



## **Minutes Join the Network meeting 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023 EUPHA section on Public Health Epidemiology (EUPHA-EPI)**

### **Agenda**

- Welcome
- About the section
- Newsletter
- Activities of the section at the EUPHA Conference 2023
- European Public Health Week webinar
- Expansion of the section's coordination group
- Suggestions from participants
- List of attendants

### **Welcome**

The session started at 12.50 on November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Wicklow Hall 2 with Stefania Boccia (president of the section) and Angelo Maria Pezzullo (vice-president of the section) chairing the session. A total of 22 people attended the Join the Network of the Public Health Epidemiology Section (EPI). Everyone introduced themselves with their name, position, organization, and research and work interests in order to better know each other.

### **About the section**

The section currently includes 5732 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.

The main goal of the section is to promote and strengthen the development and use of the epidemiological methods in public health.

To reach this goal, the aims of the section for 2024 are:

- 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

## **Newsletter**

Participants are kept informed via the Section newsletter on events (conferences, seminars etc) and updates (including important papers) related to the section and the field of epidemiology. The latest newsletter was sent on 8/11/2023.

## **Activities of the section at the EUPHA Conference 2023**

### **Pre-conference course**

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 Albreht, 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.

### **European Public Health Week webinar**

On 8 May 2022 at 14:00 CET, on the European Public Health Week, a webinar titled "Evidence-Based Public Health: The Contentious Interface Between Evidence and Public Health" was held. The webinar was 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.

### Expansion of the section's coordination group

To improve and support the activities of the section, the team is considering establishing a steering committee group that meets online every three months for new ideas and initiatives. For those who are interested in participating is asked to send an email to the President email ([stefania.boccia@unicatt.it](mailto:stefania.boccia@unicatt.it)).

### Suggestion from participants

The president and vice-president request that participants share ideas and proposals for the activities of the upcoming year, with a special focus on pre-conference courses, workshop activities at the next EUPHA conference, and activities for the European Public Health Week.

Pre-conferences:

- Development of skills in the epidemiology of chronic diseases has been suggested, including trend analysis. Participants have also proposed that it would be interesting to include a focus on social epidemiology. A possible collaboration with EUPHA Chronic Disease Section has been suggested.
- Writing and reporting research findings, as well as on the standards for publishing. A possible collaboration with EUPHAnxt has been suggested.

Webinars:

- Handling missing data
- Obtaining and using data from reimbursement registries.

Workshops:

- The use of mixed methods for the evaluation of interventions, with a focus on health promotion.
- Structure a workshop in collaboration with the Digital Health Section.

### List of attendants

Name and Surname	Institution	Countries
Alan Patlan	Research Institute for Environmental and Occupational Health	France
Alastair Leyland	University of Glasgow	United Kingdom
Ana Beatriz Nunes	Nova University of Lisbon	Portugal
Angelica Valz Gris	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy
Angelo Maria Pezzullo	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy
Anna Jacob	Technical University of Denmark	Denmark
Aurélie Bocquier	Lorraine University	France
Dario Arzani	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy
Eduardo Bracho Montes de Oca	Catholic University of Louvain	Belgium
Flavia Pennisi	San Raffaele University of Milan	Italy
Halina Greiser	German Cancer Research Center	German
Joanne Giuen	Ulster University	United Kingdom
Josée Dussault	Institut Pasteur	France
Judith Mueller	University of Rennes	France
Julian Mamo	University of Malta	Malta

Nirmala Prjapati	National Institute of Health and Medical Research	France
Peter Eylull Taneri	University of Galway	Ireland
Riitta Luoto	Social Insurance Institute of Finland	Finland
Roberta Pastorino	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy
Rosarita Amore	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy
Stefania Boccia	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy
Tommaso Osti	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Italy