



## Annual report 2020

### EUPHA Public Health Epidemiology section (EUPHA-EPI)

#### Goals for 2021

The aim of this section is to enhance the EUPHA network and increase the knowledge base of epidemiologic principles, tools and practice that can be applied to public health. As such, several actors and disciplines are involved from research several fields: beyond epidemiology, biostatistics and social sciences. A relevant role of the section is also promoting educational initiatives in this context.

In 2021, we aim to further:

- Promote and strengthen the development and use of the epidemiological methods in public health
- Encourage the presentation of research activities and related outputs at the annual conferences, related to the use of epidemiological tools in public health.
- Submit at least one workshop on relevant aspects regarding public health epidemiology.
- Work for a high scientific standard of studies on public health epidemiology.
- Encourage the publication of studies on public health epidemiology.
- Act in an advisory capacity for policy statements and papers to influence policy makers and politicians in line with EUPHA objectives.
- Arrange a pre-conference educational event for public health epidemiology researchers in connection to the EUPHA annual conferences.
- Address how social determinants of health affected the Covid-19 epidemic using different indicators to measure the health-illness continuum.
- Investigate Public health aspects related to the new occurrence of the Covid-19 epidemic.

#### Collaboration with section members and activities at the EPH conference

Different collaborating activities are being carried out with other sections and members of the EUPHA network. The collaboration of the EUPHA-EPI Section together with Public Health Genomics, Digital and Health Promotion Sections ended up in the organization of a workshop in the 16th World **Congress** of Public Health entitled “Harnessing the digital transformation of disease prevention: a focus on m-health and genomics”. The workshop aims to convene a discussion between different stakeholders including academia, industry, international organizations and policy makers to talk about the current evidence and implications that such new technologies have for public health practitioners, and suggests next steps to support the adoption of technologies that currently demonstrate their value for population health.

### **Annual meeting**

The Section meeting in 2020 will be held during the Conference via Zoom where only registered participants will have access (with a maximum number of 100 participants ). The join the network meeting will be bringing together delegates interested in public health epidemiology, covering details on our members and representatives, the aims of the section, pre-conference and workshop activities, the members' survey, newsletter, ideas for workshop activities in the future, with suggestions from participants.

### **General communications with section members**

In January 2020, we sent out a newsletter to the members of the EPI section. The newsletter focused on what happened during the 2019 conference, in particular the pre-conference that yielded great uptake with 41 delegates from 17 countries, two workshops one regarding real-world data and maternal and child health; the success of the Join the Network meeting where EUPHA members were invited to become part of it to increase and share the work behind. Members were also made aware of the future events that would be carried out: the World Congress on public Health, HTA-international Annual Meeting, the European Public Health week, the European Public Health Week 2020, the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting and Expo, the Conference on infectious diseases in public health in London and the annual scientific meeting of the Society for Social Medicine & Population Health in Cambridge. Furthermore, interesting courses in epidemiology and biostatistics, and interesting readings were suggested.

In September we will send out a second newsletter aimed at sharing cthe contents related to the coming World Congress.

### **Survey on Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Tests**

We carried out a survey to understand the current state of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of public health professionals, members of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) towards Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Tests (DTC-GTs). The questionnaire was elaborated based on the results of a scoping review on healthcare professionals' perspectives towards DTC-GTs. The survey, validated by means of focus group methodology, involved experts in genetics, public health, and public health genomics. The web-based, self-administered, confidential, and anonymous survey was voluntary and EUPHA members were invited to participate and fill it in through both email invitation, and EUPHA and EUPHANxt newsletters. The data collected until March 31st, 2020 and was in compliance with data protection regulation. A total of 201 public health professionals completed the survey. Results are not published yet but will focus on the knowledge of public health professionals about these tests since an increasing trend in public availability of DTC-GTs among citizens.