



ANNUAL REPORT

EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION – EUPHA

2015

The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. EUPHA was founded in 1992. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together around 16'500 public health professionals for information exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Our mission is to voice knowledge, enhance capacity, be the proactive platform for public health professionals and health service researchers and be a bridge between these professionals and policymakers.

EUPHA membership benefits:

- All EUPHA members can participate in all activities of EUPHA;
- All EUPHA members can participate in the annual scientific European Public Health Conference with a membership reduction of €80.
- All full members have direct access to the electronic version of the European Journal of Public Health and can subscribe for a hard copy subscription for a significantly reduced price;
- All full members are part of the EUPHA book club where you can buy books published by our partner – Oxford University Press – at 20% discount;
- All full members of EUPHA are also members of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, at no additional charge.

Interested in joining us?

- Are you a national public health association? Then join us as a full member.
- Are you an institute interested in being part of the largest public health professional network in Europe? Then join us as an institutional member.
- Are you a European or international NGO and would you like to work with EUPHA? Look into our possibilities of associate membership.
- Does your country not (yet) have a national public health association and you wish to pursue setting up one? Join our network as an individual member.
- Are you interested in EUPHA but not located in Europe? Look into our possibilities of global membership.

More information on membership can be found at: www.eupha.org/join-our-network

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Published: September 2015

Table of contents

Welcome EUPHA Executive Council	4
Welcome EUPHA office.....	6
Be a leading voice in public health.....	7
Build capacity and knowledge	8
Invest in the future generations	8
EUPHA members 2015	9
The network	10
Website	11
Social media.....	11
EUPHA sections.....	11
EUPHA pillars	12
EUPHAnxt.....	13
European Journal of Public Health - EJPH	13
Newsletter	15
EUPHA Projects in 2015	15
EPH Conference	16
Glasgow 2014.....	17
Milan 2015.....	17
Vienna 2016	18
Stockholm 2017	18
Outlook 2016.....	19

Welcome EUPHA Executive Council



Martin McKee, EUPHA president 2014-2016

Executive Council 2015

Martin McKee, president
Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, president-elect
Walter Ricciardi, past president
Markus Kaufmann, treasurer
Judith de Jong, secretary
Peter Allebeck, EJPH council
Kristina Alexanderson, Section council
Julian Mamo, Conference council
Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA office

On behalf of the EUPHA Executive Council, it is my pleasure to present you this report summarizing our activities in 2015.

This has been a very busy, a very challenging, and above all a very successful year. We had a superb conference in Glasgow, with a record attendance, and an absolutely outstanding programme. Our new, more interactive, formats for plenary sessions were especially popular. We have seen a growth in workshops, allowing delegates to focus in depth on key issues of importance to them, to build their skills, and to exchange ideas for policy and practice. Our late breaking session gave us an opportunity to exchange the most recent knowledge on the ball crisis and events in Ukraine.

We have changed our image. We have a new website and a new logo. This may seem simple, but the work involved should not be underestimated. Our website is not only more attractive, it is also much easier to find one's way around.

We have stepped up our involvement in advocacy substantially. We now have a much more streamlined system for reaching agreement on statements so that we can react in a timely way to emerging events. Later in this report you can see the range of issues that we have spoken out on. We hope that we have been able to represent your views fairly, but do tell us that there are more things that you feel we should be doing. This is one of the many areas in which we also need your help. We hope that you will take our statements and make use of them in your national media. And please do remember, EUPHA is here to help you. Where there are particular concerns in your own country that you feel it would be helpful for us to add our voice to yours, please tell us. It can sometimes be very effective to bring an international voice into the debate. On the other hand, we understand that it can also be unhelpful at times so you should decide when our voice might be helpful.

Our journal goes from strength to strength. I want to thank Peter Allebeck and his team for the remarkable job that they do, showcasing the best research from Europe. They have taken the journal forward in many ways, including a very active editorial policy to encourage commentaries and debates. Now that I am a (relatively frequent) author and no longer the

editor, I have seen at first hand how smoothly the editorial process works, much better than with many other journals. Our newsletter contains a wealth of information and I know that it is widely read.

Later on in this report I have set out our ideas for 2016. We have an ambitious programme. However, it builds on a record of sustained achievement.

This would not have been possible without the exceptional work of the team in the EUPHA office. I would pay particular tribute to Dineke, who despite illness this year, has taken us onward and upward. I also want to thank Floris, who has unexpectedly had to take on many more duties this year and who has risen to the occasion superbly, as well as the rest of the team in the office for all that they have done. However, this year we have special thanks to Peter Groenewegen and Judith de Jong, at NIVEL, who have gone beyond the call of duty to support the EUPHA office.

We can only succeed in what we do because we have the support of so many willing volunteers. In particular, I want to thank the members of the Executive Council, the section presidents and vice presidents, our pillar leads, and our EUPHAnxt coordinators. All of them put in a remarkable amount of effort throughout the year. We are indeed fortunate to have such a fantastic team. But finally, I want to thank you members, because without you we could do nothing.

European public health will be tested in the coming year. Together, we can be strong. Let's work together to make a confident a healthier, safer, and better place for everyone.

Welcome EUPHA office



Dineke Zeegers Paget, Executive Director



Floris Barnhoorn, Deputy Director

We have again been very busy this year and this is reflected in this report. We continue to successfully host the EPH conference office and were happy to organise the rebranding of EUPHA with a new logo and a completed revised EUPHA website as well as start the implementation of the new EUPHA strategy.

The new EUPHA strategy ‘Voicing knowledge. Enhancing capacity.’ focuses on three objectives:

1. Be a leading voice in public health.
2. Build capacity and knowledge.
3. Invest in future generations.

Under the pleasant and strategic guidance of the Executive Council, we have again joined forces with our 20 sections, Four pillar leads and our members to start implementing the new strategy. Our representatives were at the heart of European policy discussions and our sections and members continued to provide the evidence-base which is the core of our strength.

We were fortunate to have the office team strengthened by our new office manager, as well as by the EUPHAnxt coordinators, Ms Tjede Funk (February-July), Ms Emma Honkala (August-now). We were also pleased to see that our former EUPHAnxt coordinator, Dr Giacomo Scaioli, continued to be active for EUPHAnxt, the conference and the EUPHA newsletter. On the other hand, the long sick leave of our Executive Director, forced us to prioritise some activities and – unfortunately – postpone others.

Be a leading voice in public health

One of the key activities to further develop within the new strategy was for EUPHA to become a leading voice in public health. In 2015, thanks to the initiatives of our president, Martin McKee, we managed a large number of activities in this area.

Where possible the EUPHA sections and the EUPHA members were included and in some cases, our members took the initiative.

The activities included, but were not limited to:

The increasing refugee problem in Europe

Together with our EUPHA section on migrant and ethnic minority health, EUPHA reacted several times (May-July-October) to the humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean, calling on public health professionals to speak up. At the conference in Milan 2015, the theme is also included in the Late breaker session.

Health on global climate conference agenda

At the initiative of the French Society of Public Health, EUPHA co-signed the open letter to the French Minister to include health on the agenda of the Global Climate Conference, planned in Paris in December.

TTIP EU –US negotiations

At the initiative of the UK Faculty of Public Health, EUPHA expressed concerns about the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations, which could seriously impact health.

Trade secrets

Following a call from other NGOs, EUPHA joined these NGOs in concerns for the EU Directive on trade secrets, which pose a threat to public health data.

Data protection and health research

The EUPHA Sections on Health Services Research and Public Health Monitoring and Reporting continued to address the negative consequences for public health and health services research of the EU Data protection regulation.

Food marketing

EUPHA joined other European health-based NGOs in supporting WHO Europe's plans to restrict food marketing to children.

Tobacco and vaping

In January, EUPHA published a EUPHActs expressing concerns about the uptake in vaping.

On the new website, all our advocacy actions can be found at [www.eupha.org/advocacy by EUPHA](http://www.eupha.org/advocacy_by_EUPHA) . The new website also includes tips and tricks for becoming an advocate for our members and all those interested www.eupha.org/how-to-advocate .

Build capacity and knowledge

EUPHA continues to build capacity and knowledge wherever possible. The successful tools of EUPHA are the European Journal of Public Health, the EUPHA sections, the newsletter and the conference.

The visibility of EUPHA as a solid partner with a research background has been strengthened. Activities were aimed at WHO Europe and the European Union (both Commission and executive agencies such as ECDC and the Joint Research Centre). EUPHA continues to build the capacity and knowledge of policy-oriented organisations and has an official seat in:

- EU Expert panel on effective ways of investing in health;
- WHO Europe – Advisory Committee for Health Research;
- Advisory forum to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; • WHO European Regional meeting; and
- APHEA board.

Furthermore, EUPHA remains one of the leading associations (together with EHMA and HSR Europe) is to set up an ERAnet on public health and health services research.

Invest in the future generations

The third objective is to prepare future generations of public health professionals to take on a leadership role. The activities to reach this objective are in the hands of the EUPHANxt network and of course, the EPH Conference is a great tool to invest in future generations.

The EUPHANxt team has been very active this year and activities include, but are not limited to:

- Participation in the 'Global Health Next Generation Network' conference in Barcelona in June 2015: www.globalhealthnngn.org/#!conference/cut9
- Participation at the 'Giornate degli specializzandi', a congress of the Young section of the SItI in Milan in March 2015. Participation included having a stand, as well as being the two interviewers of Walter Ricciardi and Silvio Brusaferrò in a plenary session in English: www.societaitalianaigiene.org/site/new/images/docs/congressi/2015/0319milanoprogramma.pdf
- Participation in the WHO simulation in Paris, co-organised by our institutional member EHESP. Participation included having a stand at the fair that took place before the simulation: <http://pariswho.org/>

Other activities included:

- Organising a skills building workshop at the Milan 2015 conference
- Establishing official partnership agreements with the Global Health Next generation network and the European Medical Student Association
- EUPHANxt flash – the newsletter for the EUPHANxt subscribers was sent in March and June (and planned in October)
- EUPHANxt mailman – a system to reach all subscribers was used extensively this year to inform the younger generation on courses, activities, internship, etc.
- Continuing the internship programme where some students were put in contact with relevant public health professionals.

EUPHA members 2015

At the end of September 2015, we have 71 members from 41 countries:

- 39 national associations of public health from 34 countries
- 3 individual members from 3 countries
- 19 institutional members from 14 countries
- 9 international members
- 1 global member

Full members:

Albanian Epidemiological Association	Central Asian Public Health Association - Kazakhstan
Armenian Public Health Association	Public Health Association of Latvia
Austrian Public Health Association	Lithuanian Public Health Association
Belgian Association of Public Health	Macedonian Association of Social Medicine - SZSM
Society of Social Medicine - Public Health of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Malta Association of Public Health Medicine
Partnership for Public Health – Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dutch Public Health Federation - NPHF
Bulgarian Public Health Association	Norwegian Public Health Association
Croatian Public Health Association	Polish Association of Public Health
Czech Society of Public Health and Management of Health Services	Portuguese Association for Public Health Promotion
Danish Society of Public Health	Romanian Association for Public Health
Health Promotion Union of Estonia	Serbian Public Health Association
Society for Social Medicine - Finland	SAVEZ - Slovak Public Health Association
French Society of Public Health	Slovenian Medical Society - Slovenian Preventive Medicine Society
German Society of Medical Sociology	SESPAS – Spain
German Public Health Association DGPH	Swedish Association of Social Medicine
Kooperationsverbund „Hochschulen für Gesundheit“ e. V.	Swiss Society for Public Health
Hungarian Association of Public Health Training and Research Institutions - NKE	Public Health Association - Turkey
Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians	UK Society for Social Medicine
Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health	UK Faculty of Public Health
Italian Federation of Public Health Scientific Societies (FISPEOS)	

Institutional members:

Public Health and Reforms Center - Azerbaijan
Scientific Institute of Public Health - Belgium
Faculty of Public Health MU-Sofia - Bulgaria
National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) - Finland
EHESP - France
Mouvement et Action pour le Rétablissement Sanitaire et Social - France
School of Public Health, University of Georgia - Georgia
NRW Centre for Health – Germany
Health Research Board - Ireland
Health Services Research Laboratory-Department of Public Health - University of Siena - Italy
Catholic University of the Sacred Heart Rome - Italy
Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory – Italy
RIVM – The Netherlands
Maastricht University, Department of International Health – The Netherlands
NIVEL – The Netherlands
National School of Public Health, Management and Professional Development – Romania
Center for Public Health Research CSISP - Spain
Karolinska Institute - Sweden
University of East London, School of Health, Sport and Bioscience - UK

Individual members:

Prof Constantinos Phellas - Cyprus
Dr Lilia Turcan - Moldova
Mr Savelyi Rudzsky - Ukraine

International members:

ASPHER
EACH
ESQH
Euronet – MRPH
European Association for Dental Public Health
European Forum for Primary Care
European Health Management Association
IUHPE - Europe
UEMS - Section for Public Health

Global member:

Public Health Perspective Nepal

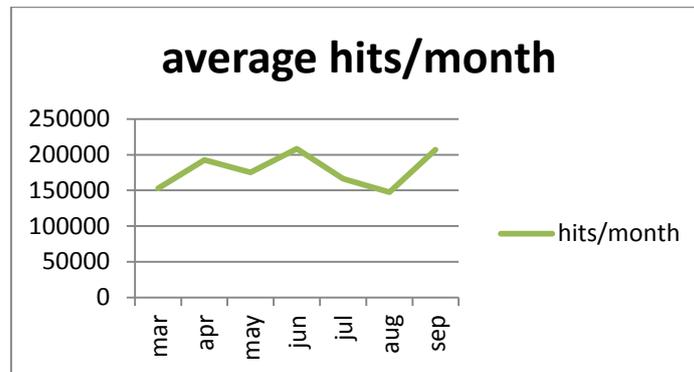
The network

In our database, we have 16'448 entries of which 5935 are EUPHA members (36%). This is both an increase in numbers (+363) and an increase in percentage (from 35 to 36%). Full members of EUPHA are individuals who joined EUPHA through their membership in a national public health association. In 2015, we had 4764 (up from last year by 395 members) of these full members.

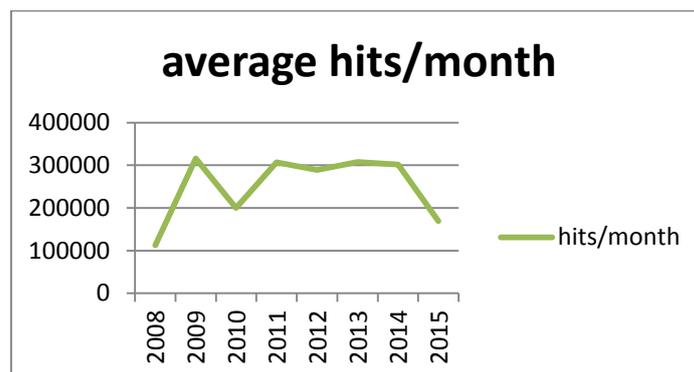
Website

The new EUPHA website was launched on 1 March 2015. This new website is linked to the objectives of the new EUPHA strategy and continues to be an excellent visibility tool for EUPHA. In order to increase the visibility of our members, separate webpages have been created for each member (see for instance: <http://www.eupha.org/belgian-association-of-public-health>)

Website hits/month from 1 March 2015



Website hits/month over the past 8 years



Social media

The EUPHA twitter account (@EUPHActs) is available on our opening page and has been extensively used for advocacy. The number of followers has increased again in 2015 to 1207 (2013: 384; 2014: 821).

The twitter account is also linked to our Facebook page, where further development, however, is still desirable.

EUPHA sections

EUPHA sections are networks on specific public health topics. At the moment, EUPHA has 20 active sections and one initiative for a section on gender minority health. The average number of members in a section's network is 1104 (last year 990). EUPHA sections organize different activities throughout the year that range from:

- Satellite meetings;

- Project proposals;
- Newsletters;
- Mailing members;
- Representing EUPHA in advisory bodies of international organisations;
- Representing EUPHA at meetings and conferences; and
- Pre conferences and workshops linked to the EPH Conference.

EUPHA Section	No. Of members	Increase from 2014
Child and adolescent public health	1391	120
Chronic diseases	1313	143
Environment-related health	791	61
Ethics in public health	965	69
Food and nutrition	982	73
Health impact assessment	759	145
Health promotion	2102	196
Health services research	1810	122
Health technology assessment	319	132
Infectious diseases control	896	106
Injury prevention and safety promotion	509	60
Migrant and ethnic minority health	924	101
Public health economics	1084	97
Public health epidemiology	2209	201
Public health genomics	335	31
Public health monitoring and reporting	907	179
Public health practice and policy	2023	193
Public mental health	990	76
Social security health	881	93
Urban public health	904	88

In Milan 2015, the EUPHA sections are organising/co-organising:

- 6 pre conferences, with 8 sections involved;
- 21 workshops, with 17 sections involved;
- 1 lunch meetings by 1 section;

And all sections are organising their annual meetings before and during the conference. This year is the first time that we actively invite delegates to 'join our network' during the annual meetings.

EUPHA pillars

At the end of 2013, it was decided to re-launch the Four Pillar networks of EUPHA. Four new pillar leads were found and an invitation to our members and the sections to propose representatives was sent out.

The objective of the EUPHA pillars is to have specific networks set up for Research, Policy, Practice and Training and education, where representatives from EUPHA members and EUPHA sections discuss activities developed or to be developed by EUPHA.

In 2015, we have three active Pillar Leads and one vacancy:

Research	Peter Groenewegen, The Netherlands
Policy	David Stuckler, United Kingdom
Practice	Silvio Brusaferrero, Italy
Training	vacancy

EUPHAnxt

EUPHAnxt is a network for students and early career researchers, policymakers and professionals in the field of public health. EUPHAnxt is a free and open initiative that aims to collect the active contribution of students, young researchers, practitioners and policymakers interested in European public health issues, in order to sensitize and involve them into the European and multidisciplinary network of public health associations.

The EUPHAnxt network currently has 1087 subscribers (in 2014: 790). Activities include:

- Advising students on possible internships;
- Networking with other student-related organisations;
- Contacting members on their activities for the younger generation;
- Organising one skills-building event during Milan 2015.

European Journal of Public Health - EJPH



The European Journal of Public Health is a multidisciplinary journal in the field of public health, publishing contributions from social medicine, epidemiology, health services research, management, ethics and law, health economics, social sciences and environmental health. The EJPH is published bimonthly. The journal provides a forum for discussion and debate of current international public health issues with a focus on the European region. In each issue of the EJPH, EUPHA organises the European public health news, a section of the EJPH with contributions from the EUPHA president; EUPHA office; WHO Europe's Regional Director; European Commission; and the EPH Conference Foundation.

EUPHA members have direct access to the electronic version of the EJPH by logging on to the EUPHA database. If you have forgotten your login and password or you have difficulties accessing the EJPH, please contact membership@eupha.org. If you are not sure you are a EUPHA member, please contact your national association.

Original manuscripts submitted and published during 2006- September 2015:

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 Until 29 th September
Manuscripts received	427	503	490	656	719	782	861	923	893	567
% accepted	16	19	21	29	20	21	19	17	20	21
Manuscripts published	97	92	84	104	89	125	176	186	185	117

Brief statistics on manuscripts

During the past year (1st October, 2014 to 29th September 2015), manuscripts have been submitted from 67 countries from all continents. The highest number of submissions was received from Spain (70), China (67), Italy (66), Netherlands (66), United Kingdom (63), Sweden (43), Germany (42), France (36), Finland (32), United States (28) and Denmark (25).

The highest number of accepted papers originated from The Netherlands (29), the United Kingdom (19), Sweden (16), Italy (15), Spain (14), Germany (11) and Finland (11).

In addition to original manuscripts, 12 editorials and 8 Viewpoint articles have been published from December 2014 – October 2015. Each of the six issues also had a section with European public health news from EUPHA and partner organisations.

Reviewers

During the past year (2014), 622 persons from 66 different countries have been helpful in reviewing manuscripts. Most reviewers originated from the United Kingdom (74), followed by the Sweden (73), Netherlands (57), the United States (49), Spain (39), Germany (37), Denmark (36) and Italy (35).

Impact factor

The impact factor increased this year to 2.591 with a five-year average of 2.805.

Partners

Our partners in the organization of the EJPH are:

- Oxford University Press, the official publisher of the journal;
- Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, where the editorial office is based; and
- Swedish Research Council, offering a grant to host the editorial office in Sweden.

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Newsletter

The EUPHA newsletter was created in March 2006 with the aim to build the knowledge of public health professionals worldwide and to increase the visibility of EUPHA as an association that builds capacity, knowledge and policy in the field of public health, with an emphasis on Europe. The newsletter is free of charge and available to all those with an interest in public health. With 14'774 subscribers this year from 154 countries, the newsletter continues to be one of the most visible tools of EUPHA.

Distribution data by Region

Region	No. of countries		No. of subscribers	
	2014	2015	2014	2015
Europe	54	60	12446	13442
Americas	20	20	353	436
Africa	38	36	230	278
Asia/South Pacific	37	38	481	618
Total (October 2014)	149	154	13513	14774

Top 5 ranking countries subscribed to the newsletter by region

Rank	Europe	Americas	Africa	Asia/South Pacific
1	Italy	United States	Nigeria	India
2	United Kingdom	Canada	Ghana	Australia
3	Denmark	Brazil	South Africa	Pakistan
4	France	Peru	Cameroon	South Korea
5	Netherlands	Mexico	Ethiopia	Taiwan

EUPHA actively invites members and partners to further distribute the newsletter, announce its publication in their tools as well as them to make the EUPHA newsletter available on their website.

EUPHA Projects in 2015

EUPHA continues to be contacted by a large number of institutions/universities to be a partner in European projects.

Projects started in 2015

Gender specific mechanisms in coronary artery disease in Europe (GENCAD)

The project aims to provide novel explanations as to why and how different forms of CAD affect women and men and which preventive approaches are most effective in a gender specific manner. The project aims at closing a gender gap in European medicine by systematically collecting information about differences among women and men in CAD at all levels – biological, societal, environmental – and by generating awareness among health professions and the general public.

EUPHA's tasks:

- Development of factsheets – by contracted writer/editor
- Assessing member state policies and existing preventive approaches – by member associations
- Informative meeting at EPH Conference, Milan

DG SANCO tender project for 3 years. Consortium with Charite University (DE), School of Public Health, Andalusia (ES), Radboud MC (NL), Centre for Men's Health, Leeds (UK)

Personalised prevention of chronic diseases (PRECeDI)

The project aims to identify and validate biomarkers for primary prevention of cardiovascular diseases (CVD); secondary prevention of Alzheimer (AD); tertiary prevention of head and neck cancer (HNC);

The project is funded under the Marie Curie Programme of Horizon 2020. Future PhD students at the partners' universities will be seconded to other universities, institutes or private companies. EUPHA will host 3 researchers for 6 months in 3 consecutive periods from UCSC, Debrecen and La Sapienza.

PRECeDI is a consortium of 11 organisations of which 7 are academic institutions and 4 non-academic. The project duration is four years.

EPH Conference

In 2013, the separate foundation 'EPH Conference' was set up to coordinate and organise the European Public Health Conferences at the initiative of EUPHA. EUPHA still provides the main input for these conferences, and collaboration has been set up with a large number of international NGOs and international organisations, including:

- EuroHealthNet
- ASPHER
- EHMA
- EPHA
- ECDC
- European Commission
- Observatory
- WHO Europe

All these partners are represented in the advisory International Conference Council, where main topics, themes and possible keynote speakers are discussed. They are also all invited to provide experts for the International Scientific Committee, responsible for the scoring of the submitted abstracts and workshops.

Glasgow 2014



Glasgow 2014: **'Mind the gap: reducing health inequalities in health and health care'**

<http://ephconference.org/conference-glasgow-2014-149>

[Glasgow Declaration 'All Hands on Deck' Video Summary of the Conference](#)

[Conference Evaluation Report](#)

[Programme booklet](#)

[Plenary sessions - videocasts](#)

[Summary of the conference](#)

Glasgow welcomed Europe and beyond to the 7th European Public Health Conference between 19 and 22 November 2014. Seventy-one countries were represented by over 1,500 delegates. The conference included seven plenary sessions, over 100 parallel sessions, about 300 posters and six films. The conference resulted in the Glasgow Declaration 'ALL HANDS ON DECK!' in which the public health community and the whole of society is called upon to be more involved in reducing health inequalities.

Milan 2015

The 48th Annual conference of SItI, the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, takes place at the same time, at the same location.

EUPHA, EuroHealthNet, the European Commission, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and ASPHER are organising the plenary sessions.

Prof. Carlo Signorelli is the chair of Milan 2015.

<http://ephconference.org>

#ephmilan



The 8th European Public Health Conference: **'Health in Europe – from global to local policies, methods and practices'** . Milan, Italy from 14 to 17 October 2015.

Vienna 2016



The 9th European Public Health Conference: ‘All for Health – Health for All’

will be held at the Austria Conference Centre in Vienna, Austria from 9 to 12 November 2016. Organisers are: the EPH Conference Foundation, EUPHA and the Austrian Society for Public Health.

Prof. Thomas Dorner is the chair of Vienna 2016.

<http://ephconference.eu/future-conferences-33>

#ephvienna

Stockholm 2017



The 10th European Public Health Conference: ‘Sustaining resilient and healthy communities’

will be held at the Stockholmsmässan, Stockholm, Sweden, 1 - 4 November 2017. Organisers are: the EPH Conference Foundation, EUPHA and the Swedish Association of Social Medicine.

Prof. Birger Forsberg is the chair of Stockholm 2017.

<http://ephconference.eu/future-conferences-33>

#ephstockholm

Outlook 2016



Martin McKee, EUPHA president 2014-2016

It is already clear that 2016 will be extremely challenging year. This year, the European institutions have been shaken to their core. Two of the fundamental symbols of the European ideal, the euro and the Schengen agreement, have come under unprecedented strain. They have survived, but only just. Improving the health of the population should be one of the primary goals of political leaders but, in many countries, public health has been relegated. As we move forward into 2016, EUPHA is determined to do everything that it can, working with our members and our European partners, to influence the debate on the future of Europe.

We will continue to advance our first objective, to be a leading scientific and independent voice in the field of public health, health services research and policy. We have stepped up our advocacy activities considerably in 2015, calling for effective action on some of the major challenges facing Europe, such as the refugee crisis. However, we cannot do all of this on our own, and we need the support of our members. Some are already active in advocacy at a national level but at times like this we must all speak out. Recognising our limited resources, we will do what we can to help those who wish to take on a greater role in advocacy. We also recognise that there are many fantastic initiatives in public health across Europe but these often go unnoticed. EUPHA provides an opportunity to showcase these ideas. Please tell us how we can help you to do that on a wider European stage.

We must be involved in setting the European public health agenda. Several of us in the Executive Council are active in a number of policy arenas, including the European Commission's Expert Panel on Investing in Health and as participants in the WHO EURO Regional Committee. In 2016 we plan to undertake a survey of members and sections to identify your priorities for the European public health agenda. We recognise that the concept of health in all policies, while endorsed by the European Union and its member states, too often seems to be forgotten. Where are the health impact assessments of the bailouts or the response to the refugee crisis? We plan to map the activities of the European Union Directorate-Generals that impact on health. We recognise that we must work in partnership to bring about the changes that we want to see.

In the past year we have greatly strengthened our relationships with the European Public Health Alliance and the World Federation of Public Health Associations. We have begun a collaboration with the World Heart Federation. We are reaching out to other European health NGOs. We plan to hold joint meetings several times each year with our key allies. We also recognise that many of the influences on public health in Europe arise at a global level. We must make sure that Europe's voice is heard on the global stage. We began this process at the World Public Health Conference in Kolkata in February. It was notable how poorly Europe was represented there compared to, for example, Asia and the Americas. As we

move forward, we will increase our presence in these fora, with the past presidents playing an important role, drawing on their wealth of experience.

Our second objective is to build capacity and knowledge in the field of public health and health services research to support evidence informed policy and practice. We will explore how we can build the capacity and knowledge of our member associations, helping them to become a strong and growing network. To achieve this we plan to organise a member survey, looking at their activities, strengths, weaknesses, and what they expect from EUPHA. As importantly, we will ask what they can offer to EUPHA, recognising that some of our members are themselves very strong, with a wealth of expertise that they can share.

Transparency is key to public health policy. Many of the challenges we face are because decisions are taken behind closed doors by powerful vested interests. We need to set a good example here and we will look at how we can update the Good EUPHA practice rules to showcase transparency.

There are still some countries where public health associations are weak or non-existent and where we have no presence. We are convinced that a strong public health association can make a major contribution to a country, developing, implementing, and disseminating new ideas, holding governments to account, and improving the health of their fellow citizens. We will do all we can to support such associations to emerge when they do not yet exist.

The European Public Health Conference is now becoming the place to be to exchange ideas on health policy and practice within Europe. It provides a great opportunity to showcase the latest research. However it also offers a wonderful opportunity for exchange of ideas and we will work to strengthen the engagement of our members and sections in the conference programmes, in particular by encouraging the submission of workshops meeting the needs of those attending. Finally, we will look for opportunities to translate research into policy and practice outside the conference.

The third objective is to prepare future generations of public health professionals to take on a leadership role. We want to strengthen the role of EUPHAnxt, adding a representative to our Executive Council, and establishing a General Assembly. Our fledgling internship programme has already been a great success, although relatively few have been able to benefit from it. We want to look at other ways to expand this, for example by using funding from the ERASMUS programme. Our conference is a great opportunity to build skills in the next generation and we will build on what we have already been doing.

This is a very ambitious agenda. We have a superb team in the EUPHA office, led by Dineke and with tremendous support from Floris and the rest of the team. However we cannot achieve all of this our own. We will need full engagement from our members and sections. We can help you but you can help us. Let's move forward together.