

Oral statement on ‘Action Plan to Strengthen the Use of Evidence, Information and Research for Policy-Making in the WHO European Region’ - agenda point of the 68th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe

September 2018

The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) appreciates the decision to place the ‘Action Plan to Strengthen the Use of Evidence, Information and Research for Policy-Making’ on the agenda of the 68th session of the World Health Organization Regional Committee for Europe. EUPHA welcomes the progress report that provides an overview of the implementation progress of the four action areas. EUPHA and its members would like to express support for this Action Plan.

Ultimately, the ‘Action Plan to Strengthen the Use of Evidence, Information and Research for Policy-Making’ can contribute to reducing health inequalities and improve the health status and well-being of individuals and populations within the European region. EUPHA and its members support the WHO Regional Office for Europe in leading this evidence-informed policy-making. As a key stakeholder in public health, we see the WHO Regional Office for Europe as the designated entity to fulfil this role.

We should recognise the progress that is made to collaborate with other stakeholders in the past decade. It is essential to continue collaborating with other stakeholders that collect data and have similar initiatives to gather health information in the European region. Actions should be in line with other key stakeholders in order to avoid duplication of work and double reporting. Key stakeholders to collaborate with are Member States, the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

EUPHA and its members would like to stress that scientific evidence should remain a key input to policy making in a ‘post truth’ world. In addition, we should also assemble evidence on the politics of decision making, as this will strengthen the position to advocate for health. In November 2018, EUPHA will support the publication of a supplement to the European Journal of Public Health on political landscapes and policies for public health.



The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. Our network of national associations of public health represents around 20'000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

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