



Minutes Join the network meeting, 11th November 2023

h. 10:30-11:30, Ecocem room

EUPHA Digital Health section (EUPHA DH)



The EUPHA DH-Section Join the Network meeting was organised in the context of the 16th European Public Health Conference in Dublin. It was attended by over 30 delegates, both members and non-members of the Section.

Section President Anna Odone and Vice President Stefan Buttigieg welcomed all participants and provided general Section updates, including the new term and updated membership numbers, as the Section has reached 1694 members. The Section President then presented relevant activities carried out in the previous months, with particular reference to:

- Section activities during the EPH 2023 conference, including participation in the WHO Regional Office for Europe's 4th plenary "On the path to an equitable and sustainable digital future for European health systems", a pre-conference session and three workshops. The EPH "Expanding Horizons: Digital innovations, Monitoring, Foresight" also included seven workshops, two sessions of oral presentations and two sessions of pitch presentations;
- Participation in eHealth Stakeholder Group, updates and renewal confirmed for 2023-2026;
- Participation in WHO/Europe briefing on regional roadmap for antimicrobial resistance;
- International participation in events on behalf of EUPHA (e.g. Tilburg Law School Panel at 16th international Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection -CPDP- conference; European Public Health Week - The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies);
- Scientific publications, including over 10 papers published on peer-reviewed journals/supplements.

Afterwards, the Section President and Vice President shared some proposals for 2024, including:

i) extending the Section name to “Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence”; ii) updating the Section Manifesto on EJPB; iii) topics and collaboration for research activities; iv) improving the Section’s communication and social media campaigns (i.e. by opening a LinkedIn account), coordinating action with EUPHA; v) defining a common policy for partnerships.

Two guests, John Glennane (founder of Capventis) and Valerio Peruzzi (University of Siena), then contributed with reflections and case studies. John Glennane highlighted the importance of networking between different professionals and being part of an integrated system, while Dr Valerio Peruzzi shared with participants an experience of augmented reality applied to health promotion at the University of Siena, Italy.

A round of introductions, opening discussion and brainstorming followed. Participants presented their roles and interests in digital public health. There were stimulating contributions and interactions from the audience, including: i) collaboration and input from members on DH-related content within the next EPH conference; ii) sharing of research ideas, materials and projects related to digital public health; iii) platform for broader collaboration with Section members. For example, Dr Luigi De Angelis (medical resident in public health at the University of Pisa (Italy) suggested the relationship between research and artificial intelligence as a possible topic for a workshop at the EPH 2024 conference. Dr Francesco Baglivo, medical resident in Public Health at University of Pisa, proposed a collaboration between the Section and the recently founded Italian Society for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine. Laura Maass, a Doctoral researcher at the Leibniz Science Campus Digital Public Health in Bremen, intervened and suggested more collaboration and exchange of ideas in the organisation of the EPH 2024 conference activities with all interested members of the section. Other contributions from the audience, including from Prof Anthony Staines, focused on research topics (public health terminology) and possible collaborations (with the EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section). In particular, the usefulness of creating a repository of research centres , possible partners and research resources emerged.

The points that arose from the brainstorming session were summarised by the President and Vice-President in the following action points for 2024:

- Propose extending the name of the section to 'Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence'
- Update the Section Manifesto on EJPB
- Open a LinkedIn account for the section and set up an editorial plan for social communication
- Identify a platform to encourage teamwork and participation of section members in the organisation of activities planned for the EPH 2024 conference
- Prepare a list of research topics that the section would be interested in addressing in the coming months, including artificial intelligence (also in relation to infection prevention), public health terminology and ethics
- Identify a platform for sharing research material and possible partners to be involved
- Determine a common affiliation for papers

The conclusions of the President and Vice-President focused on final remarks and thanks to all participants.