

## Annual report 2022

### EUPHA Digital Health section (EUPHA-DH)



#### Overview and goals

As digitalization is permeating all aspects of society, questions arise as to how it can be fruitfully employed to sustain the public health goals of quality, accessibility, efficiency and equity in healthcare and prevention. The EUPHA Digital Health Section was approved by the EUPHA Governing board in November 2019, in the context of the 12th European Public Health Conference in Marseille, France. Acknowledging the importance of the current and future role of digitalization in public health and building on the enriching discussion stimulated by past EPH scientific sessions, the establishment of a EUPHA thematic Section on Digital Health was proposed with the aim of bringing together re- searchers, policymakers and practitioners across Europe working on digital public health for knowledge sharing and capacity building. The Section aims to work across competences, disciplines and settings to apply EUPHA’s strategic objectives to the field of digital health. The Section aims at building advocacy, and at gathering, producing and disseminating evidence on the need for and on the impact of digital solutions for public health. It brings together a core group of experts in selected digital health aspects, facilitate the exchange of national-level best practices and stimulate the Europe-level debate to place digital public health high in the EU policy, research and education agenda.



### **The Steering Committee of the Digital Health Section**

The EUPHA Digital Health Section Steering Committee was established in 2021. This last year 2022 has been central for the development of the section. The team is composed by a group of diverse and ambitious professionals sharing a common goal: the progress of Digital Public Health. This new core group has brought new energy and new expertise, setting the tone for an exciting future for the Digital Health Section. A strong steering committee is helping to deliver the agenda and the priorities that the section has set for the years to come. Our Steering committee reflects the section membership in terms of geography and multi-disciplinary expertise within the field of digital health. The Digital Health Section Steering Committee Such a group support different section actions including: research monitoring, communication, events and advocacy, reactive to policy needs at the European level, and ensuring that the voice of EUPHA is heard.

#### **Steering Committee Members:**

**Monica Georgiana Brînzac**, Research Assistant Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania

**Prof Luis Lapao**, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

**Dr Marie-Annick Le Pogam**, University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

**Brian Li Han Wong**, Youth Officer, The Lancet & Financial Times Commission on "Governing Health Futures 2030: Growing up in a digital world", London, UK

**Laura Maass**, PhD University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany

**Dr Robin Ohannessian**, Co-founder and Director at Telemonica and Télémedecine 360, France

**Dr Juan José Rachadell**, PH Resident, Lisbon, Portugal

**Dr Sebastiano Sorbello**, MPH Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, US

**Prof Anthony Staines**, Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland

**Dr Duarte José Vital de Brito**, PH Resident, Central Lisbon PH Unit, Portugal

**Dr Alice Vodden**, MPH Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

**Prof Hajo Zeeb**, University of Bremen, Bremen, Germany

#### **Activities at the EPH conference (15th EPH Conference 2022)**

The Berlin EPH Conference recognized digitalization one of the key themes. As mentioned in the Conference theme's presentation "digitalization is a key area where recent developments require us to exchange ideas and come up with new approaches. The past decades have seen significant developments in data collection and processing capacity as well as eHealth applications. We need to ensure that the vast amounts of data generated are well protected on the one hand, but also available and usable for public health interventions" In line with that, at the 15th EPH Conference we encouraged the largest possible DH section members participation and we are actively worked to propose a rich set of Digital Health-related activities. We pre-reviewed several abstracts relevant to digital public health and supported ideas for digital health-related pre-conferences, round tables or workshops, we grouped proposals, facilitated connections and coordinated several proposals' submissions.

The DH section organized three Skills Building Seminars and one Round Table, detailed above:

▪ **Round tables:**

- 3.F. Round table: Better DiPH – To plan, implement, evaluate, and the future of digital public health interventions

▪ **Skills Building Seminar:**

- 1.F. Skills building seminar: Podcast 101
- 2.F. Skills building seminar: Health Data Pipelines: moving away from Excel to scalable, insightful and future-proof infrastructure
- 6.F. Skills building seminar: Digital health, informatics, and public health

The EPH “Digital health and communication” track included four Skills Building Seminars, two round tables, one workshop, sessions of oral presentations, pitches, and poster walks.

**eHealth Stakeholder Group**

The European Public Health Association Section on Digital Health has continued its prolific activity as member of the European eHealth Stakeholder Group. The eHealth Stakeholder Group provides advice and expertise to the Commission, particularly on topics set out in the Communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market, that was adopted in April 2018. In particular in relation to the following areas: i) Health Data, including taking forward the Commission Recommendation on a European Electronic Health record exchange format and the further elaboration of the baseline set of technical specifications and better interoperability, ii) Digital health services, iii) Health data protection and privacy issues, iv) Cybersecurity for health and care data, v)



Digital tools for citizen empowerment and person centred care, v) Artificial intelligence and health, as well as other cross cutting aspects linked to the digital transformation of health and care, such as financing and investment proposals and enabling technologies.

## Relevant publications on behalf of the Section



**EUPHA** @EUPHActs · 3 Feb

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A great piece by our @euphadh section on the implications of digital public health for public health policy and practice in Europe. Congratulations to all of the authors.

- Wong BLH, Maaß L, Vodden A, van Kessel R, Sorbello S, Buttigieg S, Odone A; European Public Health Association (EUPHA) Digital Health Section. The dawn of digital public health in Europe: Implications for public health policy and practice. *Lancet Reg Health Eur.* 2022 Mar;14:100316. doi: 10.1016/j.lanepe.2022.100316. Epub 2022 Feb 3. PMID: 35132399; PMCID: PMC8811486.
- Blandi L, Sabbatucci M, Dallagiacomma G, Alberti F, Bertuccio P, Odone A. Digital Information Approach through Social Media among Gen Z and Millennials: The Global Scenario during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Vaccines (Basel).* 2022 Oct 28;10(11):1822. doi: 10.3390/vaccines10111822. PMID: 36366331; PMCID: PMC9696549.

**Art and the Use of Digital Health Data to Support Vaccination Programmes in Europe: State of the**

## General communications with section members

- **Newsletter & section webpage:** we communicate with members through newsletters, email and updating the section [webpage](#).
- **Social media:** we are active on Twitter through the [Section official Twitter account](#)