



Annual report 2023

EUPHA Public Health Epidemiology section (EUPHA-EPI)

The section currently includes >5700 section members from different fields and experiences, but all interested in epidemiology. The President of the Section is Prof. Stefania Boccia from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, and the Vice-Presidents are Prof. Ralf Reintjes from University of Hamburg and Dr. Angelo Maria Pezzullo from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore.

Goals for 2024

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 in public health research and practice. As such, many actors and disciplines from several research fields such as epidemiology, biostatistics and social sciences are involved. A relevant role of the section is also promoting educational initiatives in this context.

In 2024, we aim to further:

- Promote and strengthen the development and use of epidemiological methods in public health.
- Encourage the presentation at annual conferences of research activities and related outputs involved in the use of epidemiological tools in public health.
- Submit at least one workshop relevant to public health epidemiology.
- Arrange a pre-conference educational event for public health epidemiology researchers in connection with the EUPHA annual conferences.
- 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 policymakers and politicians in line with EUPHA objectives.

Collaboration with section members and activities at the EPH conference

EUPHA-EPI actively collaborated throughout 2023 with section members and other sections of the EUPHA network. 'Join the Network' (JTN) meeting participants at the EPH Conference 2022 suggested some topics for the EPH conference 2023 workshops and pre-conferences. In March 2022, the section had a very successful 1-hour webinar with Dr Rosie Frasso on qualitative research in public health with more than 300 attendees. During that webinar was suggested to expand in whole day session in Dublin. The pre-conference provided practical insights into qualitative research techniques, covering foundational concepts, data collection methods, and analysis strategies. Dr. Rosie Frasso and Dr. Amy Leader who are Professors at the Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia led a very interactive session with practical exercises. It was held on Wednesday from 9.00 to 17.00.



Workshop: exploring vaccine hesitancy in Europe: understanding complexities and determinants

The workshop was promoted by the EPI section in collaboration with EUPHA-ETH, EUPHA-IDC, and the UK Faculty of Public Health. This workshop explored the intricate dynamics of vaccine hesitancy in Europe, delving into various contexts such as Western and Eastern European countries, ethnic minorities, and among healthcare professionals. The workshop was chaired by Dr. Angelo Maria Pezzullo and Dr. Farhang Tahzib. The speakers were Dr. Chiara Cadeddu from Erasmus University Rotterdam, Dr. Beatrix Orozsi from Semmelweis University, Dr. Maria Ganzcak from University of Zielona Gora, Dr. Giuseppina Lo Moro from University of Turin and Dr. Samia Latif from UK Health Security Agency.

Round table: Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention: which opportunities from the EU Cancer Mission?

The round table was promoted by the EPI section in collaboration with EUPHA-ECO, EUPHA-CHR, EUPHA-HSR, EUPHA-PHG. This roundtable with main experts in the field examined the complexities of implementing Europe's Beating Cancer Plan in the face of rising cancer rates and economic burdens. The round table was chaired by Prof Stefania Boccia and Prof Julian Mamo. The speakers were Prof Walter Ricciardi from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Prof Tit Albrecht, EUPHA President Elect, Dr. Joao Vasco Santos from EUPHA-ECO and Dr. Johan Hansen from EUPHA-HSR.

Workshop: data, tools and methodologies on injury burden in Europe: current limitations and future directions

The workshop was co-organized by EUPHA-INJ, EUPHA-ECO, Eurosafe, IDB Network and represents the continued collaboration with EUPHA-INJ and ECO sections on the burden of injury in Europe. The workshop was chaired by Dr. Maria Papadakaki from EUPHA-INJ and Dr. Joao Vasco Santos from EUPHA-ECO.

Webinar

Evidence-Based Public Health: The Contentious Interface Between Evidence and Public Health

The webinar was held on 8 May 2023 and led by Prof. John Ioannidis, Co-Director of the Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford (METRICS). Attended by more than 100 public health researchers, the webinar aimed to reflect with the European public health epidemiology community on the crucial role of evidence in guiding public health for both chronic problems and acute crisis circumstances. The webinar is still available on the EUPHA Resource Module.

Annual meeting

The Section meeting in 2023 was held on Friday 10 November from 12:45 to 13:45 during the EPH Conference and attended by 22 people. Only registered participants had access. The join the network meeting brought together delegates interested in public health epidemiology, covering details on our members and representatives, the aims of the section, pre-conference and workshop activities, newsletters, ideas for workshop activities in the future, with suggestions from participants. During the



meeting, several potential topics for the next conference were discussed, including: skill development in chronic disease epidemiology with a focus on trend analysis and social epidemiology, potentially collaborating with the EUPHA Chronic Diseases Section; improving writing and reporting of research findings and standards for publishing, possibly in partnership with EUPHAnxt; webinars on handling missing data and using data from reimbursement registries; and workshops on mixed methods for intervention evaluation, especially in health promotion, and structuring a workshop in collaboration with the Digital Health Section. Participants were encouraged to participate in the organisation of the workshops and suggest other possible topics before 15 January 2024. Finally, the president and vice-president advertised the search for members that have credentials and motivation for being part of the Section Steering Committee expanding the section's coordination group.

General communications with section members

In the first newsletter of the year, the EUPHA-EPI section announced key initiatives including the call for abstracts for the 16th European Public Health Conference and the appointment of Dr. Ralf Reintjes as the new Vice-President. A special webinar with Professor John Ioannidis was scheduled to discuss evidence-based public health. The section also introduced the European Public Health Week, emphasizing the theme "Public health: Global issues, local actions" for the May 2023 event. In the second newsletter of the year, the EUPHA-EPI section highlighted its activities at the upcoming 16th European Public Health Conference in Dublin. Key events included a hands-on workshop on qualitative research methods, a workshop exploring vaccine hesitancy in Europe, and a round table on cancer epidemiology and prevention under the EU Cancer Mission. Additionally, the newsletter mentioned a poster walk on epidemiology and a network meeting for public health epidemiology, emphasizing the active participation and leadership roles of section members in these events. An after-conference, third newsletter was sent in November to inform the section members about the outcomes of the EPH conference activities, attaching the JTN meeting discussion minutes. In the third newsletter, section members were also encouraged to participate in the organisation of the workshops and suggest other possible topics before 15 January 2024 and to submit application for being part of the Section Steering Committee.