



Annual report 2021

EUPHA Public Health Economics section (PHEco)

Goals for 2021

Although the president of the section Diana Sonntag is in parental leave until March 2022, the Public Health Economics (PHEco) section of EUPHA has been quite active this year by advocating Public Health Economics in Europe, developing engagement across EUPHA and organizing pre-conferences, webinars and workshops at the European Public Health Conference as well as at other international conferences (see below for detailed description).

In reaching these goals, we are delighted to announce that the PHEco has two new members in its board. In February 2021, Diana Sonntag was honored that Prof. Kevin Balanda (University College Cork, Ireland) accepted her invitation to join the steering committee of the PHEco. Joao Vasco Santos (University of Porto, Portugal), a highly committed member of the PHEco became the new vice president after the former one Beatriz Gonzalez Lopez-Valcarcel left the section in January 2021.

Collaboration with section members

We are delighted that the PHEco joint an international group of researchers and practitioners that established a network and community of practice to address challenges in public health research like availability, usability and applicability of data and research in public health to guide public health action, health systems management and clinical care in an effective and sustainable way (January 2021). Called the COllaBoration in health economic modelling of overWEight and oBesity (The Obesity CobWeb), this network aims to build capacity by promoting the development of data, research and methodology, improving the interpretability of findings and supporting their translation into more effective decisions and actions.

To support this network, we are very happy to announce that the PHEco has introduced a new workstream lead by Kevin Balanda in February 2021. In March 2021, the PHEco was very happy to inform the EUPHA Section Council about this new workstream and to invite all members of the other EUPHA sections to join us.

Finally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are very sorry to postpone our plan to organize, together with Mariana Dyakova and her group (Public Health Wales), a joint skill building workshop.

Activities at the EPH conference

The PHEco is delighted to announce that we organized two pre-conferences: “What simulation modelling of obesity can be offered to policymakers and practitioners? How can we improve its contribution?” and “Panel data econometrics: how to perform your analysis in R”.

The first pre-conference, organized by Kevin Balanda in collaboration with the Obesity CobWeb, gave an overview of simulation modelling, presented a number of existing models and highlighted the research and data needs of simulation modelling of obesity. We then presented some exemplary examples of international collaboration, introduced the Obesity CobWeb network and discussed ways to improve the contribution of simulation modelling to improved obesity control.

The second pre-conference, organized by Joao Vasco Santos, aimed to present and discuss different approaches of analysing panel data in public health research by applying the statistical software R.



Other activities

Together with Prof. Martin Dlouhý (University of Prague), the PHEco is planning a Public Health Economics webinar about the economic burden of disease. Additionally, the new workstream of the PHEco is preparing a joint EUPHA and CobWeb statement on the economic simulation modelling on obesity.

General communications with section members

Networking meeting, email etc. We are planning a ZOOM meeting with the PHEco section members when Diana Sonntag is back to work. Additionally, Joao Vasco Santos is planning to draft a newsletter to enhance the communication with the section members.

International participation in events on behalf of EUPHA

We are very pleased that the symposium on “COllaboration in health economic modelling of overWEight and oBesity – An invitation to the Cobweb Network” organized by the new workstream of the PHEco, together with the Obesity CobWeb, has been accepted at the European Congress of Obesity (ECO 2021). Additionally, we presented a poster on “Big data and simulation modelling of obesity: The need for greater international collaboration and co-ordination” at the ECO 2021.