Public Health: the Next Step" | 6th EPH Brussels
- 12 Nov 2013 Ashgabat – Regional Consultation – Ashgabat declaration (ENG) | Statement of behalf of EUPHA

## 7. Outlook for 2014

- Organization: Formation of a section Steering Committee

The following tasks were envisaged for the Steering Committee members:

1. Advise the section President and vice-President about issues such as strategy and activities of the section, collaboration with external partners, and the role/position of the section within (developments in) EUPHA
  2. Support the section President and vice-President with the execution of section related tasks, such as consulting section members on specific topics, preparing the section's annual meeting, and writing news updates for e.g. the EUPHA Newsletter
  3. Contribute to articles, (position) papers etc. on behalf of the section, at the request of or in consultation with the section President and vice-President
  4. Represent the section/EUPHA at conferences and other events, at the request of or in consultation with the section President and vice-President and/or the EUPHA office
  5. Supporting the section in preparation of research grants
  6. Promoting the section's public health areas of interest
- 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 plan to more actively search for the possibilities to be involved in 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 the 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.

31<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Dr Iveta Rajnicova–Nagyova, president  
EUPHA Section on Chronic Diseases