

## 2014 Annual Report: EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)



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### 1. 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 over 1200 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.

#### Who is who?

Dr Iveta Nagyova, president – PJ Safafrik University, Kosice & Slovak Public Health Association (SAVEZ), Slovak Republic

Prof David Stuckler, vice-president – Oxford University & London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

Dr Colette Andree, vice-president – CRP-Santé, Centre for Health Studies, Luxembourg University, Luxembourg & University of Basel, Switzerland

### 2. Conferences | Pre-conferences | Workshops

During the 7<sup>th</sup> European Public Health (EPH) conference, 19–22 November 2014, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom we co-organized 2 pre-conferences and 3 workshops; we also took part in Plenary 2 and Workshop M1 panel discussions. All workshops and pre-conferences were well attended; usually with over 50 participants being present. [Read more.](#)

**Preconference:** *Adaptation of health promotion and disease prevention interventions for migrant and ethnic minority populations: policy, practice and research*

- Organizers: EUPHA section on Migrant and ethnic minority health, EUPHA section on Health promotion and EUPHA section on Chronic diseases (ESCD); as well as Scottish Health Migration and Ethnicity Research Strategy Steering Group, West of Scotland Health and Ethnicity Network, and Edinburgh Ethnicity and Health Research Group.

- Aims: This pre-conference aimed to provide an overview of national policies on migration, ethnicity and health and to share experience on the pre-conference theme with the intention of furthering a common agenda across European countries.

**Preconference:** *Evidence generation and successful knowledge transfer: Is Integrated Care the key to health system transformation?*

- Organizers: European Commission, DG SANCO/Chafea and DG RTD; IFIC, EUPHA; EUPHA section on Public health practice and policy & EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)
- Aims: The pre-conference focused on critical “building blocks” of an integrative approach to care delivery. It reviewed experiences in scaling up critical components such as clinical guidelines development, implementation of Integrated Care Pathways or initiatives to bridge the health and social care sectors. The workshop looked into the so-called “hard” component of transformative change, to include health information, financing and assets in healthcare; as well as the so-called “soft-issues” linked to change management, to include leadership issues, organizational culture and behaviour.

**Workshop N3:** *Diagnose-based morbidity statistics for the European Union*

- Organizers: European Commission EUROSTAT, EUPHA section on Public Health Monitoring and Reporting, EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)
- Aims: This workshop was organized as a back-to-back session with a workshop focusing on the activities of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, Italy in the field of morbidity.

**Workshop D4:** *Effective action on NCD prevention: A focus on price*

- Organizers: WHO-EURO Division on Noncommunicable Diseases and Life Course, EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)
- Aims: The workshop discussed the imperatives for actions three years from the adoption of UN Political Declaration on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs). More in detail, it dealt with the relevance to the global targets (reduction of tobacco smoking, alcohol use, stabilisation of the diabetes and obesity epidemics) and possibilities of its facilitation by setting the right price signals. Concrete evidences and experiences from Europe with using taxes and subsidies to promote healthier choices were debated.

**Workshop D5:** *Integrated care: A roadmap for Europe to innovate patient centred chronic disease care*

- Organizers: EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD) and section on Health Services Research
- Aims: The aim of this workshop was to accelerate improvements in care and support for people with long term illnesses or at risk of such illness and to define future implementation research priorities. The workshop provided an overview of most recent European initiatives regarding innovations in chronic illness care.

**Workshop M1:** *Chronic diseases and employment in Europe –increasing gap?*

- Organizers: EUPHA Section of Social Security and Health. The ESCD was invited to participate in panel discussion.
- Aims: Within this workshop results from 4 longitudinal studies (from Spain, Finland, France, The Netherlands, and Sweden) on different types of measures of labour market participation/exclusion in worker populations with different chronic diseases were presented. The goal of the symposium was to encourage research in the field of chronic disease and work to provide all key stakeholders with better knowledge about working with a chronic disease.

**Plenary 2: Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases: Old Challenges, Novel Solutions**

The president of the EUPHA section on Chronic Disease Dr Iveta Nagyova took part in the Plenary 2 Panel Discussion together with the president of the EUPHA section on Infectious diseases control Dr Aura Timen. The keynote speakers of this plenary were Dr Marc Spenger, Director of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Disease Control – ECDC and Prof Simon Capewell, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology in the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom. The plenary was moderated by Prof Jose Martin-Moreno, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health University of Valencia, Spain.

**Other conferences**

Several EUPHA sections, including the EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD), were involved also in the co-organization of the **11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban Health**, 4–7 March 2014, Manchester, United Kingdom. [Read more.](#)

### 3. Representation on behalf of the EUPHA / ESCD

In 2014 Dr Iveta Nagyova, president of the EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases, was the formal representation of EUPHA/ESCD at the following events:

**European Diabetes Leadership Forum 2014, 4 March 2014, Brussels, Belgium**

Expert panel discussion within a Session '*Patient empowerment – effective management of diabetes and good practices in patient empowerment as a way to improve diabetes management.*

The event was hosted by the Danish Diabetes Association in partnership with Novo Nordisk. The meeting welcomed 240 high level guests from national and EU levels to discuss how to best manage diabetes as a model for sustainable chronic disease management. The Forum featured keynote speeches from His Royal Highness Prince Joachim of Denmark, patron of the Danish Diabetes Association, EU Commissioner Tonio Borg and the Danish Minister for Health Astrid Krag as well as a contribution from Christel Schaldemose MEP, Co-Chair of the European Parliament's Diabetes Working Group. [Read more.](#)

**EU Summit on Chronic Diseases, 3–4 April 2014, Brussels, Belgium**

This summit discussed medical, social and economic benefits of sustainable investments in health, ways to reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and how to strengthen the prevention and management of chronic diseases, with a focus on EU added value and action. [Read more.](#)

**Expert Roundtable 'Policy options to improve care for patients with heart failure', 11 June 2014, Brussels, Belgium**

On 11 June 2014, Novartis International AG organised an expert roundtable to discuss key challenges and policy recommendations to improve care for patients with heart failure. The roundtable brought together 19 experts representing policy makers, healthcare professionals, patient organizations and civil society groups from across Europe. It provided a multi-stakeholder perspective on the key findings of a Policy Report on improving care for patients with acute heart failure published by the Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology. [Read more.](#)

**7<sup>th</sup> Italian Barometer Diabetes Forum, 10 –11 July 2014, Rome, Italy**

Opening presentation in a Session: '*EU and Italian actions to address diabetes in collaboration with Ministry of Health National Diabetes Committee.*' Title of the presentation: '*A roadmap for Europe to innovative patient centred chronic disease care: Stakeholders involvement.*'

The Forum 2014 welcomed representatives from the Italian Parliament, scientific societies, and patients associations. Its specific aim was to discuss the up-to-date situation of the burden of disease on diabetes and its care, and activate – together with the other countries involved – a shared and consistently updated system for the exchange of information and experience. [Read more.](#)

#### **ENCR–European Network of Cancer Registries & JRC–Joint Research Centre, 12–14 November 2014, Ispra Varese, Italy**

The ENCR and the JRC organized the ENCR Scientific Meeting and General Assembly *‘Towards a harmonised cancer information system in Europe’*. The purpose of this meeting was for European cancer registries to share research findings, discuss cancer registration issues, exchange ideas and best practices, network, present epidemiological work based on cancer registry data and to meet with the ENCR Steering Committee. At the meeting targets staff belonging to ENCR–affiliated cancer registries including registrars, researchers, epidemiologists, and clinicians were present. Participants also included representatives from the European Commission, various European institutions, research projects, cancer associations and invited speakers. [Read more.](#)

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

#### **Novartis AG / Expert Roundtable Summary Report: Policy Options to Improve Care for Patients with Heart Failure**

EUPHA/ESCD together with other civil society groups from across Europe provided a multi-stakeholder perspective on the key findings of Policy Report that outlines key challenges and policy asks for improving heart failure care. The report entitled ‘Improving care for patients with acute heart failure: Before, during and after hospitalization’ was been endorsed and adopted by the Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology as part of their Global Heart Failure Awareness Programme. [Read more.](#)

### **5. Projects**

In 2014 we have been involved in the preparation of 5 EU project proposals; in particular one DG SANCO/CHAFEA proposal dealing with chronic disease self-care and four H2020 project proposals dealing with the use of ICT in healthy and active ageing; interlinks between obesity, diabetes and sleep apnoea; support of under-competitive regions in Europe; and mental health in the elderly. Out of these only the project dealing with preventing mental and neurological disorders in community dwelling older people passed the H2020 Stage 1 procedure. The project is co-ordinated by Prof Jutta Lindert – president of the EUPHA section on Mental Health, and 17 other European partners are involved.

### **6. Collaboration**

Our main strategic collaborating non-EUPHA partner is the WHO–EURO Division on Noncommunicable Diseases and Life Course. So far we organized together 3 workshops at the European Public Health Conferences (2011, 2012, 2014). Moreover, in 2014 Prof D. Stuckler and Dr I. Nagyova became members of the WHO Senior Advisory Group for strategic WHO document ‘Roadmap of actions to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe 2015–2020’.

With regard to EUPHA sections, in 2014 we organized common workshops and pre-conferences with 7 sections: Migrant and ethnic minority health, Health promotion, Public health monitoring and reporting, Health services research, Public health practice and policy, Social security and health, and Infectious disease control.

## 7. Communication

### ESCD website

The section's website is regularly updated. It contains information on activities organized by the section since its establishment; such as workshops and preconference organized during the annual EUPHA conferences. It also contains ESCD publications such as texts from the EUPHA conference proceedings and short reports from the European Journal of Public Health. For section web pages at the EUPHA website see: <http://www.eupha.org/chronic-diseases>

### 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.

## 8. Outlook for 2015

- Organization: Formation of a section Steering Committee
- 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 – EUPHA mailman system and the section's website.
- Projects: We will continue in our plans to more actively search for the possibilities to be involved in EU projects. In April 2015 the submission of the H2020 project proposal on preventing mental and neurological disorders in the elderly is planned. The project is coordinated by Prof Jutta Lindert – president of the EUPHA section on Mental Health.
- 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. Also, in September 2015 in collaboration with the WHO-EURO Division on Noncommunicable Diseases and Life Course we plan to organize a Visegrad 4 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia) + Ukraine conference on Prevention and Control of Chronic Non-communicable Diseases.
- 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 such as EUPHActs.
- 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 to continue in fruitful and inspiring collaboration with various EUPHA section on workshops, pre-conference and project proposal.

28<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Dr Iveta Nagyova, president  
EUPHA Section on Chronic Diseases