

6th EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE 2013

Health in Europe: are we there yet?
Learning from the past, building the future

SQUARE Brussels Meeting Centre
Kunstberg / Mont des Arts, Brussels
13 – 16 November 2013



SUMMARY REPORT



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union

This publication arises from the conference 'Brussels 2013' which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Public Health Programme (2012 4305).

Authors: Dineke Zeegers Paget, Floris Barnhoorn, EUPHA

© EUPHA, April 2014

The 6th Joint European Public Health Conference, Brussels 2013, is organised by the EPH Conference Foundation at the initiative of the European Association of Public Health (EUPHA).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

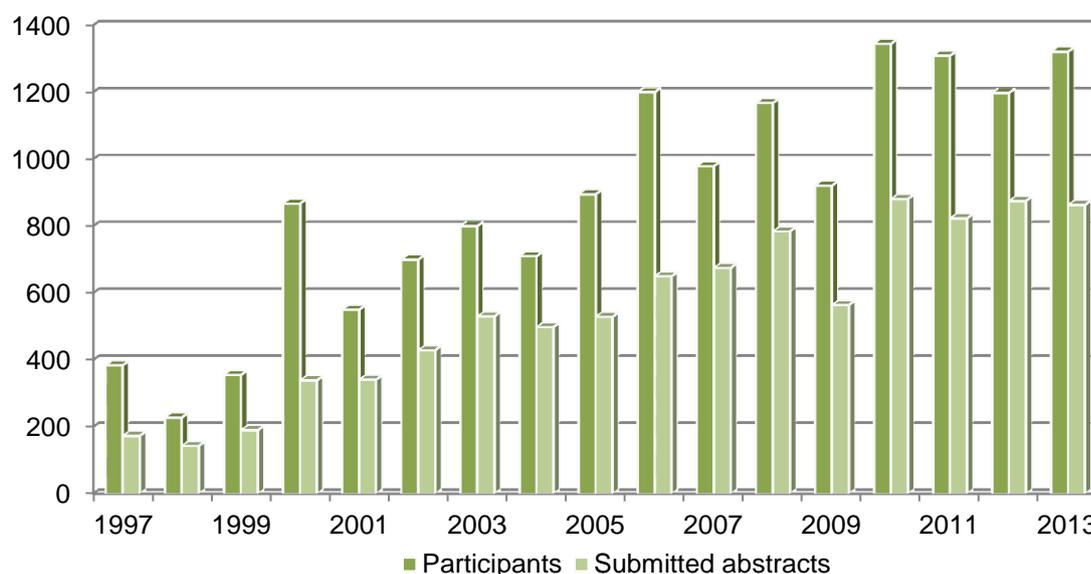
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
1. THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE.....	4
2. BRUSSELS 2013 - HEALTH IN EUROPE: ARE WE THERE YET?	4
3. BRUSSELS 2013: PROGRAMME.....	5
3.1. Plenary programme.....	5
3.2. Parallel programme	7
3.3. Thematic tracks.....	8
3.4. Abstract and presentation prizes	9
3.5. Pre-conference programme.....	9
3.6. Lunch meetings and extra meetings.....	10
3.7. OSF Film Festival 'Health and Human Rights'	11
4. BRUSSELS 2013: PARTICIPANTS.....	11
5. BRUSSELS 2013: NETWORKING	13
6. BRUSSELS 2013: ORGANISATION	13
7. BRUSSELS 2013: CONFERENCE VENUE	14
7.1. Conference venue in general.....	14
7.2. Exhibition area	15

1. THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

The European Public Health Conference is an annual scientific conference on public health topics organised throughout Europe. The EPH Conference is initiated by the European Public Health Association - EUPHA.

The main purpose of the EPH Conference is to strengthen the capacity of public health professionals, researchers and policymakers by enhancing the exchange of knowledge, policy and best practice across Europe. EPH conferences offer a wide platform for sharing scientific outcomes in research and dissemination of knowledge information. Over the years, we have seen an increase in submitted abstracts and participants.

Figure 1: Overview of conference registrations and abstract submissions 1997 - 2013



2. BRUSSELS 2013 - HEALTH IN EUROPE: ARE WE THERE YET?

81.0 % of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the Brussels 2013 conference

The theme of the conference was 'Health in Europe: are we there yet? Learning from the past, building the future'. Major themes included twenty years of public health mandate in the European Union under the Treaty of Maastricht and new challenges in public health and health services research in a rapidly changing Europe. The conference also discussed future perspectives of European public health, in particular in view of the new EU programmes on health and research, both to be launched in 2014.

More specifically, Brussels 2013 aimed to:

- offer a platform for exchanging knowledge, sharing research outcomes and discussing best practice at a European level;
- create, support and promote close and active collaboration links among European public health networks, organisations and schools of public health;
- increase knowledge and skills among EUPHA and ASPHER member associations by the organisation of capacity building seminars;
- support the objectives of the second EU Health Programme and the new Health for Growth Programme, the third programme of the EU in the field of health for the period 2014-2020.

3. BRUSSELS 2013: PROGRAMME

Through plenary sessions and workshops, the thematic priorities of the conference were explored in depth. Keynote speakers from international standing and varying disciplines addressed the conference themes from different perspectives. The parallel scientific programme of the conference, based on submitted and scored abstracts, paid detailed attention to the main theme and dealt comprehensively with the sub-themes of the conference.

3.1. Plenary programme

69.9% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the plenary programme at Brussels 2013

The plenary programme of the 6th EPH Conference included an opening ceremony, five plenary sessions, a late breaker session and a closing ceremony. Videos of the plenary sessions are available on the EPH Conference web pages, see http://www.eupha.org/site/upcoming_conference.php?conference_page=397

The plenary sessions were:

Opening ceremony

Thursday 14 November 2013, 12:00-13:00

Moderator: Guido van Hal, BAPH

Speakers:

Laurette Onkelinx, Federal Minister of Health, Belgium

Tonio Borg, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumers

Walter Ricciardi, EUPHA president

Helmut Brand, ASPHER immediate past president

Plenary 1: Are we there yet? Learning from the past, building the future

Thursday 14 November 2013, 13:00-14:00, organised by EUPHA

Moderator: Walter Ricciardi, EUPHA

Speakers:

Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Sir Muir Gray, National Knowledge Service, United Kingdom

Plenary 2: Hurling towards the edge? Population dynamics and public health

Thursday 14 November 2013, 17:40-18:40, organised by EPHA

Moderator: Monika Kosinska, EPHA

Speaker: Johan Mackenbach, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands

Panellist: Robert Johnstone, European Patients Forum

Plenary 3: No limits for public health! Using evidence for policy changes

Friday 15 November 2013, 09:00-10:00, organised by EuroHealthNet, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Moderator: Josep Figueras, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Panellists:

Tomaz Gantar, Minister of Health, Slovenia

Miklos Szocska, Minister of Health, Hungary

Antonio Correia de Campos, Member European Parliament, Portugal

Dominique Polton, National Health Insurance, France

Clive Needle, EuroHealthNet

Plenary 4: How to make it happen! On the development of people and institutions in public health

Friday 15 November 2013, 16:40-17:50, organised by ASPHER

Moderator: Helmut Brand, University of Maastricht, Netherlands

Panellists:

Peter Piot, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

Julio Frenk, Harvard School of Public Health, United States

Marianne Olsson, EHMA

Plenary Late Breaker: Health in all policies @ the European Commission

Saturday 16 November 2013, 13:00-14:00, organised by EUPHA

Chair: Kieran Walshe, Manchester Business School, United Kingdom

Speakers:

Katja de Sadeleer, European Commission, DG Enlargement

Barbara Kerstiëns, European Commission, DG Research

Plenary 5: Investing in Health: good practices from the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

Saturday 16 November 2013, 14:00-15:00, organised by the European Commission, Executive Agency for Health and Consumers

Moderator: Andrzej Rys, European Commission, DG SANCO

Speakers:

Bernadette Hannigan, Department of Health, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Jean Bousquet, Chairman of the WHO Global Alliance against Chronic Respiratory Diseases

Closing ceremony

Saturday 16 November 2013, 15:00-15:45

Moderator: Walter Ricciardi, EUPHA

Speakers:

Martin McKee, United Kingdom

Alastair Leyland, United Kingdom

3.2. Parallel programme

84.2% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the parallel programme at Brussels 2013

The parallel programme for Brussels 2013 consisted of 44 workshops, 31 parallel sessions with 186 oral presentations, 30 moderated poster sessions in which 230 posters were presented and 120 posters presented in 10 poster walks. The parallel programme was set up by selected abstracts for single topic presentations (oral or poster presentation) and workshops which had been scored and accepted by the International Scientific Committee.

Table 1: Comparison between submitted abstracts, 2010-2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total number of abstracts	881	823	875	863
Workshop abstracts	82	68	73	67
Single presentation abstracts	799	755	800	796
– Research abstracts	647	639	683	661
– Policy abstracts	64	50	48	63
– Practice abstracts	57	43	43	45
– Training and education	31	23	26	27
Oral presentation preferred	620	577	620	594
Poster presentation preferred	170	178	180	204

Abstracts were received from 54 countries inside and outside Europe. The highest number of abstracts were received from Italy (101), followed by the United Kingdom (68), Belgium (64) and Netherlands (55). Each year, these three countries and the host country of the conference score among the highest in abstract submissions.

Table 2: Country of origin of submitted abstracts for single presentation

Country	No.	Country	No.
Italy	101	France	11
United Kingdom	68	Austria, Ireland, Spain	10
Belgium	64	Czech Republic	9
Netherlands	55	Hungary	8
Finland	49	Cyprus, Slovakia, Switzerland	7
Norway, Sweden	39	Israel	6
Portugal	38	Brazil, Japan, Malta	5
Germany	31	Greece, South Korea, Nepal,	4
Canada	22	Russia	
Denmark, Lithuania	20	Albania, India, New Zealand	3
Romania	19	Nigeria, United States	
Serbia	17	Georgia, Iran, Slovenia	2

Poland	16	Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt	1
Bulgaria	15	Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg,	
Croatia	14	Macedonia, Malaysia, Philippines,	
Armenia, Turkey	13	Syria	

Workshop and invitational workshops

Workshop organisers selected their own speakers with the recommendation to select speakers from different countries and gender, portraying their country's policy, best practice or innovative project.

Parallel sessions with oral presentations

These 90-minute sessions consisted of six ten-minute oral presentations with 30 minutes of discussion around a common theme. The sessions were co-chaired by two persons, one being an international expert on the specific topic and the other an early career professional. In total, 186 oral presentations were held divided over 31 sessions.

Moderated poster sessions

Based on the decision on the submitted abstracts, 350 abstracts were invited to present their work in the form of a poster. Moderated poster presentations were held in 15 sessions at two different 60-minute time slots on Friday 15 November and Saturday 16 November. These sessions were held in meeting rooms with seven or eight posters presented, moderated by one chairperson. The total number of moderated poster sessions was 30, the total number of posters presented was 230.

Poster walks

Posters were displayed in the designated poster area within the conference venue. Posters were grouped by subject and displayed accordingly. Two poster walks were held concurrently with the parallel programme. In each poster walk, 11 to 13 posters were presented in a four-minute oral presentation with time for questions and discussions, chaired by an expert. In total, 120 posters were presented.

3.3. Thematic tracks

The Brussels 2013 parallel programme of workshops and oral presentation sessions was structured in fifteen thematic tracks, making it easier for participants to follow a specific subject during the conference. The division in tracks was based on priorities in the field of European public health and selected topics of the abstracts accepted for oral presentation.

Table 3: Overview of the 15 thematic tracks at Brussels 2013

<i>Track</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>No. of oral presentation sessions</i>	<i>Number of workshops</i>
A	European public health	2	3
B	Capacity building	3	2
C	Health determinants	3	2
D	Health determinants and policy	1	4
E	Health services research	2	3
F	Austerity and equity	0	5
G	Child and adolescent public health	1	4
H	Data for policy	0	5
J	Disability and chronic diseases	2	3
K	Health and lifestyles	4	1

L	Health systems information and policy	3	2
M	Infectious diseases and cross border care	1	4
N	Mental health	3	2
O	The ageing population	3	2
P	Inequalities	3	2

3.4. Abstract and presentation prizes

Every year, the conference organisers award abstract prizes in three different categories. All prizes consist of a certificate and a waiver of conference fees for the year after. The prize for the highest scoring single topic abstract was awarded to:

Elaine Fuertes, School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada for her abstract:
Traffic-related air pollution as a risk factor for the development of childhood allergic diseases: the "Traffic, Asthma and Genetics" project

The Ferenc Bojan memorial prize, which is awarded to the best presentation by a young public health professional, was awarded to:

Aaron Reeves, Department of Sociology, University of Oxford, United Kingdom for his presentation:
Austerity's health effects: a comparative analysis of European budgetary changes

All conference participants received a poster voting form in their conference bags, where they could select a maximum of three posters as 'best poster'. The prize for the highest scoring poster presentation was awarded to:

Elena Azzolini, Post Graduate School of Public Health, University of Siena, Italy, for her poster:
Ab actu ad posse valet illatio? Epidemiological inferences from ex-voto

3.5. Pre-conference programme

38.5% of participants attended one or more pre-conferences; 80.4% were very satisfied/satisfied with the pre conferences at Brussels 2013

Pre-conferences were organised on Wednesday 13 November and Thursday morning 14 November 2013. One third of participants attended at least one pre-conference with a total of 549 participants attending the pre-conference programme.

Table 4: Pre-conference programme and number of participants at Brussels 2013

<i>Preconference</i>	<i>No. Participants</i>
Public health - the next step - organised by EUPHA sections on Child and Adolescent Public Health, Chronic Diseases, Ethics in Public Health and Health Promotion	20

Development of competent workforce to carry out essential public health functions for prevention and control of communicable diseases' organised by ECDC in collaboration with EUPHA and ASPHER	89
Satellite meeting: EHMA/ECHO - organised by EHMA	79
Supporting a Healthy Nutrition Policy for Europe - organised by EUPHA section on Food and Nutrition, in collaboration with WHO EURO and EPHA	26
One-day training session for starting HSR researchers - organised by EUPHA section on Health Services Research and Health Services Research Europe	23
Current approaches to screening and management of communicable diseases, with emphasis on migrants - organised by EUPHA section on Infectious Diseases Control	84
The use of injury data for driving accident prevention policies and actions in countries and at EU-level - organised by EUPHA section on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion and EuroSafe	44
Promoting equitable health care for migrants and ethnic minorities: experiences and lessons in Europe - organised by COST-ADAPT and EUPHA section on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health	40
Mechanisms of successful knowledge transfer: operating at multiple levels of the science-policy interface - organised by EAHC, in cooperation with DG SANCO, WHO EURO and EUPHA	128
Round table: Novel ways of improving Roma people's health: collaborative national, regional and European strategies - organised by Open Society Foundations, Roma Health Program	91
Public health workforce Development and Shaping of the Public Health Profession - organised by WHO EURO and ASPHER	26
The burden of mental health in Europe: future needs for monitoring and research - organised by EUPHA sections on Public Health Monitoring and Reporting, Public Mental Health, Urban Health	22
Young Researchers' Forum - organised by ASPHER	27
11th Preconference on social security and health: How to gain knowledge on consequences of sickness absence or disability pension - organised by EUPHA section on Social Security and Health	46

3.6. Lunch meetings and extra meetings

At Brussels 2013, seven meetings were organised during the Friday lunch breaks. Most of the meetings were organised by EUPHA Sections.

Table 5: Lunch meetings at Brussels 2013

<i>Lunch meetings Friday 15 November</i>	<i>Organised by</i>
Family mental health	EUPHA Section on Public Mental Health
The challenge of antimicrobial resistance from an environmental perspective	EUPHA Section on Infectious Diseases Control

Only one chance: how environmental pollution impairs brain development	WHO EURO
The Last Mile Challenge for Vaccination: Are we there yet?	Vaccines Europe
The latest publications on Public Health	EUPHA
A casual lunch & learn event for young investigators/junior audience	ASPHER and Canadian Institutes for Health Research
Developing an Integrated Food Policy for Europe	EUPHA Section on Food and Nutrition

3.7. OSF Film Festival 'Health and Human Rights'

51.5% of the respondents were aware of this extra activity and 66.7% rated this as important/very important.

For the first time during the EPH Conferences, a film festival was organised. The Open Society Foundation (OSF) / Public Health Programme showed several films on topics related to health and human rights. Short films were shown at the OSF exhibition stand during the refreshment breaks. Longer documentaries were screened in the Gold Hall plenary room during lunch breaks on Friday 15 November and Saturday 16 November.

4. BRUSSELS 2013: PARTICIPANTS

The conference addressed public health professionals, researchers, education specialists, training professionals, students, policy makers and representatives from international and European organisations. Participants came from all EU Member States, EU-neighbouring countries and countries outside the European region. Representatives from international organisations like the European Commission, WHO EURO and WHO headquarters, ECDC, OECD and the European Observatory attended the conference. European (public) health networks and organisations actively participated.

The conference had a wide European dimension, with participants from 60 countries, of which many are participating in the EU Health Programmes. The conference covered a broad range of health issues, had a high political relevance and had a large number of involved organisations, European networks and a major audience of public health professionals.

The total number of participants for Brussels 2013 is largely in line with the overall development of the EPH conferences in the past years. A total of 1,321 participants from 60 countries attended the conference, including all Member States of the European Union.

As can be expected from a European conference, the majority of registrations is from European countries. Registrations were made from 41 European countries according to the WHO EURO definition of Europe (75.5% of all European countries). Only 5.6% of registrations was from outside Europe.

For Brussels 2013, most registrations were received from Belgium (182), followed by the Netherlands (145) and United Kingdom (142). Traditionally, these countries have always been well represented at EPH Conferences. Other relatively high numbers of registration came from Lithuania (37) and Canada (19). The high number for Belgium is explained by registrations of representatives from European institutions and organisations based in the capital of Belgium, Brussels and because many registrations traditionally come from the country, where the conference is organised.

Table 6: Number of registrations per country Brussels 2013

<i>Europe*</i>	<i>No. of registrations</i>		<i>No. of registrations</i>
Belgium	182	Czech Republic	10
Netherlands	145	Bulgaria	9
United Kingdom	142	Croatia, Japan	8
Italy	119	Latvia, Russia, Slovenia,	7
Denmark	69	Turkey	
Sweden	68	Cyprus, Malta	6
Finland	61	Armenia, Kazakhstan, Israel	5
Germany	58	Greece, Slovakia, South Korea	4
France	44	China, Lebanon, Nigeria	3
Luxembourg	38	Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo,	2
Lithuania	37	Australia, India, Malaysia,	
Portugal	29	New Zealand, Taiwan	
Norway	27	Albania, Estonia, Macedonia,	1
Austria	22	Georgia, Egypt, Jordan, South	
Spain, Canada	19	Africa, Sudan, State of Palestine,	
Poland, United States	18		
Serbia	17		
Romania	16		
Switzerland	15	<i>Total from Europe</i>	<i>1,247</i>
Hungary	12	<i>Number of European countries</i>	<i>41</i>
Ireland	11		
		<i>Total from other countries</i>	<i>74</i>
		<i>Number of other countries</i>	<i>19</i>

* Europe as defined by WHO EURO

The conference addressed public health professionals, researchers, education specialists, training professionals, students, policy makers and representatives from international and European organisations. The majority of participants were based at an university.

Table 7: Work background of the participants of Brussels 2013

<i>Work background</i>	<i>% of participants</i>
University-based	54.0
National level (e.g. ministry, national institute of health)	15.1

Regional level (e.g. state council, regional council, health services)	4.2
NGO (national and international foundations, associations of public health)	10.6
Local level (e.g. community health council, practitioners)	2.2
International (WHO EURO, European Commission, ECDC, EEA, etc.)	7.6
Companies (private companies working in the field of public health)	3.7
Hospital-based	1.4
Health insurance related	1.2

5. BRUSSELS 2013: NETWORKING

72.2 % of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the networking possibilities offered at Brussels 2013.

One objective of Brussels 2013 was to facilitate networking among European public health networks, European institutions, non-governmental health organisations, national schools of public health, national public health associations and individuals. As in previous years, organising partners used the occasion of the Conference to convene the annual meetings of their Executive Board, General Assembly, Sections and other organisational forums. These meetings of up to 100 people were held in the breakout rooms in the fringes of the official Conference programme.

Furthermore, throughout the Conference, three smaller sized meeting rooms were available for specific gatherings. These meeting rooms were also used by other parties and project consortia to hold their executive or coordination meetings. Organising the extra meeting rooms and making these available for internal and other smaller meetings enhanced the networking objective of the conference.

The networking was supported by:

- Organising annual meetings of all 19 EUPHA sections, EUPHANxt, and board meetings of partners, such as UEMS-public health and APHEA.
- Organising country-meetings, so that participants from that country can receive updated information from a national level (Norway, Italy);
- Meet and greet the experts at the EUPHA stand during all coffee and lunch breaks; and
- A networking lunch of 90 minutes allowing more time to connect with other participants.

6. BRUSSELS 2013: ORGANISATION

The 6th European Public Health Conference took place in Brussels, Belgium from 13 - 16 November 2013. The conference was held at SQUARE Meeting Centre Brussels. The conference was organised by the EPH Conference Foundation at the initiative of EUPHA.

Brussels 2013 was organised in partnership with:

- EuroHealthNet
- Belgian Association of Public Health – BAPH
- ASPHER

With the support of

- European Commission
- Open Society Foundations
- Visit Brussels

In collaboration with:

- European Health Management Association - EHMA
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - ECDC
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment - RIVM
- WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Vaccines Europe
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- European Public Health Alliance - EPHA
- Scientific Institute of Public Health - WIV/ISP
- Netherlands institute for health services research - NIVEL

7. BRUSSELS 2013: CONFERENCE VENUE

7.1. Conference venue in general

68.8% of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the conference venue at Brussels 2013

The 6th European Public Health conference was held at SQUARE Meeting Centre in Brussels, Belgium. Wireless access was provided free of charge to participants throughout the conference venue.

For Brussels 2013, one large auditorium and fourteen session rooms were available. The Gold Hall was used for the plenary and parallel sessions. The Gold Hall had capacity for 1,200 participants. The fourteen breakout rooms varied in size from 45 to 250 seats.

Further to this, three smaller-sized board rooms and one office room for the conference organisers were available. The three board rooms were used for management and coordination meetings of the organisers and other organisations and project consortia.

7.2. Exhibition area

89.8% of the participants visited the exhibition area at least once.

55.6 % of the participants were very satisfied/satisfied with the exhibition area at Brussels 2013

The exhibition area was organised in the Hall 1. The hall was centrally located and combined with the catering area where coffee and lunch was served. There were 17 exhibitors present which can be categorised as follows:

Organisers & Partners

- EPH Conference office
- EUPHA
- ASPHER
- EuroHealthNet
- Belgian Association of Public Health

International organisations

- European Commission
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- Open Society Foundations
- WHO Regional Office for Europe
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Research and Education

- NIVEL Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Publishers

- Oxford University Press
- Sage Publications
- Routledge Taylor & Francis Group
- BiomedCentral / Springer

Patients networks

- Sign against Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation