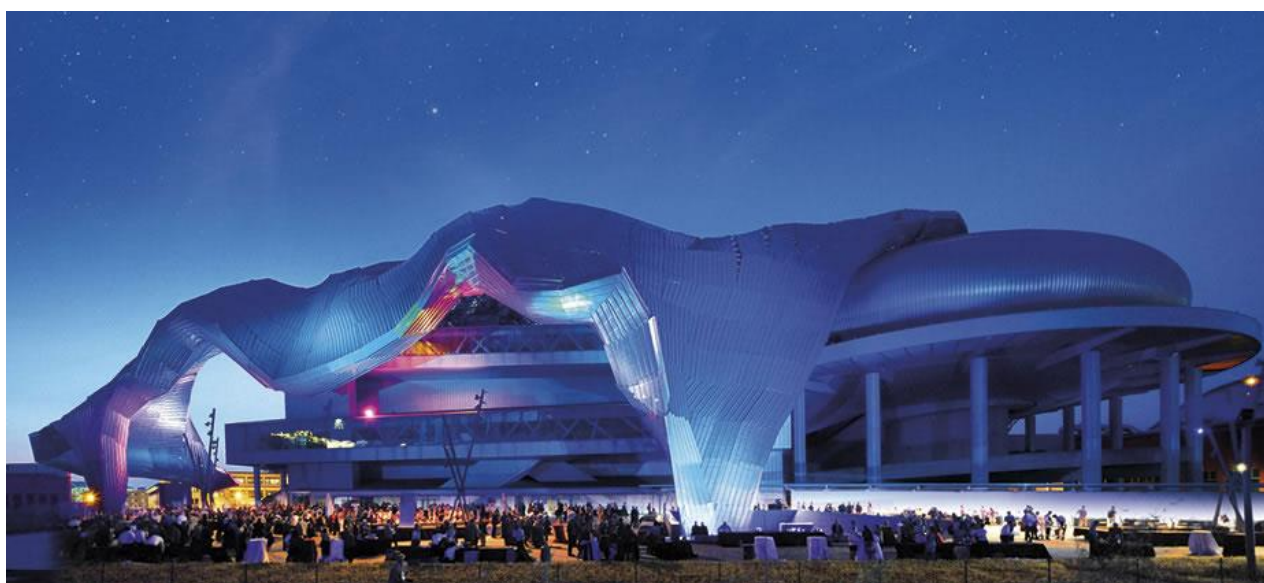


8TH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE  
2015

HEALTH IN EUROPE - FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL  
POLICIES, METHODS AND PRACTICES

14 – 17 OCTOBER 2015

MICO, MILAN, ITALY



SUMMARY REPORT

Authors: Dineke Zeegers Paget, Floris Barnhoorn, EUPHA

© EUPHA, April 2016

The 8th European Public Health Conference, Milan 2015, is a collaboration of the European Association of Public Health (EUPHA), the European Public Health Conference Foundation and the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SIIt), Italy.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
1. MILAN 2015: PROGRAMME .....	5
1.1. Plenary programme.....	5
1.2. Parallel programme .....	6
1.3. Thematic tracks .....	7
1.4. Abstract and presentation prizes .....	7
1.5. Pre-conference programme.....	8
1.6. Lunch symposiums and extra meetings.....	9
1.7. Exhibition .....	10
1.8. Accreditation .....	11
1.9. Social programme .....	11
2. MILAN 2015: DELEGATES .....	12
2.1. Number and origin of delegates.....	12
2.2. Participation from early career professionals .....	14
2.3. Participation from Eastern European and Central Asian countries.....	14
3. MILAN 2015: ORGANISATION .....	15
3.1. Organisational structure of the conference .....	15
3.2. EPH Conference Office .....	16
3.3. Local assistance.....	16
3.4. Conference venue .....	16
4. MILAN 2015: VISIBILITY.....	17
5. MILAN 2015: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES.....	18
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS.....	20

## INTRODUCTION

Milan welcomed Europe and beyond to the 8th European Public Health Conference between 14 and 17 October 2015. Almost 1,700 delegates from over 70 countries gathered to discuss and debate the state of global and European health from the perspective of research, methods and practices. The conference included 7 plenary sessions, 13 pre-conferences, 41 workshops, 12 round table sessions, 13 oral sessions, 45 pitch sessions and 16 poster walks.

The EPH Conference was held together with the 48th National Congress of the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI). By special arrangement, delegates of the SItI congress were able to attend the EPH Conference and vice versa. This arrangement added another 1,000 delegates to the EPH Conference, making it the largest public health event in Europe.

Both EPH and SItI conferences were held in the ultramodern MiCo, a few Metro stops from the historic centre of Milan.

During the four conference days, delegates had the opportunity to share findings from research and experiences with innovation in all fields of public health and health services.

Researchers, educators, policy makers, community representatives and health managers from Europe and beyond shared new information and insights from their experiences with interventions to reduce health inequalities, the theme of the conference, and developed a deeper understanding of the urgency to address this issue.

## 1. MILAN 2015: PROGRAMME

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.

The theme for the 8th EPH Conference was *Health in Europe - from global to local: policies, methods and practices*. This theme was chosen to encourage discussion on what the role of Europe is at global level and what the impact of global health issues is on European, national, regional and local level. In times of interdependence and interconnectedness at global level, a new vision of cooperative and democratic action at all levels of society is much needed. Through the plenary sessions, this new vision was further elaborated.

### 1.1. Plenary programme

The plenary programme of the 8th EPH Conference consisted of seven plenary sessions including an opening session with an introductory presentation on the main theme of the conference. The closing session included a video presentation with the main conclusions of the conference. See <https://ephconference.eu/conference-2015-milan---videocasts--219>

#### **Opening session of the 8th EPH Conference**

*Thursday 15 October 2015, 13:00-13:30*

Carlo Signorelli, Italy

Sir Andy Haines, United Kingdom

#### **Plenary 1: Global health risks – What is expected from Europe?**

*Thursday 15 October 2015, 17:35-18:35 - Organised by EUPHA*

Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Malta

Martin McKee, United Kingdom

Mengistu Asnake Kibret, Ethiopia

Kasturi Sen, United Kingdom

Scott L. Greer, United States

#### **Plenary 2: Healthy People, Healthy Planet**

*Friday 16 October 2015, 11:35-12:35 - Organised by EuroHealthNet*

Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet (moderator)

Ilona Kickbush, Switzerland

George Morris, United Kingdom

Tim Lang, United Kingdom

Annemiek van Bolhuis, The Netherlands

#### **Plenary 3: Learning from each other: How to transfer best practice across boundaries?**

*Friday 16 October 2015, 13:45-14:45 - Organised by European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies*

Josep Figueras, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (moderator)

Martin McKee, United Kingdom

Hans Kluge, WHO Europe

Isabel de la Mata, European Commission

Brett Davidson, Open Society Foundations

#### **Plenary 4: The new EU health information system**

*Friday 16 October 2015, 17:25-18:25 - Organised by the European Commission*

Stefan Schreck, European Commission (moderator)

Gaetan Lafortune, OECD

Mika Gissler, Finland

Pascal Wolff, Eurostat

Ciaran Nicholl, EC Joint Research Centre

#### **Plenary 5: The global public health professional**

*Saturday 22 November 2015, 13:30-14:30 - Organised by ASPHER*

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn, Germany (moderator)

Adriana Corina Stanciu, Romania

Suzanne Marie Babich, United States

Michael Moore, Australia

Armin Fidler, EHMA

Alessandra Lafranconi, Italy

#### **Closing session of the 8th EPH Conference**

*Saturday 17 October 2015, 14:30-15:15*

Carlo Signorelli, Italy, Chair of the 8th EPH Conference 2015

Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, Malta

Thomas Dorner, Austria, Chair of the 9th EPH Conference 2016

The Participants' Evaluation showed that three-quarters of the delegates (75,0%) were satisfied to very satisfied with the plenary programme.

### **1.2. Parallel programme**

The parallel programme, divided over nineteen breakout rooms, offered five time slots of 90 minutes. The available slots were filled with forty workshops, twelve round table session, two skills building sessions, ten 90-minute poster walks, six 60-minute poster walks, forty five 60-minute pitch sessions, nineteen 90-minute oral presentation sessions as well as six lunch symposiums and a late breaker session.

An extra sessions included: the Ferenc Bojan Award Session.

#### *Workshop and invitational workshops*

Forty workshops (90-minutes sessions) were held with the following formats: regular workshop, skills building seminar, pro/con workshop, round table. Invitational workshops (3) were organised at the request of the conference organisers: one workshop by the European Commission, two round table workshops by the Open Society Foundations.

#### *Parallel sessions with oral presentations*

These 90-minute sessions consisted of ten-minute oral presentations with five minutes of discussion around a common theme. Most 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, 107 oral presentations were held divided over nineteen sessions.

The Participants' Evaluation showed that 82,5% of the respondents to the evaluation were satisfied to very satisfied with the oral and workshop programme at Milan 2015.

#### *Pitch sessions*

Pitch presentation (5-minutes) were newly introduced in Glasgow 2014. Due to the positive evaluation by the delegates the pitch programme was extended in Milan. The programme included 45 pitch sessions with in total 360 presentations. All sessions were moderated by an experienced chair person.

The Participants' Evaluation showed that 75,0% of the respondents to the evaluation were satisfied to very satisfied with the pitch programme.

#### *E-Poster walks*

For the first time ever, the EPH Conference featured E-posters. E-posters offered the opportunity to increase the number of accepted abstracts without compromising the high scientific quality of the conference. E-posters were displayed near the exhibition area on large TV screens. Two types of poster walks were held concurrently with the parallel programme: ten 90-minutes' walks with on average 15 posters and six 60-minutes' walks with on average 12 posters. In total there were 290 E-poster presentations.

#### *E-Poster displays*

In Milan, also for the first time, E-posters were displayed without presentation. In total 240 posters were displayed.

The Participants' Evaluation showed that 60.1% were satisfied to very satisfied with the poster walks. All sessions were moderated by an experienced chair person.

### 1.3. Thematic tracks

The parallel programme of workshops and oral presentation sessions was structured in 15 thematic tracks, making it easier for delegates to follow a specific subject during the conference. The division in tracks was based on priorities in the field of public health and selected topics of the accepted abstracts.

*Table 1: Overview of the 15 thematic tracks and type of session*

<i>Track</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Workshop</i>	<i>Oral</i>	<i>Pitch</i>	<i>Poster</i>
A	Global health	4	1	3	-
B	European public health	3	-	3	-
C	All-inclusive public health	4	1	3	1
D	Research, evidence, action	6	-	3	-
E	Communication and advocacy	3	1	3	1
F	Health data, methodology, monitoring and reporting	4	1	3	-
G	Evidence and public health practice	4	1	3	2
H	Austerity and health inequalities	3	2	3	1
I	Infectious diseases/News in public health	4	1	3	1
K	Chronic diseases	4	1	3	2
L	Work and sickness leave/Food and nutrition	2	3	3	2
M	Mental health	4	1	3	-
N	Child and adolescent public health	3	2	3	3
O	Health promotion	2	3	3	1
P	Health services research	3	2	3	1

### 1.4. Abstract and presentation prizes

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

Elena Flacco University of Chieti, Chieti, Italy:  
*Electronic cigarettes efficacy and safety at 12 months: cohort study*

The prize for the highest scoring poster presentation was awarded to:

Birute Strukcinskiene, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Klaipeda University, Lithuania.  
*Pedestrian mortality trends in children and young people over four decades in transitional Lithuania*

### 1.5. Pre-conference programme

Pre-conferences were organised on Wednesday 14 October and Thursday morning 15 October 2015. Almost half of the delegates attended at least one pre-conference with a total of 846 delegates attending the pre-conference programme

*Table 2: Pre-conference programme and number of delegates at Milan 2015*

<i>Pre-conferences</i>	<i>Delegates</i>
Healing Architecture, organised by CNETO	143
Motivating hesitant population groups to vaccinate, organised by ECDC	86
Education and training for public health in new dimensions: well-being and happiness, organised by ASPHER	40
Region for Health Network (closed meeting), organised by WHO Europe	86
Ensuring resilient and sustainable health systems: challenges and opportunities from EU cooperation, organised by European Commission	108
Can we feed Europe sustainably and equitably?, organised by EUPHA Section on Food and Nutrition	25
Enhancing evidence-informed decision-making in Europe, organised by EUPHA Section on Health services research	53
Organizing and financing public health services in the European region, organised by European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies	43
Child injury prevention: a European challenge, organised by EUPHA Section on Injury prevention	64
Public health and human rights: ensuring access to health care for refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea, organised by EUPHA Section on Migrant and ethnic minorities health	66
Environmental factors and Public Mental Health, organised by EUPHA Sections on Environment related health, Urban health and Public mental health	35
ASPHER Young Researchers Forum	61
Theories and models used in research on sickness absence and disability pension, organised by EUPHA Section on Social security, work and health	36



## 1.6. Lunch symposiums and extra meetings

Lunch symposiums and extra meetings (round table, press meeting, board meetings) were held throughout the conference.

### Round table: Strengthening vaccination strategies: the role of Europe

*Thursday 15 October, 13:50 – 15:20, Auditorium*

With: **Isabel de la Mata**, European Commission, **Luc Debruyne**, GSK Vaccines, **Reda Guiha**, Pfizer Vaccines, **David Khougazian**, Sanofi Pasteur MSD, **Roberta Siliquini**, Italy and **Aura Timen**, EUPHA Section Infectious diseases. Moderated by **Carlo Signorelli** and **Walter Ricciardi**, Italy. Organised by EUPHA and SItI, financially supported by Vaccines Europe/EFPIA.

- On Friday, the programme included the following extra meetings and lunch symposiums:

### Extra meeting: Lost in translation - pathogens, antimicrobial resistance, globalisation and politics

*Friday 16 October, 10:30 – 11:30, Auditorium*

With: **Ilaria Capua**, Member of Parliament, Italy, **Ricardo Baptista Leite**, Member of Parliament, Portugal, **Martin McKee**, EUPHA, **Luca Carra**, Italy, **Aura Timen**, EUPHA Section Infectious diseases, **Karl Ekdahl**, ECDC, **Henk Jan Ormel**, FAO. Organised by RIVM, The Netherlands and EUPHA.

### Lunch symposium: Creating a favourable ecosystem to unlock the potential of integrated personalised diabetes management in Europe

*Friday 16 October, 12:35 – 13:45, Amber 3*

With: **Nick Guldemond**, University Medical Centre Utrecht, The Netherlands, **Jelka Zaletel**, National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia, **Graziano Onder**, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy, **David Smith**, European Health Management Association, **Bastian Hauck**, Patient representative. Moderator: **Lars Kalfhaus**, Roche Diabetes Care. Organised by EUPHA Section Public Health Genomics, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roche Diabetes Care.

### Lunch symposium: Immunization as key public health intervention: challenges and opportunities in Europe

*Friday 16 October, 12:35 – 13:45, Amber 4*

What are the objectives of the European Vaccines Action Plan for 2015-2020? With: **Pietro Luigi Lopalco**, University of Bari, Italy, **Thomas Breuer**, GSK Vaccines. Chair: **Giovanni Rezza**, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy. Funded by GSK.

### Health policies and practices of health promoting school programmes in Asian countries

*Friday 16 October, 12:35 – 13:45, Amber 2*

A lunch symposium organised by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan, showcasing successful health promotion strategies in schools including action oriented leadership.

### Round table: The role of adult vaccination as part of healthy ageing

*Friday 16 October, 13:00 – 14:30, Amber 1*

With: **Lale Ozisik**, Turkey; **Jane Barratt**, International Federation on Ageing; **Michele Conversano**, **Anna Odone**, Italy. Moderators: **Sergio Pecorelli** and **Walter Ricciardi**, Italy. This session was organised by EUPHA, SItI and Pfizer, funded by Pfizer.

- Board meetings

During the conference days, board meetings were organised by the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SIItI); UEMS – public health section; APHEA; ASPHER; EUPHA Sections; EUPHANxt; EUPHA Executive Council, EUPHA Governing Council, EJPH Council, EJPH Editorial Board; and meetings for the upcoming EPH conferences (ICC, ISC, Vienna 2016, Stockholm 2017, Ljubljana 2018).

- Press meeting

A press conference was held on Thursday with regard to the Migrant crisis, Children's Right to Safety and Priority to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The press conference was attended by five Italian journalists and four from other European countries.

## 1.7. Exhibition

The exhibition area was organised in the Gold Room. The Foyer Gold Room was centrally located and combined with the exhibition and catering area where coffee and lunch was served. There were 21 exhibitors present which can be categorised as follows:

### *Organisers & Partners*

- EPH Conference Foundation
- EPH Conference Stockholm 2017
- EUPHA - European Public Health Association
- ASPHER
- EuroHealthNet
- European Commission - Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency
- ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
- WHO Regional Office for Europe

### *Schools of Public Health*

- ASPHER HRPC Core Network
- French School of Public Health (EHESP), France
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, USA
- Portuguese School of Public Health (ISPUP), Portugal

### *Research, Education*

- Centro Nazionale Edilizia e Tecnica Ospedaliera (CNETO), Italy
- Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory (IBDO), Italy
- Royal Society for Public Health, United Kingdom

### *Publishers*

- British Medical Journal (BMJ), United Kingdom
- Frontiers, Switzerland
- Oxford University Press, United Kingdom
- Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, United Kingdom
- Springer, United Kingdom
- Wisepress, United Kingdom

The Participants' Evaluation showed that 78,1% of respondents confirmed they visited the exhibition area at least once. Around 60% of the respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the information provided by the exhibition at Milan 2015.

### **1.8. Accreditation**

The 8th European Public Health Conference received approval by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) for 12 European CME credits (ECMEC).

### **1.9. Social programme**

The Welcome Reception was organised at the Piazza Città di Lombardia in Milan. The reception was attended by 973 people.

The Conference Dinner was organised at the Alcatraz, the most famous discotheque in Milan. A total of 482 persons attended the dinner.

## 2. MILAN 2015: DELEGATES

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

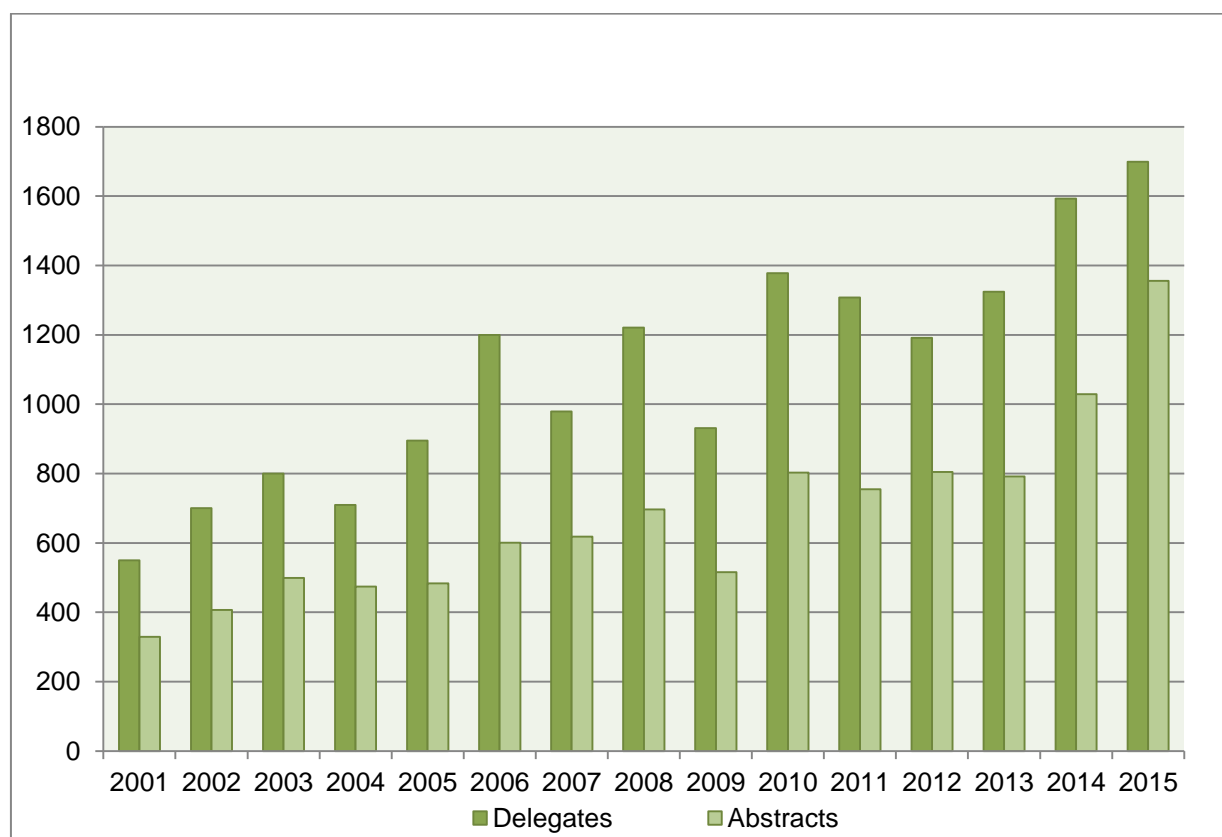
### 2.1. Number and origin of delegates

The total number of delegates for Milan 2015 was considerably higher than for the conference in Glasgow last year (1,514). A total of 1,697 delegates from 70 countries attended the conference. The majority of registrations was received before 15 September, the deadline for the early-bird registration.

The EPH Conference was held together with the 48th National Congress of the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SIItI). By special arrangement, delegates of the SIItI congress were able to attend the EPH Conference and vice versa. This arrangement added another 1,000 delegates to the EPH Conference, making it the largest public health event in Europe.

The figure below shows the gradual increase in the number of registrations in the past decade from 550 in 2001 to the present levels of around 1,700. Also the number of submitted abstracts has grown significantly to over 1,350.

Figure 1: Overview of conference registrations and abstract submissions 2000 – 2015



The number of day registrations was 85. The number of registrations for pre-conferences only was 302. The number of students or early career professionals was at the same level as last year in Glasgow (203). Registrations were received from 71 countries worldwide. As can be expected from a European conference, the majority of registrations is from European countries. Registrations were made from 47 European countries according to WHO EURO's definition of Europe (88.7% of all European countries). All EU Member States were represented in Milan. The number of non-European delegates in Milan was considerably higher (190 persons) than in Glasgow (96 persons). In percentages, the proportion of non-European delegates increased from 5.6% to 11.2%.

*Table 3: Overview of registrations Milan 2015*

<i>Type of registration</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>%</i>
Full conference registrations	1,098	65,2
Day registration	92	5,4
Early career registration full conference	203	17,4
Pre-conference only (no main conference registration)	304	17,9
<i>Total number of delegates</i>	<i>1,697</i>	<i>100,0</i>

Most registrations were received from Italy (300), followed by the United Kingdom (153), the Netherlands (149) and Sweden (102). Traditionally, these countries have always been well represented at EPH Conferences. Other relatively high numbers of registration came from Canada (39) and the United States (38).

*Table 4: Number of registrations per country, Milan 2015*

	<i>No.</i>		<i>No.</i>
Italy	300	Taiwan	18
United Kingdom	153	Australia,	15
Netherlands	149	Bulgaria, Ireland, Russia	14
Sweden	102	Israel	13
Germany	99	Croatia, Hungary	12
Denmark	78	Macedonia	11
Belgium	72	Slovenia	10
Norway	62	Kazakhstan	9
France	56	Ghana, Greece, Luxembourg	8
Finland	55	Estonia, Malta, South Korea	7
Portugal	51	Georgia	6
Austria	42	Latvia	5
Canada	39	Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, New Zealand	4
United States	38	China, United Arab Emirates	3
Spain, Switzerland	33	Albania, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti,	2
Turkey	32	Iceland, Kenya, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon,	
Slovakia	26	Mexico, Myanmar, Paraguay, Thailand	
Czech Republic	20	Pakistan, San Marino, Saudi Arabia,	1
Japan, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia	19	Singapore, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Uganda, Ukraine	
<i>Total from Europe*</i>	<i>1,507</i>	<i>Total from other countries</i>	<i>190</i>
<i>Number of European countries</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>Number of other countries</i>	<i>30</i>

\* Europe as defined by WHO EURO

Table 5 shows the work background of delegates. Over half of the delegates have a university based background. One out of six work for a national health-related organisation, ministry or (public) health institute. Regional and local level organisations are less represented.

*Table 5: Work background of the delegates, Milan 2015*

<i>Work background</i>	<i>%</i>
Academic, Research Institute	72.4
Government (national, provincial, local)	14.5
International organisation (NGO, WHO, EC, etc.)	3.4
Other (national NGO, private company, hospital, health insurance)	6.9
Practitioner	2.8

## 2.2. Participation from early career professionals

As for previous EPH Conferences, Milan 2015 paid special attention to the participation of students and early career professionals. A special registration fee for this category (€ 325) was set up. In total 203 students and early career professionals registered for the conference, around the same number as for Glasgow 2014 (198).

As part of the main conference programme, the Ferenc Bojan Young Investigators Award session was held for the six highest scoring abstracts submitted by young public health professionals. In the closing ceremony of the conference, the award was presented to Elena Flacco from Italy with a presentation on *Electronic cigarettes efficacy and safety at 12 months: cohort study*. The award included a waiver of conference fees for the Vienna 2016 conference.

## 2.3. Participation from Eastern European and Central Asian countries

Special attention was paid also to public health experts from low income countries, particularly from Eastern European and Central Asian (EE & CA) countries. As in previous years, Open Society Foundations (OSF) was the main partner in this effort. OSF offered financial support to participants from EE & CA countries and presenting experts to attend the conference. Support consisted of providing logistical support including travel, accommodation and other participation-related arrangements to enable them to participate in the Milan 2015 conference. Participants themselves had to co-fund part of their travel and accommodation expenses.

With the help of OSF, we managed to co-fund the participation of 28 participants from 16 EE & CA countries and 27 Roma health experts from the (OSF) Health Programme, consisting of 15 Public Health programme delegates, 4 Human Rights Fellows and 8 speakers of the invitational workshops.

In Glasgow 2014 there were 45 participants, of which 14 Roma health experts, from 14 countries.

A representative of OSF, Brett Davidson, participated in the plenary session on 'Learning from each other.'

### 3. MILAN 2015: ORGANISATION

#### 3.1. Organisational structure of the conference

The 8th European Public Health Conference took place in Milan, Italy from 14 - 17 October 2015. The conference was held at MiCo - Milano Congressi.

Co-organisers of Milan 2015 were:

- EPH Conference Foundation
- EUPHA – European Public Health Association
- Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI)

The conference was organised with the following partners for specific activities:

- ASPHER
- EuroHealthNet
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- Open Society Foundations
- European Commission
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands
- WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan
- Vaccines Europe
- Pfizer
- GSK
- Roche

In 2013, the organisational structure of the conference was improved by establishing the EPH Conference Foundation, which has supervisory authority over the management and organisation of the conference. The EPH Conference Foundation is governed by the EPH Executive Board, made up by members of EUPHA's Executive Council and chairs of previous and upcoming EPH Conferences. The EPH Executive Board is advised by the International Conference Council (ICC), which has representation from EUPHA and collaborative partners in European public health (ASPHER, EuroHealthNet, EHMA, European Commission, CHAFAE, ECDC, WHO EURO, European Observatory).

As with past conferences, the parallel programme was set up with the help of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) consisting of internationally renowned public health experts. The ISC is responsible for the scoring of abstracts in preparation of the selection of abstracts by an extended Executive Board and a Local Support Committee, consisting of public health organisations, universities and health services in Italy.

In broad terms, planning for Milan 2015 was as follows:

- January 2015: finalising the plenary session programme, key-note speakers and panellists
- February: online abstract submission open, deadline 1 May
- May: scoring of abstracts by the ISC\*
- 3 - 4 June: coordination meetings in Perledo, Italy: decision on the submitted abstracts based on the scores of the ISC; planning of the programme; final decision on the pre-conferences; detailed planning for the last months to the conference.

- June: abstracts submitters notified about acceptance
- 1 July: online registration open
- September: Abstract Supplement to the *European Journal of Public Health* prepared
- September: chairs for all the sessions invited
- September: full interactive programme online
- October: EPH Conference Programme Book finalised

### 3.2. EPH Conference Office

The EPH Conference Office was responsible for the entire registration process, from the modifications of the online registration system at the conference web pages to managing the payments process. The abstract handling process was also managed by the Conference Office. The Conference Office drew up the programme of all parallel sessions according to the selection of accepted abstracts and looked after the programme updates until the printing of the programme booklet.

Furthermore, the Conference Office was responsible for:

- Search for and negotiations with European partners and sponsors;
- PR and marketing at international level;
- Organising the pre-conferences.

Key staff of the Conference Office are: Dineke Zeegers Paget, Director; Floris Barnhoorn, European partners and finances, Ingeborg Vlug, Financial Officer, José Velthuis, Registration Officer and Marije de Ruijter, Office Manager. The EPH Conference Office was supported by external staff: Elita Zoer, Conference Coordinator and advisory PCO and Jessica van Diemen, Exhibition Officer.

### 3.3. Local assistance

The Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SIItI) offered assistance with the organisation of the Welcome Reception at the Piazza Città di Lombardia. Prof Carlo Signorelli, Chair of the 8th EPH Conference and Mayor of Perledo, was most helpful in hosting the preparatory meeting in June.

The Local Support Committee provided assistance in the selection of abstracts at the preparatory meeting in June 2015.

### 3.4. Conference venue

The 8th European Public Health Conference was held at the MiCo – Milano Congressi, Milan, Italy. Wireless access was provided free of charge to participants throughout the conference venue. For Milan 2015, an Auditorium and nineteen session rooms were available. The Auditorium, with a capacity of 1,575 people, was used for the plenaries on Thursday and Friday and the Brown room with a capacity of 500 seats was used for the plenary on Saturday. The nineteen breakout rooms varied in size from 40 to 240 seats.



## 4. MILAN 2015: VISIBILITY

In order to attract more participants and enhance the visibility of the event and the organising associations, information and regular updates on the conference are distributed via different channels:

The Announcement of Milan 2015 was distributed at the 7th EPH Conference in Glasgow. A presentation of the theme and venue of Milan 2015 was given in the closing session of Glasgow 2014. Subsequently, the Announcement was then published on the EPH Conference web pages.

EUPHA member organisations were informed through the EUPHA Newsletters of the upcoming conference and invited to put the Announcement on their websites and use their distribution systems to inform their members.

In addition to the Announcement, other communication channels were used to promote the 8th EPH Conference:

- EPH Conference E-News: the monthly electronic newsletter with conference news was published from February until October.
- European Journal of Public Health: throughout the year, updates on Vienna 2015 were published in the European Public Health News pages of the EJPH.
- EUPHA Newsletter: the monthly electronic newsletter was distributed to over 14,000 readers;
- Website and social media: the EPH Conference website was launched in March 2015 and updated regularly
- Conference newsletters: two electronic conference newsletters were distributed to all registered delegates.

## 5. MILAN 2015: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES

Milan 2015 was well organised, of scientific good quality and reached the objectives it set out to achieve. Two-thirds of the delegates were very satisfied/satisfied with the conference.

The exhibition area was successful with over 78.1% of all respondents visiting the exhibition area. This is something to be expanded over the coming years.

The use of a conference manual giving a clear division of tasks and clear deadlines is essential in the organisation of such a large conference.

A large basis for the conference, also on international level, is seen as positive. For Milan 2015, several European NGOs and international organisations were involved in organising the plenary programme. This should be further developed for future conferences. The number of non-European delegates has doubled compared to Glasgow 2014.

The pitch sessions were again successful and positively evaluated by delegates. The introduction of E-poster walks and E-poster displays was successful. Improvements will be made at the next conference in finding a more quiet location within the conference centre.

The main purpose of the 8th EPH Conference was to strengthen the capacity of public health professionals, researchers and policymakers by enhancing the exchange of knowledge, policy and best practice across Europe. Specific objectives were:

### ***Increased knowledge of research outcomes and best practice in health by public health professionals***

The conference aimed at increasing knowledge and skills among European public health professionals. As only half of the conference delegates were EUPHA members, this means that the conference has been successful in reaching far beyond the existing network of the initiator and co-organiser of the conference.

EPH Conferences are known for the excellent organisation, the high number of participants (average over the last five years is 1,400 participants) and a broad programme covering relevant public health topics. Milan 2015 was no exception to this with 1,700 delegates, scoring high overall satisfaction by delegates and with a varied programme of plenary sessions, workshops, oral, pitch and electronic poster presentations.

Delegates came from 70 countries and included representatives from all 28 EU Member States and neighbouring countries. The professional background of the participants showed a balanced mix of research, policy, practice and training. The majority of delegates still has a university background but this proportion is decreasing in the last years. The absolute and relative numbers of delegates with a policy making, public health practice and education background is steadily increasing.

The programme of Milan 2015 was varied and nearly all sessions mixed policy, practice and research. All sessions also included presentations from different countries, thereby increasing the networking objective of the programme itself.

Combining the electronic Abstract Supplement to the EJPH with a three-month complimentary subscription was appreciated by delegates and added to the objective of increased knowledge.

### ***Increased knowledge and awareness of European public health policies and strategies***

Over the years, the collaboration with the international European health organisations (European Commission, WHO EURO, ECDC) has broadened. For Milan 2015, the European Commission was visible with a plenary session and an exhibition stand, ECDC and WHO EURO both were present with a stand. In many workshops and round tables, representatives from the European organisations were present to participate in discussions.

In addition, EPH Conferences are known by EU-funded project consortia as opportunities to convene coordination meetings or to disseminate the interim and/or final results of the project. The following EU-funded projects organised a workshop in the main conference programme: REPOPA, ICARE4U, PARENT, ECHEMNET, BRIDGE Health, ProFouND, PRECeDI, EuroSafe.

### ***Closer collaboration among European public health networks, organisations and schools***

Collaboration among European (public) health organisations has greatly improved by the establishment of the International Conference Council (ICC). The ICC has an advisory role toward the EPH Conference Executive Board and has representation from EUPHA, ASPHER, EuroHealthNet, EHMA, European Commission, CHAFAEA, ECDC, WHO EURO and European Observatory. Members of the ICC have become partner of the conference for specific activities or have taken responsibility for organising a plenary session.

As in previous years, the conference hosted EUPHA's Governing Board thereby increasing the attendance of national public health associations and offering them a platform to share national experiences. Furthermore, the possibility to combine the European public health conferences with meetings of other European NGOs, organisations, networks and schools of public health, increases the aim of collaboration. Over the years, we have seen an increase in the collaboration, as the organisers actively invite other networks to their activities.

In Milan 2015, EuroHealthNet, ASPHER, APHEA, EHMA, EuroSafe and several other European-based NGOs were present and active. The field of international health organisations was represented by WHO EURO, ECDC, European Observatory, Open Society Foundation and the European Commission with DG SANCO and CHAFAEA.

In Milan, all 20 EUPHA Sections (theme-specific networks) held their annual meetings to discuss future activities and collaboration. EUPHA continues to actively support existing networks and assist in the setting up of new networks.

In organising Milan 2015, the EPH Conference Office team followed the detailed Conference Manual. The core team included persons who met at regular intervals and were authorised to take practical decisions within the work plan, which improved the smooth organisation even more.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASPHER - Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region  
CHAFEA – Consumers, Health, Food and Agriculture Executive Agency, European Commission  
CNETO - Centro Nazionale per l'Edilizia e la Tecnica Ospedaliera  
EACCME - European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education  
EC – European Commission  
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control  
ECHEMNET - European Chemical Emergency Network  
EFPIA – European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations  
EHMA – European Health Management Association  
EPH Conference – European Public Health Conference  
EPHA – European Public Health Alliance  
EU – European Union  
EUPHA – European Public Health Association  
EuroNet MRPH – European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health  
EuroSafe – European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety promotion  
IBDO- Italian Barometer Diabetes Observatory  
ISPUP - Portuguese School of Public Health  
LSHTM - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom  
NIVEL - Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, The Netherlands  
Observatory – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies  
OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development  
ÖGPH – Österreichische Gesellschaft für Public Health (Austrian Public Health Association)  
OSF – Open Society Foundations  
PRECeDI – Prevention of Chronic Disease  
ProFouND – Prevention of Falls Network for Dissemination  
REPOPA - REsearch into Policy to Enhance Physical Activity  
RIVM – National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, The Netherlands  
UEMS – European Union of Medical Specialists  
WHO EURO – World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Europe  
YFG – Young Forum Gastein