



# ANNUAL REPORT

2005

## PREFACE

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 10'000 public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Our mission is to be the proactive platform for public health professionals in research and practice and be a bridge between these professionals and policymakers. At the end of 2005, we have 45 members and three associate members from 38 European countries.

In 2005, EUPHA has also accepted a number of institutional members or benefactors. These are institutions on public health which are involved in EUPHA and have expressed an interest in making this involvement official. At the end of 2005, EUPHA had 7 institutional members.

This document summarizes the activities of the European Public Health Association in 2005. We hope that this annual report provides you with more insight on our activities. Should you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact our EUPHA office.

Gunnar Tellnes, EUPHA president 2005

## EUPHA 2005: ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual EUPHA conference was organised from 10 to 12 November in Graz, Austria. The conference was organised by three national associations: the Austrian Public Health Association, the Slovenian Preventive Medicine Society and the Croatian Medical Association/Croatian Public Health Association. The main theme of the conference was "Promoting the public's health: reorienting health policies, linking health promotion and health care".

For the Graz conference, we received a total of 483 single abstracts and 46 workshop proposals from 45 countries. This marked two records: abstracts were submitted from more countries than ever before, and we have reached the highest number of workshop submissions. All abstracts and workshops were peer-reviewed by our International Scientific Committee, lead this year by: Prof. Eva Rasky, Austria (chair), Dr. Tit Albreht, Slovenia (vice-chair) and Prof. Luka Kovacic, Croatia (vice-chair). The International Scientific Committee consisted of 37 members from 30 European countries.

The members of the scientific committee used a rating scale ranging from 1 to 5 for the final judgement. The overall average of all judges and all (single) abstracts was: 3.4. The average judgement per abstract varied from 4.444 (highest score) to 2.200 (lowest score). The overall average of all judges for the workshops was: 3.608. The average judgement per workshop varied from 4.545 (highest score) to 2.273 (lowest score).

EUPHA would like to thank the members of the International Scientific Committee for their expertise and commitment to ensure the scientific quality of each EUPHA conference.

The EUPHA conference in Graz introduced a number of innovations to our conferences:

- Due to the large interest in participation in the Graz conference, 10 parallel sessions took place at six slots in the programme. Until then, the maximum number of parallel sessions had been 8.
- The abstracts presented at each EUPHA conference reflect the full scale of public health in Europe, making it sometimes difficult to "find your way" at the conference. At the Graz conference we decided to work with 10 tracks, so that participants have an overview and, if interested in a specific subject, could attend the full track. The ten tracks are:
  1. EU/EUPHA collaboration
  2. The Future of Public Health in Europe
  3. Population and community health
  4. Health Promotion: research and challenges
  5. Health and disease in specific historical and socio-cultural contexts
  6. Health care: research and challenges

7. Prevention and care of chronic diseases
  8. Prevention and care of infectious diseases
  9. Children and adolescent health
  10. Health Policy
- One entire track was dedicated to the collaboration of EUPHA with DG SANCO of the European Commission, the main sponsor of the Graz EUPHA conference and of other major public health programmes. This track was implemented to inform about the European Commission's efforts to strengthen the field of public health. It provided a platform for intersectorial discussion and, first-hand information on five European public health programmes and funding procedures.

A conference proceedings report in which the major outcomes are made available to a wider audience was published after the conference.

Like in previous years, EUPHA is very pleased that the Open Society Institute of the SOROS foundation funded participants from central and Eastern Europe. With the help of the experts from central and Eastern Europe themselves and the help of the local organisers, we managed to invite 77 experts to actively attend the conference.

For the second time, the EUPHA conference managed to obtain accreditation. The 13th Annual EUPHA conference in Graz 2005 has been accredited for the area of social medicine with 28 credit points by the Austrian Medical Association.

### **EUPHA 2005: THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

In 2005, the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH) was changed. The lay-out and content was modernised, the number of issues was increased from 4 to 6 and the distribution to all our members was changed from hard copy to electronic. All these changes have been implemented at the beginning of 2005 and most of them are now working correctly.

The organisational aspects of the change from hard copy to electronic version of the EJPH for our members took some time. First of all, our members had to provide an up-to-date membership list to EUPHA, which had to be forwarded to OUP. OUP then informed our members of their login name and password and informed them about the possibility of subscribing to a hard copy for a very reduced rate. Of the 6000 members of EUPHA, we managed to forward 4600 addresses to OUP. (to be added based on review of the system, to be discussed at the Executive and Governing Council meetings).

For the fourth consecutive year, the accepted abstracts of the EUPHA conference were published as a supplement to the EJPH, thereby widely distributing the public health experiences throughout Europe.

### **EUPHA 2005: ACTIVITIES OF THE EUPHA SECTIONS**

#### **Section on Health Promotion**

The EUPHA section on health promotion is presided by Professor Heiko Waller of Luneburg University and Professor Alf Trojan of Hamburg University, Germany. The section currently has 623 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised a workshop on "Linking health promotion and health care" as well as an annual meeting.

#### **Section on Food and Nutrition**

The EUPHA section on food and nutrition is presided by Dr Enni Mertanen of the Schools of Tourism and Service Management, Jyväskylä Polytechnic, Finland. The section currently has 237 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised a workshop on "Are current policies leading to healthier food in Europe?", as well as an annual meeting. At the annual meeting, a discussion took place whether the focus of the section should be enlarged to include physical activity.

#### **Section on Health Services Research**

The EUPHA section on health services research has been under new presidency this year: Dr Tit Albreht of the Slovenian Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia. The section currently has 495 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised a workshop on "Transitions countries' way

into a reformed health care”, chaired by the new and the old president, Dr Diana Delnoij of the Netherlands Institute of Health Services Research. The section also held its annual meeting in Graz.

#### Section on Social Security and Health

The EUPHA section on social security and health is presided by Professor Kristina Alexanderson of the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden. The section currently has 275 members. In Graz, the section organised a full-day pre-conference meeting on the consequences of sickness absence and disability pension, a workshop on “Cooperation between different actors regarding promotion and return to work of sickness absentees” and an annual meeting.

#### Section on Child and Adolescent Public Health

The EUPHA section youth has been renamed to the EUPHA section on child and adolescent public health. The section is presided by Dr Auke Wieggersma of the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. The section currently has 200 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised two workshops: “Evidence of action – how policy interpretation in children’s and environment provides us with important challenges” and “Youth friendly services: effective strategies for improving adolescent health care”, as well as an annual meeting. The section also collaborated with the EU project CAESAR (Child abuse in Europe: surveillance and reduction).

#### Section on the Utilisation of Medicines

The EUPHA section on the utilisation of medicines is presided by Dr Pietro Folino-Gallo of the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies, Rome, Italy and Professor Arne Melander from the NEPI Foundation and Malmo University Hospital, Sweden. The section currently has 175 members. At the Graz conference, the section co-organised the annual meeting of the EURO-MED-STAT project, a workshop on “Antidiabetics medicines and impact on health”, as well as an annual meeting. The section members were also invited to participate in the development of indicators (with special reference to outcome indicators (with special reference to outcome indicators) for the Library of European Union Pharmaceutical Indicators, developed by the EURO-MED-STAT project, funded by the European Commission DG-Health.

#### Section on Infectious Diseases Control

The EUPHA section on infectious diseases control is presided by Dr Viviane van Casteren of the Scientific Institute of Public Health, Brussels, Belgium. The section currently has 249 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised a pre-conference meeting on “Public health actions resulting from networks: EU networks for surveillance activities in the field of infectious diseases control”. The section also organised a full track on infectious diseases at the Graz conference, including the following workshops:

- Burden of infectious diseases on migrant health in Europe
- Health care associated infection: public health impact and control perspectives
- Tuberculosis – new tools for a very old public health problem
- Assessment, management, perception and communication of risk: the lessons of SARS
- New vaccines: a policy for Europe
- Influenza pandemic preparedness: from national to local level
- Pandemic preparedness: towards an improvement of prevention and control of infectious diseases using enhanced communication technologies.

#### Section on Public Health Epidemiology

The EUPHA section on public health epidemiology is currently presided by Professor Paolo Villar of the University ‘La Sapienza’, Rome, Italy, Dr ‘Giuseppe La Torre of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy and Dr Alastair Leyland of the Medical Research Council, Glasgow, UK. The section currently has 648 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised a workshop “Systematic reviews and meta-analyses in public health”, as well as an annual meeting.

#### Section on Public Health Practice and Policy

The EUPHA section on public health practice and policy is presided by Professor Mark McCarthy of University College London, UK. At the moment, the section has 584 members. At the Graz conference, the section organised a pre-conference meeting for the partners of the SPHERE (Strengthening public health research in Europe) project, a workshop and an annual meeting.

### Section on Migrant Health

The EUPHA section on migrant health elected a new president at its annual meeting in Graz (to be added after Graz). The section currently has 138 members. At the Graz conference, a workshop was jointly organised with the section on infectious diseases control on "Burden of infectious diseases on migrant health in Europe".

At the Graz conference, several brainstorming meetings took place to discuss possible new sections for EUPHA. The discussions included subjects like:

- public health economics
- chronic diseases
- mental health
- injury prevention
- environment and health

## EUPHA 2005: OTHER ACTIVITIES

In 2005, EUPHA has both focused on internal organisation (mainly linked to the change of the EJPH and the database) as well as on an increase in the visibility and networking of EUPHA.

The increased visibility of EUPHA could be seen in several ways:

### Website

The EUPHA website was further developed in 2005. The EUPHA database was added, which allows all public health experts to check their personal and work information included in the database. This database increases the networking skills of EUPHA. The database was put to the test in a project on health indicators set up by the Netherlands Institute of Health Services Research. The database also includes the conference registration. As of 2007, all EUPHA conferences will be registered by EUPHA centrally. The success of the online abstract submission system was confirmed again this year. The system was even used as an example for the EPIET abstract system. The website is now also updated on a regular basis. The average amount of website hits over the last 9 months have been just over 100'000 per month (in 2004, the average amount per month was 68'000).

### Publications

In 2005, a number of papers/articles were published under the name of EUPHA. These include:

- Ten statements on the future of public health in Europe
- Urbanisation and Health: new challenges in health promotion and prevention, Tellnes, G editor. This book is a summary of presentations of the 2004 annual conference of EUPHA.
- Extreme weather events and public health responses. Kirch, W, Menne, B, Bertollini R, editors. World Health Organization 2005.
- EJPH supplement of the 13<sup>th</sup> EUPHA conference.
- Annual report 2004

### Networking

The 2005 EUPHA president has been very actively in the networking on behalf of EUPHA. He has visited several countries (among which Armenia and Greece) and has given presentations at a number of conferences, among which:

- 14<sup>th</sup> international safety community congress in Bergen, Norway (June)
- PHOENIX conference in Catania, Spain (June)
- ASPHER meeting in Yerevan, Armenia (September)

### Projects

EUPHA has been involved in a number of projects in 2005, including:

- EUPHA/OSI project to support public health associations in central and Eastern Europe

Together with the Open Society Institute (OSI) of the SOROS foundation, EUPHA started the first implementation phase of a project for the support of public health associations as key links between government, the scientific community and the population in central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in 2003. The second stage of this project with three countries (Romania, Serbia and Kazakhstan) finished in

2005. At the Graz conference, a workshop was organised to present the results of the two projects and to discuss the impact of these projects on the development of public health associations in CEE countries.

- ASPHER/EUPHA accreditation project

EUPHA is very pleased that the ASPHER project on accreditation of public health education was accepted by the Leonardo programme of the European Commission. EUPHA is a partner in this project. At the Graz conference, the project was presented in a workshop. At the same time, a kick-off meeting was organised during the conference. From EUPHA side, the following experts are involved in the project: Prof. Horst Noack, Austria, Dr Georg Reschauer, Germany, Prof. Allan Krasnik, Denmark and Prof. Gunnar Tellnes, Norway.

- SPHERE project

The SPHERE (Strengthening Public Health Research in Europe) was initiated by the president of EUPHA Section on Public Health Practice and Policy, Prof. Mark McCarthy. The project was started during our conference in Oslo in 2004. At the Graz conference, a meeting of the SPHERE project partners was organised on the preconference day, followed by a workshop during the conference on Public Health Research. At the 2006 conference in Montreux, Switzerland, the project will be concluded in a session of 2 workshops.

### **EUPHA 2005: COLLABORATIONS**

ASPHER:	Association of schools of public health in the European region. As already stated above, ASPHER and EUPHA are collaboration on the accreditation project.
EHMA:	European Health Management Association. Official links are established. The contacts are limited to an exchange of information between the executive directors.
IUHPE:	International Union of Health Promotion and Education. Contacts are organised through our section on health promotion. A representative of IUHPE attended our Governing Council meeting and discussed future collaboration with us.
European Forum of Primary Health Care:	This forum was created last year. EUPHA is represented in this forum by Dr Diana Delnoij of our Executive Council.
EACH:	European Association for Community Health
APHA:	The American Public Health Association has kindly invited EUPHA again to attend their annual meeting. The contacts between APHA and EUPHA are good though limited as we usually only meet at the annual meeting of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.
WFPHA:	World Federation of Public Health Associations. We are very pleased that the organiser of the tri-annual congress of the WFPHA in Brazil in 2006 attended our 2005 conference.
European Union:	EUPHA has had extensive contacts with the Directorate General of Public Health and with the Directorate General of Research of the European Commission. This relationship with the DG-Health has further developed thanks to the EUPHA conference in Graz, where a EU-EUPHA collaboration track was set up.
ECDC	European Centre for Diseases Control. EUPHA has been accepted as a member on the ECDC advisory board. Dr Ruth Gelletlie is EUPHA's representative on this board.
WHO/EURO:	World Health Organisation/ Regional Office for Europe. The collaboration with WHO/EURO has been intensified since the visit in October 2002. The collaboration includes a regular WHO column in the EJPH, an initiative that has been well received on both sides and will continue until further notice. In December, a representation of EUPHA will meet the director of health indicators and the organiser of the Health Evidence Network (HEN) of WHO/EURO.

- WHO/Headquarter: WHO Headquarters was represented at the Graz conference, by one of our past presidents (Prof. Alena Petrakova). This increased the collaboration EUPHA – WHO/HQ. For 2006, the collaboration will increase due to the fact that our annual conference is organised in Switzerland.
- WHO/PAHO: WHO Pan-American Health Organisation. There have been increased exchange of information with WHO/PAHO, who has distributed information on publications at the Graz conference and is now included in our network of publications, regularly published on our website.

### **EUPHA 2005: SPONSORS**

- SOROS foundation/Open Society Institute (CEE participation at the Graz conference)
- Merck, Sharpe and Dome (website)
- Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research (NIVEL) (EUPHA office)
- Karlstad University (EJPH editorial office)
- Swedish Research Council (EJPH editorial office)
- European Commission (conference)
- Scientific Institute of Public Health, Belgium
- STAKES, National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health, Finland
- National School of Public Health, France
- Medical Faculty, Technical University of Dresden, Germany
- Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Faculty of Medicine 'Agostino Gemelli', Institute of Hygiene, Italy
- University of Siena, Department of Public Health, Italy
- Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway
- Netherlands Public Health Federation, Netherlands
- UK Faculty of Public Health, United Kingdom

### **EUPHA 2005: COMMITTEES**

#### **Executive council**

- President: Prof. Gunnar Tellnes, Norway  
Past president: Prof. Walter Ricciardi, Italy  
President-elect: Prof. Horst Noack, Austria  
Vice president-elect: Prof. Metka Macarol-Hiti, Slovenia  
Vice president-elect: Prof. Zvonko Sosic, Croatia  
President-elect 2: Dr John-Paul Vader, Switzerland  
Treasurer: Prof. Juan Cabases, Spain  
Secretary: Dr Diana Delnoij, the Netherlands

#### **Governing Council**

- Albania: Enver Roshi, Lumturi Spaho  
Austria: Oskar Meggeneder, Franz Piribauer  
Belgium: Antoon De Schryver, Isabel Godin  
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Izet Masic, Zijad Beslagic  
Bulgaria: Lyobumir Ivanov, Peter Tzonov  
Croatia: Selma Sogoric  
Cyprus: Olga Poyiadji-Kalakouta  
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Greece: John Kyriopoulos, Jeffrey Levett  
Hungary: Péter Józán, Endre Morava  
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Israel:	Ted Tulchinsky
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Kazakhstan:	Gainel Ussatayeva
Latvia:	Iveta Pudule, Anita Villerusa
Lithuania:	Audrius Sceponavicius, Albertas Skurvydas
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Malta:	Natasha Muscat, Kenneth Grech
Moldova:	Ruslan David
Netherlands:	Jan Huurman, Marieke van der Waal
Norway:	Kristian Hagestad, Gerd Holmboe-Ottesen
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Russia:	Andrey Demin
Serbia:	Ljiljana Denic, Snezana Simic
Slovakia:	Zuzana Katreniakova, Gabriel Gulis
Slovenia:	Alenka Kraigher, Dunja Piškur Kosmac
Spain:	Jose Repullo, Joan Ramon Villalbi
Sweden:	Bo Burström, Per-Olof Östergren
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Turkey:	Bekir Metin, Hikmet Pekcan
United Kingdom:	Rebecca Hardy, Carol Orchard
ASPHER:	Thierry Louvet
IUHPE:	Catherine Jones
EHMA:	Philip Berman
Section presidents:	Viviane van Casteren, Enni Mertanen, Heiko Waller, Pietro Folino-Gallo, Paolo Villari, Auke Wiegersma, Tit Albreht, Kristina Alexanderson, Mark McCarthy
Past presidents:	Viviane van Casteren, Alena Petráková, Marc Brodin, Wilhelm Kirch, Walter Ricciardi, Louise Gunning-Schepers, Carlos Alvarez-Dardet, Peter Allebeck, Klim McPherson

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Luka Kovacic, Croatia (vice-chair)  
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