

EUPHA Public Health Economics section – Presidency motivation letter

Dear colleagues from the EUPHA Public Health Economics section,

According to the EUPHA Section Rules, the calls for presidency of the EUPHA-ECO section are now open and elections will soon be held. I am therefore submitting my candidacy for the EUPHA-ECO section Presidency position.

Before setting out my views on the future priorities for the section and how I would intend to lead our work in the years ahead, I would like to thank the outgoing President for her work and contributions. Thank you, Diana!

Building on that work, we must now firmly set our sights on the future. In line with EUPHA's vision, I believe our section can contribute to "improve health in Europe, adding value to the efforts of stakeholders in regions and states, in national and international organisations, and individual public health professionals". If given the opportunity, I would see this as a guiding objective throughout my mandate as Section President.

After being an EUPHA-ECO section member and attending the last 3 "Join the Network" meetings held by the section, I became Section Vice-President in January 2021, acting in substitution of the President, who has been on leave since then. In this time, along with the Steering Committee, we have managed to do very interesting and diverse work, increasing the reach and impact of our section. I have really enjoyed working with everyone, not only in the EUPHA-ECO section, but also in EUPHA itself.

As far as the requirements for the position go, I meet all of them, as I am a full member of EUPHA, have vast research experience in both public health and health economics (e.g. with projects in health systems' efficiency and inequalities) and extensive working experience in public health, including in the Portuguese Northern Regional Health Administration, Portuguese Directorate-General of Health and the European Observatory of Health Systems and Policies.

Since I became Vice-President, I attended the Section Council meeting, responded to different requests for the section (e.g. feedback for the European Court of Auditors' report), organised a Steering Committee meeting (involving the members in several outputs of the section), prepared a section thematic webinar entitled "Economic burden of diseases: methodological pearls and pitfalls", organised 2 pre-conferences and 3 workshops (jointly with other sections) for the 14th European Public Health Conference (EPHC), scored over 40 abstracts for the Conference, participated in the organization of the European Public Health Week, elaborated an e-collection and prepared an editorial entitled "Health, Public Health, and Health Economics" for the European Journal of Public Health.

I would be thrilled to continue all this work, as Section President, and to have the opportunity to develop new ideas on how we can move our section forward. If elected, I plan to tailor our section's outputs according to the section members' demands, by establishing a regular communication channel with all section members. I will call more colleagues from Health Economics into EUPHA and really take advantage on the intersection of Health Economics and Public Health to foment collaboration that can only benefit European Public Health as a whole, to organise further webinars/pre-conferences/sessions aimed at enhancing evidence visibility and strengthening public health professionals' capacity and, ultimately, increasing EUPHA's impact on other organisations and stakeholders such as EuHEA or iHEA, through continued collaboration.

It would really be an honour to represent EUPHA and the EUPHA-ECO section in particular, as this is a very exciting field and one where EUPHA can really make a difference. I hope you can consider me for the Presidency position, as I am ready and motivated to dedicate the necessary energy and time to this ambitious task and I would like to thank you all for your consideration and support.

Kindest regards,

João Vasco Santos