11th Annual Meeting
European Public Health Association
- Final Technical Implementation Report -

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Project Report

Enclosures:
- Announcement of the 11th Annual EUPHA meeting (Encl. 1)
- European Journal of Public Health, Volume 13 Number 4 December 2003, Supplement (Encl. 2)
- Scientific Programme book of the 11th Annual EUPHA meeting (Encl. 3)
- Italian Journal of Public Health, number 0, 2003. (Encl. 4)
- Confidential draft on the future of public health in Europe (Encl. 5)

(Enclosures 1, 2, 3 and 4 we already sent to the European Commission on 26th May 2004.)
Project Report

The 11th Annual Meeting of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) took place under the title “Globalisation and Health in Europe: Harmonising Public Health Practices” from 20th to 22nd November 2003 in Rome, Italy.

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is a multidisciplinary scientific society. It aims to contribute to the improvement of public health in Europe by offering a means for exchanging information and a platform for debate to researchers, policy makers and practitioners in the field of public health and health services research in Europe. Currently, EUPHA has 45 member organisations in 36 countries in Europe. The tradition of EUPHA-Meetings started in 1992 in Paris and the meeting in Rome was the first time in Italy and the 11th anniversary of EUPHA-Meetings. The topic of the Rome meeting was very important because it was aimed at combining research and policy activities, at the transfer of the achieved results into practice in the framework of globalisation and harmonisation of public health practices.

The meeting provided a platform for 800 scientists and representatives from politics, society and industry to explore methods to improve the transfer and implementation of scientific results into public health policy and into the society. The meeting provided a discussion forum for participants of different disciplines with those involved in policy making. Conference participants came from 46 countries, among them from 19 East European countries.

The 11th Annual EUPHA-Meeting offered a possibility to discuss actual themes of public health and to search for solutions in health care services of modern countries. Because of participation of East-European scientists and non-member states of the European Community the conference was a precondition and a comprehensive platform for international cooperation in public health.

Preparatory stage (until Mid-November 2003):

During the preparatory stage was set up the Announcement of the 11th Annual EUPHA meeting (Encl. 1). In this time was found the final consensus of the conference topic and of the major themes. The abstract handling procedure took place at that time. All abstracts submitted for the EUPHA congress in Rome had to undergo a review process, which is performed according to that of the British Society of Social Medicine. Each abstract has 10 to
12 referees who rank the abstracts according to their quality between 1 and 5. A mean value for each abstract is calculated and abstracts whose quality is within the first 25 per cent are accepted for oral presentation, those 50 per cent of abstracts whose quality is between 75 and 25 per cent of all abstracts are accepted for poster presentation and the low 25 per cent are rejected. Also the quality of the workshops announced is rated according to the value of their submitted abstracts.

The Scientific Committee of EUPHA received 635 abstracts from 37 countries; 499 abstracts for oral or poster presentation and 136 abstracts referring to 31 workshops. Among them the Scientific Committee selected 155 oral and 150 poster presentations and 28 workshops. The large number of presentations in the different fields of public health by scientists, politicians and practitioners of European countries showed a growing interest in EUPHA congresses.

The major topics of the 2003 meeting were: Alcohol and health, Cardiovascular disease, Child-related health issues, Ethical health issues, General practice, Health care, Health indicators, Health policies, Health promotion, Health Services Research, Hospital management, Informed patients and use of health services, Life-styles, Medication, Mental Health, Migrant ethnic minorities and refugees, Mortality, Pharmaceuticals, Promoting work ability, Public Health policies, Risk factors disease, Sickness absence, Social and socio-demographic inequalities, Social inequality and mortality, Violence and disasters.

The timetable was organised and the final programme was set up in 5 plenaries, 31 parallel sessions and 28 workshops. Arrangements with the local conference site (Europe Congress Centre of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart) took place. The financial support for scientists from East European countries by SOROS/OSI was organised. For East European scientists who presented a paper the SOROS foundation took the registration fee and travel and accommodation.

Conference stage (November 2003):

During this stage designing and printing of the abstract issue of the European Public Health Journal (EJPH) has been done. EJPH is the scientific journal of EUPHA. The abstract volume was edited for the second time since EUPHA meetings take place as a Supplement of the European Journal of Public Health (Encl. 2) and contained all abstracts of plenary sessions, workshops, oral and poster presentations.

A lot of preparatory work has been done in that time: contact with keynote speakers, representatives from official institutions and referees of the congress, further detailed
agreements with the Italian Health Ministry, organisation of transportation services and accommodation, organisation of technical equipment, preparation of congress material/congress bags for each participant; final agreements with the conference site, organising of the side programme and the social programme.

Comprehensive work was performed to design and print the **scientific programme book** (Encl. 3). We have got greeting addresses by Professor Kirch, the President of EUPHA and Professor Ricciardi, President elect and chair of the International organising committee at that time, Professor Abelin, President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, Professor Renga, President of the Italian Society of Public Health.

The EUPHA conference took place on a European level. The congress forced the dialogue between scientists and policy makers for the well-being and health of Europeans by exchanging of information and research results with purpose to start new projects and cooperations and to harmonise public health practices. The title of the conference "Globalisation and Health in Europe: Harmonising Public Health Practices" was a topic, which was and is of importance for all European countries, because health care systems in the European Union are in transition and more research and practice harmonisation activities are needed. Thus the conference provides excellent opportunities to get information and to start and develop new research cooperations. The conference took place for two and a half days in the Europe Congress Centre of the Catholic University of Sacred Heart.

Main funding for our congress we have got from the European Commission in Luxembourg, Directorate - General Health & Consumer Protection (2003122). Main sponsors were the Open Society Institute (OSI) of the Soros Foundation, New York, the Italian Higher Institute for Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, ISS), the Higher Institute for Safety and Prevention at Workplace(ISPESL).

The congress was accompanied by an exhibition. 15 exhibitors among them 6 foreign exhibitors – drugs vaccines companies, publishers, ministries and public health associations – participated with a stand and supported the conference too.

The conference was opened by speeches of Professor Kirch President of Eupha, Professor Ricciardi the congress organizer, Professor Renga President of the Italian Society of Public Health.
The 5 plenary sessions were addressed to
- Globalisation and health
- Food Safety in Europe
- Health Service Management
- Public Health and man-made disasters
- the Ferenc Bojan memorial lecture on EU enlargement: major public health issues in the acceding countries

In the Opening Session focused on Globalisation and health, a Welcome address was made by Professor Kirch, Professor Renga and Professor Ricciardi, continued by the following speeches:
- Globalisation – seizing the opportunities for health, M. McKee
- Prevention and control of infectious disease in a European perspective, F. Van Lock
- Europe against cancer: current status and perspectives, P. Boyle
- Health information and public health programmes at the European Commission, F. Sicard

The Plenary session I was aimed to “Food Safety in Europe”; the following topics were addressed:
- Food Policy in Europe, T. Lang
- Nutrition and Health in Europe, F. Romano

The Plenary session II was dedicated to: “Health Service Management”, the following topics were addressed:
- Health service management: the economist’s view, K. Lee
- Health service management: the physicians view, T. Massaro

The Plenary Session III was aimed to “Public health and man-made disasters”; the following topics were addressed:
- Risk and action against bio-terrorism in Europe, G. Fadda
- Chemicals: chemical accidents and chemical terrorism: the thing to fear is fear itself, S. Wessely
- The experience of Médecins sans Frontières in tackling consequences of man made disasters, J.M. Kindermanns

The oral contributions of the first 25 per cent of best ranked abstracts have been presented in 31 parallel sessions, which were grouped according to
- Alcohol and health
- Cardiovascular disease
- Child-related health issues
- Ethical health issues
- General practice
- Health care
- Health indicators
- Health policies
- Health promotion
- Health Services Research
- Hospital management
- Informed patients and use of health services
- Life-styles, Medication
- Mental Health, Migrant ethnic minorities and refugees
- Mortality
- Pharmaceuticals
- Promoting work ability
- Public Health policies
- Risk factors disease,
- Sickness absence,
- Social and socio-demographic inequalities
- Social inequality and mortality,
- Violence and disasters.

28 workshops have been organised reflecting the most actual and interesting themes of public health in Europe:
- EUPHA section on public practice and policy: public health practice in Europe – perspectives and challenges
- Final EUPHA workshop on the future of public health
- EUPHA sections on food and nutrition: European experiences in prevention of obesity and in evaluation of preventive programmes
- EUPHA section on health promotion: the role of health promotion in tackling inequalities
- EUPHA section on social security and health: How to assess work ability in relation to sickness certification?
- EUPHA section youth: Environment and children’s health in Europe
- Policy health impact assessment for the European Union
- IFH conference session: Preventing infectious disease in the domestic setting: a shared responsibility
- EUPHA section on epidemiology: confidentiality and data protection legislation and epidemiological practice in Europe
- Health indicators at the sub-national level
- Monitoring of cardiovascular diseases: results of the EUROCISS project
- Infectious diseases: a world without borders
- EUPHA section on health service research: in search of the best innovation: comparative methods in health service research
- Why utilisation of medicines is a public health interest: final results from the EU-funded EURO-MED-STAT project
- Migrant Health
- EUPHA workshop on the public health impact of man made disasters: research methods and tools
- Evidence for action: how research can address the needs of policy makers
- End of life decision making in 6 European countries
- EUPHA skill building workshop: the interaction between research and evaluation: a partnership for public health policy development
- European health indicators for people with an intellectual disability – the POMONA project
- Future directions for health system research
- Towards European co-ordination and exchange of information and knowledge: is it possible to develop a European system based on national health surveys?
- EUROCHIP: the European Cancer Health Indicators Project: results and future actions
- The development of the European Health Promotion Monitoring System (the EUPHID project)
- The HAPIEE study: a multi-centre study of determinants of cardiovascular disease in Russia, Poland and Czech Republic
- Health targets implementation of the Public Health Medicine name and in competencies and practices
- Climate and health: the impact of heat waves in Europe

Professor Roza Adâni gave the Ferenc Bojan-Memorial lecture. She presented data on the “EU enlargement: major public health issues in the acceding countries” and pointed out the needs and the perspective of the Countries joining the European Union on May 2004.

During the conference a permanent poster exhibition took place. The 150 posters had been arranged according to subject, so that comparison and interaction between poster presenters and participants was encouraged.

During the closing ceremony the EUPHA poster prize and abstract prize were awarded and the EUPHA presidency was handed over from Professor Kirch to professor Ricciardi. He became the EUPHA-president for the year 2004.

Conclusion: One of the expected results of the conference was the improvement of the international cooperation in public health. The implementation of newly developed solutions for a changing health care system in different countries was presented at the EUPHA-Meeting. Fruitful discussions for improving the health care services have been done. The scientific conference lead to an information exchange between researchers, policy makers and practitioners and encourages further contacts and activities. The presentations of the keynote speakers were published.
Post-conference stage (from December 2003 to September 2004):

In the post-conference stage the finalising work has been done:
- final administration and financial statement of the conference (see Part II)
- final decisions and follow-up deals with the sub-contractors
- designing and printing of the outcomes.

The conference has been a great success, which was and is reflected in a great number of publications and in further development of scientific meetings on a European level in Public Health.

Other contributions relating to the main topics of the Rome congress were published in the Italian number 0 of the Italian Journal of Public Health (Encl. 4). The articles represent different Public health research fields giving an insight into various developments of our discipline.

One of the workshops at the 11th EUPHA conference dealt with climate and health: the impact of heat waves in Europe. After this workshop Professor Kirch was invited by Dr. Bettina Menne from WHO/Euro, European Centre for Environment and Health, Rome to give a presentation on “Lessons to be learnt from the 2002 floods in Dresden, Germany” at a WHO conference held in February 2004 in Bratislava on “Extreme weather events and Public Health responses”. As a result of the Bratislava conference Professor Kirch edited a book entitled “Extreme weather events and public Health responses” in co-operation with Dr. Menne and Dr. Bertollini from the European Centre for Environment and Health of WHO/Euro in Rome. This publication includes 25 presentations of the Bratislava conference. The book deals with several relevant aspects of the theme as “Projected changes in extreme weather in Europe”, “Heat and cold waves”, “Flooding”, “Public Health and Health Care responses to extreme weather events” and makes recommendations in this concern. The book will be of interest not only for experts of various professions in this field, but also to people who have to deal with extreme weather events in certain moments. It will be published in 2005 and will be forwarded to you immediately after publication.

Another essential outcome of the conference is that during 2003 – 2004 EUPHA has developed more and more. New members joined EUPHA, the scientific value of the annual conferences is increasing from year to year, new EUPHA section have developed and the work in EUPHA projects brought together in a more intensive cooperation researchers and
policy makers from Europe. Thus the 2004 annual EUPHA congress is heading for scientific success enabling public health researchers practitioners and policy makers to broaden their knowledge and their skills.

FOLLOW ON EUPHA ACTIVITIES 2004

The EUPHA project on the future of public health

This project has been developed with the contribution of several workshops organised during the period 2002-2003 for different public health groups (policymakers, researchers, practitioners). The question on the future of public health in Europe is twofold. First, there is uncertainty about which public health issues will be(come) important in the future (e.g. obesity, mental health, elderly). Second, there is the issue of how public health will be implemented/practised and researched in the future. It is this second question that this project looked at in detail.

The main themes dealt in the discussions were:

- the problems on implementing public health
- bridging the gap between research and policy & practice
- the need to arrive at practical recommendations for public health researchers on how to be more effective in communicating and implementing their results
- identification of future health problems and directions in dealing with public health for policymakers

The last workshop was organised in Rome, Italy, during the 11th annual EUPHA conference. In this final workshop, the preliminary outcomes of the project were presented, followed by a critical analysis and a general discussion. The following presentations were given:

- The preliminary results of the EUPHA project on the future of public health in Europe.
  Dr D. Zeegers Paget, EUPHA
- A first critical analysis of the EUPHA report, Dr A.W. Kalis, Dutch Ministry of Health, the Netherlands

The EUPHA project on the future of public health was the first time EUPHA used its extensive network and existing tools to formulate a statement on public health in Europe. This use of EUPHA has proven both quick and efficient in obtaining overviews of public health issues in Europe and should be further developed (Encl. 5).
The European Journal of Public Health

During the year 2004 the EUPHA Governing Council has accepted number of changes to the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH), proposed by the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Johan Mackenbach. These changes had been elaborated by EUPHA, the Editorial Office at Karlstad University and Oxford University Press:

- The EJPH will increase from four to six issues per year;
- There will be a new lay-out/design of the EJPH:
- The content of the new EJPH will be more diversified and include a new section with opinion and discussion papers;
- A new advisory council will be created, next to the existing editorial board, to serve as a sounding board for the editors.
- The changes, that will be implemented as of the 1st of January 2005.

Future project

EUPHA was invited to take an active part in a project on International Healthcare Comparisons, led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and the London School of Economics and Social Sciences, that will describe the developments in health services.

The project will involve annual reports on general developments in the health sector on a variety of issues including reforms (service organisation, financing, incentives, policy targets) and evaluations thereof, as well as measures of performance.

It also involves “on call” reports on particular issues in more detail, with topics that will be specified by the Department of Health of England.
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