



An independent scientific and professional
voice for public health in Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

PREFACE

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is the umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. EUPHA was founded in 1992. EUPHA is an international, multidisciplinary, scientific organisation, bringing together around 12'000 public health experts for professional exchange and collaboration throughout Europe. We encourage a multidisciplinary approach to public health.

Our vision

Improved health and reduced health inequalities for all Europeans. We seek to support our members to increase the impact of public health in Europe, adding value to the efforts of regions and states, national and international organisations, and individual public health experts.

Our mission

To build capacity and knowledge in the field of public health, and to support practice and policy through scientific evidence, producing and sharing knowledge with our members and partners in Europe.

This document summarizes the activities of the European Public Health Association in 2009.

Ilmo Keskimäki, past president

EUPHA GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Our members

At the end of 2009, we have a total of 69 members from 40 countries, divided as follows:

- 43 member associations
- 7 individual members
- 11 institutional members
- 8 associate members

The Executive Council accepted the following new members in 2009:

- HAPHI – Hungarian Association of Public Health Research and Training Institutions
- Russian Public Health Association
- Dr Lilia Turcan from Moldova (individual member)

The Swiss Society of Public Health organized a visit to The Netherlands. We were very pleased that they managed to include a half day of EUPHA-Public Health – Schweiz discussions (18 May 2009).

EUPHA office

The EUPHA office has expanded in 2009: We are very pleased to welcome our new senior project officer, Mr Floris Barnhoorn, who took up his activities in May 2009. We now have 7 staff members (all part-time) located in two countries. They are:

EUPHA staff:

Utrecht: Floris Barnhoorn, senior project officer
Herma van den Brink, managing assistant
Sara van den Brink, database entry
Ingeborg Vlug, finances
Dineke Zeegers Paget, executive director

Graz: Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb, conference coordinator
Birgit Ruess, conference registration

Total staff: 2.8 fte.

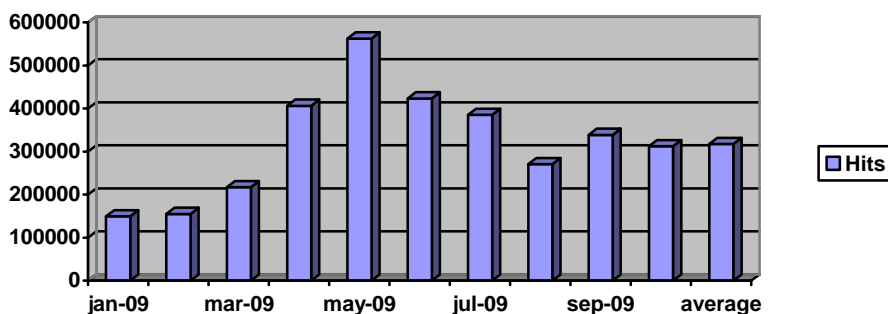
Newsletter

The EUPHA electronic newsletter contains information on: recent publications, upcoming conferences and courses, job vacancies, updates on the European Commission and the European Centre for Diseases Control, WHO, EUPHA and our conference. The newsletter is distributed on a monthly basis to over 5700 individuals; an increase of 22% from last year (last year: 4667). The newsletter is highly appreciated and we received a number of demands to add our newsletter to the websites and mailing lists of our members and partners.

Website

The EUPHA website – www.eupha.org – contains information on all our activities and is updated regularly. Links are established with the European countries via a map of Europe. Country information includes reports of our members, links to the publications of the European Observatory on health systems and policy; WHO reports and the Ministry of Health. The annual conference abstract submission and conference registration are also linked to the website. On average in the last 10 months, the website has 317'311 hits/month. This is an increase of 67% from 2008 (Jan-Oct 08 average was 190'119).

Number of hits on the EUPHA website in the last 10 months (until October 2009)



The interactive part of our website (public health forum) was re-activated at the beginning of the year. One of our members drew our attention to the fact that this part of the website was mainly used for spam-related messages. The public health forum was closed again until a solution against spam has been found.

Database

The EUPHA database contains just under 12'000 public health experts from 111 countries. Of these experts 3771 indicated more details on their activities, current research and/or publications.

Database summary (August 2009)

No. of countries total	111
Europe	51
Asia	19
Africa	21
Americas	14
South Pacific region	6

Networking

We are very pleased with the increase in networking activities of EUPHA in 2009. The networking activities included:

- The collaboration with ASPHER is ongoing and has increased in activity. Activities included:
 - The joint conference in Lodz
 - The training/education pillar in our new strategy; and
 - Our input in their Road map 2015
- Joint technical meeting with ECDC on 'Health Communication for Innovation in the EU' (focus on communicable diseases) organised on 18 May in Stockholm, Sweden. Representatives from 9 of our members attended this open and fruitful discussion. A follow-up to this meeting will take place at the Lodz 2009 conference.
- Joint meeting with ECDC, WHO and EUPHA on Public Health Response to Economic and Social Crises in Europe, organised on 19 May 2009 in Stockholm, Sweden. This interesting discussion is also followed up at the Lodz 2009 conference.
- Increased collaboration with WHO/EURO (see also above). At the regional meeting of WHO/EURO in September 2009, two representatives from EUPHA (Stan Tarkowski and Dineke Zeegers Paget) were invited as observers. The meeting offered a great opportunity to have bilateral discussions with WHO/EURO, but also with the European Commission and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. We are also very honoured to have the incoming regional director, Dr Zsuzsana Jakab, at the Lodz 2009 conference to give a presentation on the Future of WHO and Public Health in Europe - views of the newly elected Regional Director of WHO for Europe.
- Increased collaboration was also further developed with the European Commission. EUPHA was successful in some projects as described below. We also had several meetings with representatives from the European Commission to discuss common activities and goals. This increased collaboration was reflected in the Lodz 2009 conference, with several workshops being jointly organised.
- Increased collaboration with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. Throughout the year, we had some great opportunities to discuss increased collaboration with the Observatory. First ideas were already implemented during the Lodz 2009 conference, with the Observatory's active participation in the programme and the Observatory's stand at the conference. Other ideas include a formal collaboration especially related to policy issues.
- EUPHA re-applied for membership of the European Health Policy Forum, organised by EPHA. The EU Health Forum serves as an information and consultation mechanism to ensure that the aims of the Community's health strategy are made clear to the public and respond to their concerns. It provides an opportunity to make contributions to health policy development, its implementation and the setting of priorities for action. The EU Health Forum is composed of two complementary elements: An Open Forum as a

- platform for general exchange of information and for a discussion with a broader range of groups and interested parties, and a Health Policy Forum with a consistent set of member organisations, for the discussion of key policy areas.
- A meeting with the organisers of the European Health Forum Gastein (yearly conference mainly for policymakers) was organised during the Forum in October 2009. First ideas on mutual participation in each other conferences are promising.

Internal activities

The internal activities of EUPHA focused on two areas:

- Setting up the operational plan for EUPHA 2010-2014. The Strategy steering committee of EUPHA elaborated an operational plan to follow the newly adapted strategy of EUPHA in November 2008.
- Sponsorship issues: There have been informal discussions on EUPHA and sponsoring. Some years ago, the Governing Council adopted sponsorship guidelines, but questions remain. The Executive Council has set up a small working group, presided by the president of the EUPHA section Ethics in public health, to update the general rules of sponsorship.

EUPHA PROJECTS

New and ongoing projects

STEPS – Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research

STEPS engages civil society organisations, researchers and ministries to map public health research systems, hold national-level workshops in the 12 EU new member states, develop a European perspective through a final conference in 2010. It builds on work previously completed as *SPHERE* (Strengthening Public Health Research in Europe), which undertook literature study and mapping of European public health research, and found particular interest for further support in the EU new member states.

STEPS started in January 2009. Partners in STEPS are the University College London (UCL), Skalbes, a health NGO in Latvia and EUPHA. Mark McCarthy is the project leader.

Activities in 2009 included:

- Preparation and mapping: within each of the 12 new EU member states, STEPS has identified stakeholders and national lead organisations for the project – national public health associations, civil society organizations, health ministries, research councils, research institutes and researchers.
- Development of the STEPS website: www.steps-ph.eu
- Workshop: national lead organisations are meeting at the European Public Health Conference to prepare for National Workshops, to be held in 2010. Each workshop will assess the situation of public health research nationally, and include a theme related to interests of CSOs. The workshops will be reported in national languages and English.

MEHO – Migrant and Ethnic Observatory project

The main objective of MEHO is to develop indicators to monitor the health status of immigrant and ethnic minority groups in Europe. Therefore existing health related databases and surveys will be used and a European network of epidemiological observatories on migrants' health will be established. This network will generate a European overview of comparable socio-demographic data of immigrant and ethnic minority groups for selected health problems.

EUPHA is responsible for the ongoing dissemination of the project's activities and results to a wide public. The dissemination is done through the EUPHA website, workshops and abstracts in the yearly supplement to the European Journal of Public Health. EUPHA facilitates two MEHO project meetings and a workshop at the Lodz Conference.

EURHOMAP - Mapping professional home care in Europe

EURHOMAP aims to show variations in development, provision and use of professional home care in the countries in Europe by gathering, analysing and disseminating information on various aspects of home care services. The project is coordinated by NIVEL in the Netherlands. The project is progressing well.

Activities in 2009 focussed on collecting home care information in 32 participating countries. This was done by: short narratives (“vignettes”) about people in need of home care were developed by panels of experts in each of the countries and inventories on policies, regulations, organisation, financing and provision of home care. Results will be described in country reports for each of the participating countries. The reports are expected to be published early 2010. At the Conference the EURHOMAP project results will be presented at a poster session.

PHAMEU - Primary Health Care Activity Monitor for Europe

PHAMEU will develop instruments to gather information on primary care systems in 31 European countries and to monitor current developments. The project is coordinated by NIVEL in the Netherlands. PHAMEU had its third project meeting in June 2009 to prepare the application of the instruments in the participating countries.

Open Society Institute 2009

The grant will allow public health experts and delegates from national public health associations from Central and Eastern European countries to actively participate in all aspects of the conference.

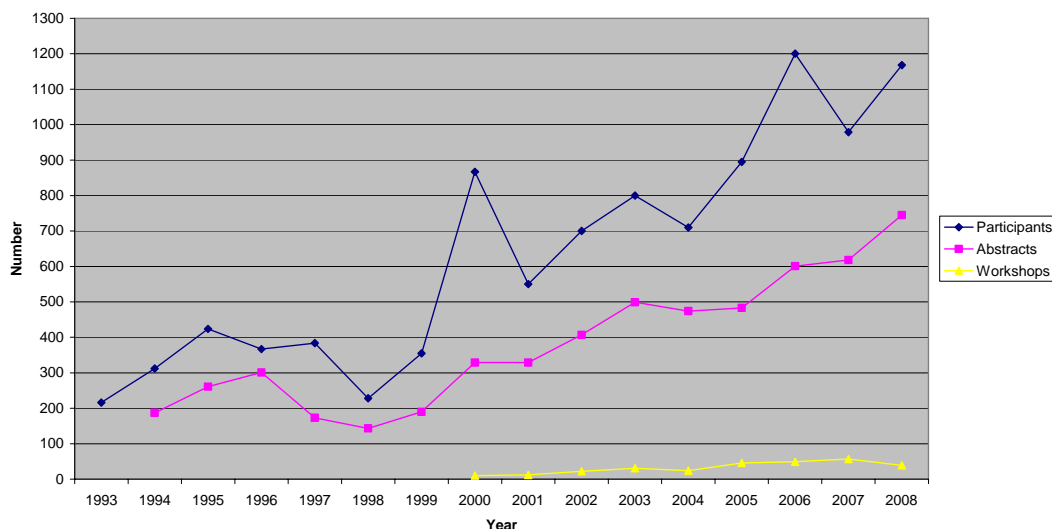
Projects completed

Projects that were completed in 2009 included: the first European Public Health Conference 2008 in Lisbon and SPHERE (Strengthening Public Health Research in Europe). SPHERE has described public health research at European level, including support by national governments, and advised how it can be strengthened and most effectively integrated with European health policy. The process has contributed to developing public health research within the Seventh Framework Research Programme, the public health programme of DG Health and public health policy implementation in member states.

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

EUPHA convenes a scientific conference every year, bringing together public health experts throughout Europe and beyond. The conferences offer a platform for the exchange of information and an opportunity for international research groups to meet and present their work. Since 2008, the conference is combined with the annual ASPHER (Association for Schools of Public Health in the European Region) conference. Throughout the years, we see an increase in the programme and participation.

EUPHA CONFERENCES
Participants, Submitted Abstracts, Submitted Workshops EUPHA Conferences 1993-2008



In 2009, EUPHA focused on the following conferences:

Lisbon 2008 – i-Health – innovation and health

Finalising the administration for a conference is a time-consuming process. In 2009, we spent the first 6 months on the preparation of the final report of the conference, the evaluation of the conference (available on our website) and the finalisation of the finances of EUPHA 2008. The activities were complex, as 4 conferences (2 national and 2 international) were organised at the same time and all registration issues were in the hands of EUPHA office.

Lodz 2009- Human Ecology and Public Health – promoting environmental and social conditions conducive to health

The 2009 conference was originally planned as the 17th European Public Health Conference and has been renamed as the 2nd European Public Health Conference as a next step after the parallel organisation of the EUPHA and ASPHER conferences in Lisbon. The conference was organised from 25-28 November 2009 in Lodz, Poland, in collaboration with the Polish Association of Public Health. The conference addressed the increasing focus of public health on the health impact of globally changing environmental and social conditions. The programme of the conference had been adjusted in order to enable discussions on newly emerged public health problems associated with the A/H₁N₁ epidemic and with the financial crises. Invitational workshops and plenary sessions were organised with WHO/EURO, WHO Health Observatory, European Commission, European Environment Agency and European Public Health Alliance.

The core local organising team:

- Stanislaw Tarkowski
- Robert Klarecki
- Jan Nosko

For the Lodz conference a total of 516 single abstracts and 45 workshops proposals from 53 countries were received. The majority of financial contributions were received from the European Commission and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Amsterdam 2010 - Integrated Public Health

The central theme of the 2010 conference is “Integrated Public Health”. Integration – making something into a whole or making something part of a whole - is a key issue in European public health. The following sub themes will be addressed:

- Integrating research, policy, education and practice (evidenced-based public health and health care policy);
- Integrating health in all policies (intersectoral policy with special attention to public-private partnerships);
- Integrating public health information systems for informing European policy makers and practitioners;
- Integrating new knowledge, skills and competencies in public health professionals (workforce crisis and professionalism);
- Integrating prevention and health promotion in (primary) health care systems.

The 2010 conference will be the third European Public Health conference and will again be organised in collaboration with ASPHER. The 2010 LOC has been working with the ASPHER representative since the beginning of the organisation.

Copenhagen 2011 - Public health and welfare – welfare development and health

The 2011 conference will be organised by the Danish Society of Public Health. Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb made a site-visit in August to meet with Finn Kamper-Jørgensen and the proposed PCO and to see the Bella Center where the conference will take place. It is a large yet very inviting congress center (where the climate change summit will take place in December, by the way). The management seemed very flexible – our Danish organisers are able to put rooms on a “reserved-list” till shortly before the conference and the layout of rooms can be decided towards the end, as well. The main theme of the conference is “Public health and welfare – welfare development and health”. Finn is in touch with several colleagues to collaborate in the LOC and with national bodies to support the conference. A Danish ASPHER representative willing to work in the LOC needs to be found yet. There will be an update meeting during the Lodz conference.

THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The European Journal of Public Health is EUPHA’s scientific journal, which is published on a bimonthly basis. The EJPH does not only publish refereed original articles, but also provides a forum for discussion and debate of current international public health issues with a focus on the European region. The EJPH is distributed to 6219 institutions and individuals. For EUPHA members, the EJPH is available in an electronic version. The impact factor for the *European Journal of Public Health* is currently 2.176 (up from 1.910 in 2007).

OUP- EUPHA continues

The contract with OUP to publish the European Journal of Public Health expired at the end of this year. At the end of 2009, EUPHA re-signed a publishing agreement with OUP for 3 years.

Journal statistics

An overview of journal statistics 2002-2009

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009 (26 Oct)
Manuscripts with a final decision	270	262	352	336	427	498	490	483

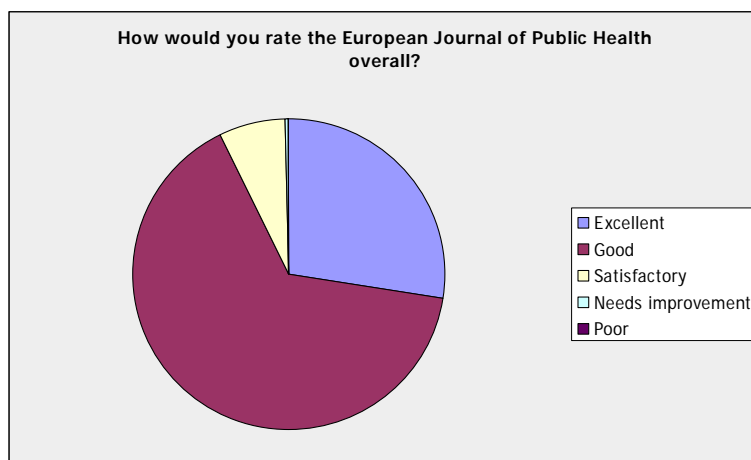
Acceptance rate (based on final decisions)	37%	31%	16%	24%	16.4%	19.7%	21.6%	28.4%
Manuscripts in process							12	200
Original manuscripts published	48	57	82	105	97	92	84	71 (so far)

The number of days from submission to first decision remained stable as compared to 2008 (35 days). The average number of days from submission to final decision decreased by one day (to 42 days).

The acceptance rate for manuscripts have been around or slightly above 20% during the past years. The instantaneous October figure should be taken with caution, but it is apparent from the figures that we have had a strong increase in incoming manuscripts this year, in addition to the steadily increase during the past 10 years. We received in total around 500 manuscripts in 2008 and we expect to receive at least 700 manuscripts in 2009, so we will have to adjust acceptance rates accordingly.

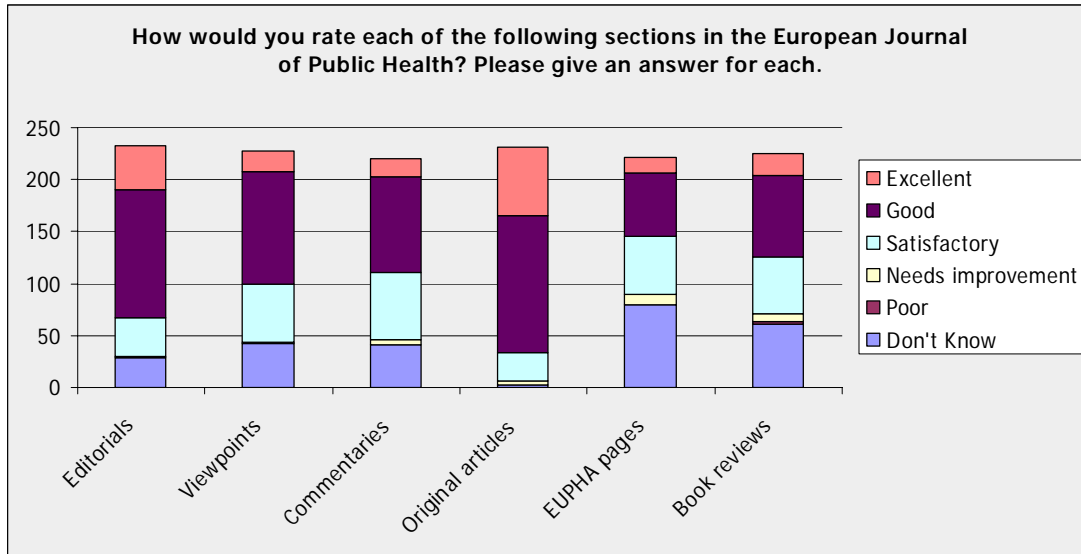
EJPH reader survey

In the spring of 2009, OUP organised a EJPH reader survey. The overall satisfaction with the EJPH is high.



The reader survey showed that 70% read the EJPH online. Just over 79% of the readers access the EJPH through an institutional subscription; 10.5% indicated they use the EUPHA membership to do so.

The survey also provided information on the different sections of the EJPH (see below).



Editorial Board changes

The editor-in-chief, Prof. Johan Mackenbach, stepped down at the end of this year after 6 years. We wish to thank Johan for his excellent leadership and innovative vision. The editorial board searched for a successor and in November Prof. Peter Allebeck was installed as the new editor-in-chief..

Prof. Martin McKee also decided to step down as one of the editors of the EJPH. He has been a highly-appreciated member for around 15 years of the team. The editorial board has found an excellent successor in the person of Prof. Alastair Leyland (UK).

EUPHA SECTIONS

EUPHA encourages the creation of sections for specific public health themes, which are international and open to all regular EUPHA members. The goal is to bring together researchers and public health professionals working in the same field for the exchange of information and the setting up of joint policies, reports and research. At the end of 2009, EUPHA has 18 sections:

Overview of sections (August 2009)

Section:	Number of registered members *:
Child and adolescent public health	862
Chronic diseases	548
Environment related diseases	419
Ethics in public health	76
Food and nutrition	632
Health promotion	1548
Health services research	1218
Infectious diseases control	758

Injury prevention and safety promotion	314
Migrant and ethnic health	571
Public health economics	558
Public health epidemiology	1680
Public health genomics	189
Public health practice and policy	1545
Public mental health	450
Social security and health	774
Urban health	70
Utilisation of medicines	344

** Experts are free to become members of more than one section*

Section council

The newly installed section council has representatives from all sections. The main objectives of this council are:

- To encourage collaboration between sections
- To support and organise the establishment of new sections
- To organise the regular evaluation of sections
- To develop and monitor activities of sections

Highlights of the sections' activities

- The section on migrant health changed its title to the section on migrant and ethnic minority health. They are an organising partner in the 2010 European conference on migration and ethnic minority health in Pécs, Hungary.
- The section on environment-related diseases published an article in the European Union issue 17 (pages 1-3).
- The section on health promotion is working closely with the IUHPE for the organisation of their world congress in July 2010 in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The section on injury prevention and safety promotion has collaborated in the setting up of a policy statement issued by the network of European NGO's dedicated to injury prevention. The statement addresses alcohol and injuries.