11th European Public Health Conference

Winds of change: Towards new ways of improving public health in Europe

28 November – 1 December 2018
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Summary Report
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INTRODUCTION

Ljubljana welcomed Europe and beyond to the 11th European Public Health Conference between 28 November - 1 December 2018. A total of 1,675 delegates from over 72 countries gathered in Ljubljana 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, 14 pre-conferences, 160 workshops, oral and pitch sessions and 20 E-poster walks.

The 11th EPH Conference was held at the Cankarjev dom kulturni in kongresni center/Cultural and Congress Centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

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.

The theme of the 11th European Public Health Conference is Winds of change: towards new ways of improving public health in Europe. European health systems are varied, reflecting different societal choices. However, despite these differences, they are built on common values: universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity. Over the last decade, European health systems have faced formidable challenges: population ageing associated with a rise of chronic diseases leading to growing demand for healthcare; increasing costs of innovative technology and medicines; shortages and uneven distribution of health professionals; and inequities in access to healthcare. Here in Ljubljana, we hope to find innovative answers to these big issues.

We have chosen five sub-themes for the conference, offering winds of change from different perspectives. We look at the role of digital technologies on young people’s health. Digital media and new technologies are changing children and youths’ lives and providing them with many new opportunities, but they can also pose challenges to their health and well-being.

Sustainable development is a prerequisite for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a major challenge for all European nations. We will look into the key decisions that are taken by policy-makers.

There many good examples across Europe that show us how life expectancy has been increased by preventing and controlling the threat of communicable and non-communicable diseases. One of the prerequisites is the development of public health resources. We will discuss the capacities and capabilities that are needed to develop and maintain a well-trained and competent public health workforce.

In a time of internet-research and twitter-truths, it becomes more and more important for the public health community to learn how to engage the public to support, participate in and make healthy choices. How can we raise the public’s awareness on public health challenges? How do we increase the impact of the messages we want to convey? How can and should we communicate so we have a larger impact with the messages we seek to convey?

Health systems under pressure is the final sub-theme of the Ljubljana Conference. Demographic, economic and technological changes are placing ever increasing pressure on health systems. Now is the time for the public health community to step up with answers to this major challenge.

With the help of our partners, we present you an exciting programme of workshops, oral and pitch presentations and poster walks. This is taking place in the beautiful setting of Ljubljana, giving you the possibility to share information, knowledge and innovative ideas with your colleagues from Europe and across the globe.

Ljubljana 2018 was organised in collaboration with a vast number of national and international partners.

Researchers, educators, policy makers, community representatives and health managers from Europe and beyond shared new information and insights from their experiences with this issue.
1. **Ljubljana 2018: 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.

1.1. **Plenary programme**

The plenary programme of the 11th EPH Conference consisted of seven plenary sessions including an opening and a closing session.

**Plenary 1 - The realities of a digital world, what it means for young people’s health**

*Thursday 29 November, 11:00 – 12:00; Organiser: EuroHealthNet*

Moderator: Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš, NIJZ, Slovenia and President EuroHealthNet

**Keynote speakers and panelists:**
- Jeff Chester, Executive Director at the Center for Digital Democracy, Washington, USA
- Martin Lennon, Children's Commissioner for England, UK
- João Breda, WHO European Office for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases
- Uršula Mavrič, No Excuse, Slovenia
- Amandine Garde, Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit, University of Liverpool, UK

**Opening Ceremony of the 11th European Public Health Conference**

*Thursday 29 November, 13:15 – 14:00*

Moderator: Ivan Erzen, Chair of the 11th European Public Health Conference

**Keynote speakers:**
- Samo Fakin, Minister of Health, Slovenia
- Violeta Bulc, European Commissioner for Transport
- Vytenis Andriukaitis, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
- Tomo Križnar, human rights activist, documentary filmmaker, journalist, worldwide traveller, Slovenia

**Plenary 2 – Sustainable Development Goals - how can we address them through public health action?**

*Thursday 29 November, 16:50 – 17:50; Organiser: WHO Regional Office for Europe*

Moderator: Anna Cichowska Myrup, Programme Manager Public Health Services, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Speakers/Panellists:**
- Bettina Menne, Coordinator Sustainable Development and Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Charlotte Marchandise, Elected member of the City Council of Rennes, France
- Nancy Fullman, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, Seattle, USA
- Hans Kluge, Director Health Systems and Public Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe

**Plenary 3 - Public health resources - core capacities to address the threat of communicable diseases**

*Friday 30 November, 9:40 – 10:40; Organisers: ASPHER, ECDC, EHMA*

Moderators: Katarzyna Czabanowska, ASPHER, Karl Ekdahl, ECDC

**Keynote speakers and panelists:**
- Dame Anne Johnson, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, University College London, UK, Andrija Štampar Medallist 2018
- Jeanette de Boer, ASPHER
- Usman Khan, Executive Director EHMA
- Dorit Nitzan, Coordinator, Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment, WHO Health Emergencies Programme
- Wolfgang Philipp, Head of Unit Crisis Management and Preparedness in Health, DG SANTE, European Commission
- Svetla Tsolova, Senior Expert Monitoring and Evaluation, ECDC

Plenary 4 – Public’s awareness of public health challenges: How to get our public health messages heard?
Friday 30 November, 13:40 – 14:40; Organisers: European Commission, EUPHA
Moderators: Natasha Azzopardi Muscat, President EUPHA, and Isabel de la Mata, European Commission
Keynote speakers and panelists:
- Aljoša Bagola, Pristop, Slovenia
- Carlo Signorelli, Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Italy
- Benedicte Carlsen, University of Bergen, Norway
- Christina Berndt, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany
- Jan Eyckmans, Ministry of Health, Belgium

Plenary 5 - Universal health coverage in European Member States; not quite there! Making the economic case for health inclusion and equity
Saturday 1 December, 14:10 – 15:10; Organisers: European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
Moderator: Josep Figueras, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (presentation)
Keynote speakers and panelists:
- Rifat Atun, Professor Global Health Systems, Harvard University, USA
- Sarah Thomson, Senior Health Financing Specialist, WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening, WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Isabel de la Mata, European Commission
- Clemens Martin Auer, Special Envoy for Health, Ministry of Health. President Health Forum Gastein, Austria
- Rifat Atun, Professor Global Health Systems, Harvard University, USA
- Sarah Thomson, Senior Health Financing Specialist, WHO Barcelona Office for Health Systems Strengthening, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Closing Ceremony of the 11th European Public Health Conference
Saturday 1 December, 15:15 – 16:00
Moderator: Ivan Erzen, Chair of the 11th European Public Health Conference
Keynote speakers:
- Urban and Jasmina Praprotnik, pro-vaccine activists, Slovenia
- Eva Vrščaj, project IMMUNO, Slovenia

The Participants’ Evaluation showed that 83% of participants rated the suitability of programme formats as excellent/good.
1.2. Parallel programme

The parallel programme reflected on a wide array of public health issues and ways of solving these issues at global, European, national, regional and local level. The parallel programme offered sessions of 90 minutes and 60 minutes.

The parallel programme of workshops and oral presentation sessions was structured in 16 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 (see table 1).

**Workshops, round tables, skills building seminars**

59 workshops were held, 14 round tables and 11 skills building seminars.

**Parallel sessions with oral presentations**

These 60-minutes sessions consisted of 8-minute oral presentations with few minutes of discussion around a common theme. Most sessions were co-chaired by two persons. In total, 312 oral presentations were held in 39 sessions.

**Pitch sessions**

Pitch presentations (5-minutes) consisted of 37 sessions with in total 296 presentations.

**E-poster walks**

The E-poster walks, moderated by an experienced chair person, were held concurrently with the parallel programme: twenty 60-minute walks with 15 posters. In total, there were 300 E-poster presentations at Ljubljana 2018.

**E-poster displays**

In total, 357 E-posters without presentation were displayed. All E-posters were available for delegates to view at all times during the conference.

The Participants’ Evaluation showed that 83% of participants rated the suitability of programme formats as excellent/good.

*Table 1: Overview of the 16 thematic tracks and type of session*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>RT</th>
<th>SBS</th>
<th>Oral</th>
<th>Pitch</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Winds of change and innovation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>European and global health issues</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>E-Health technology, communication / Elderly health</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Health promotion, lifestyles and behaviour</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Environment and health / Obesity and nutrition</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Health systems and health care</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Health services research</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Health workforce / Health at work</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Infectious diseases, vaccination / Global health</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>Chronic diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
L Migrant, LGBT and minority health 6 2 2
M Mental Health 5 1 3 1
N Maternal, child and adolescent health 5 1 2 2
O Impact assessment / Health literacy 3 1 5 1
P Public health monitoring, reporting and screening 4 1 1 1 3
Q Social security, work and health 3 2 3 2

1.3. Abstract and presentation prizes
Each year, the conference organisers award abstract prizes in three different categories:

The Ferenc Bojan Young Investigator Award, which is awarded to the best presentation by a young public health professional, was awarded to:

José Luis Sandoval; Geneva University Hospitals, Unit of Population Epidemiology
The impact of a public smoking ban on smoking socioeconomic inequalities in a Swiss urban population
Co-authors: T Leão, JM Theler, S Cullati, S Joost, JP Humair, JM Gaspoz, I Guessous

The prize for the highest scoring abstract was awarded to:
Mark Zuidberg; VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Health 2020 performance of countries in the European region of the World Health
Co-authors: A Shriwise, AS Johansen

The prize for the best poster presentation was awarded to:
GianMarco Troiano; Post Graduate School of Public Health, Department of Molecular and Developmental Medicine, University of Siena - Siena, Italy
Potential infectious risk in dialysis water: an Italian pilot study
Co-authors: G Messina, E Zanieri, V Li Donni, N Nante, L Magistri, M B Pulci, F Niccolini

1.4. Pre-conference programme
The preconference programme (14) was held on Wednesday 28 November. Organisers of preconferences included EUPHA sections, European Commission (CHAFEA, DG RTDO, DG SANTE), Politecnico Milan, Joint Action on Health Information, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, OECD, JRC, International Organization for Migration, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, ASPHER, NIJZ, EHMA, IFIC, Ministry of Health (Slovenia) and JAHEE.
See table 2 for the full programme and numbers of delegates.

1.5. Lunch symposiums
Lunch symposiums were held on Thursday and Friday, 29-33 November 2018, during the extended lunch hours.

FROM MICRO TO MACRO: HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR HEPATITIS C ELIMINATION TARGETS BY 2030
Organised by MSD
THE SETTINGS APPROACH IN PUBLIC HEALTH: THE CASE OF HEALTH PROMOTION IN SCHOOLS IN EUROPE AND ASIA
Organised by Health Promotion Administration, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan
Schools are important settings for children’s physical, emotional and intellectual growth. They are also an important setting for public health interventions and an opportunity for health monitoring and surveillance. This symposium explores how school teachers and staff can be trained in health promotion.
Chairperson: Mark Dooris, University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom

Health promotion in schools: who are the health promoters, how do we recruit and educate them, how do to give them the means to make a difference? - Didier Jourdan, University of Clermont Auvergne, Clermont-Ferrand, France
Empowering a school’s teachers and staff health and well-being: an action research approach - Fu-Li Chen, Fu-Jen Catholic University, New Taipei City, Taiwan
The Settings Approach: reflections and implications for human resources - Mark Dooris, United Kingdom

ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN IMPROVING CANCER CARE IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE
Organised by Pfizer

VACCINATION FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC HEALTH?
Organised by GSK Vaccines
The symposium discussed the low vaccine coverage among adults in the Central and Eastern European countries and provides current expertise and health authority guidance for pneumococcal vaccination
Life course vaccination – a tool for closing the healthy ageing gap - Timothy Mark Doherty, GSK Vaccines
The overall public health value of pneumococcal vaccination - Bruce Mungall, GSK Vaccines
Panel discussion

THE EU HEALTH PROGRAMME - CONTRIBUTING TO BETTER HEALTH FOR ALL IN THE EU
Organised by European Commission - Consumer, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea) and Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)
In this interactive discussion session EU Health Programme beneficiaries will present how the EU Health Programme facilitates knowledge exchange and transfer of best practices across the EU.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-conference</th>
<th>Organised by</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healing Buildings, Building Healing / Mental health across the life-course</td>
<td>EUPHA (PMH), Politecnico Milan, DG RTD</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winds of change in health promotion: from research to implementation</td>
<td>EUPHA (HP), Bielefeld University, EAHPR</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working together for a people-centred health workforce</td>
<td>EUPHA (HWR)</td>
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<td>Navigating the international health information databases: unravelling the</td>
<td>EUPHA (PHMR), InfAct, Observatory, OECD, JRC</td>
<td>62</td>
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<tr>
<td>processes behind the numbers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migrant Health Training and Dissemination Workshop</td>
<td>IOM, GIZ, LSHTM, ASPHER</td>
<td>87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair social security assessments and sustainable social security systems</td>
<td>EUPHA (SSWH)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health in the future EU Budget and Programmes (2021-2027)</td>
<td>Chafea, DG SANTE</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European public health: three cases of collaboration, initiatives and new</td>
<td>EUPHA, NIJZ, EHMA, IFIC</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food culture and biodiversity</td>
<td>EUPHA (FN)</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public health and primary health care - success stories from Slovenia</td>
<td>Ministry of Health, Slovenia</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publishing a scientific paper on public health: practical solutions</td>
<td>NIJZ</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health inequalities: JAHEE joint action bringing knowledge into practice</td>
<td>JAHEE</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Actions on Antimicrobial Resistance and healthcare associated infection</td>
<td>Chafea, DG SANTE</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Researchers' Forum</td>
<td>ASPHER, EUPHA</td>
<td>21</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1.6. Press meeting
With the NIJZ, a press conference was organised on Thursday 29 November. Speakers included Ivan Erzen, Chair of the Conference, Caroline Costongs, Director of EuroHealthNet, on digital health, Jutta Lindert, EUPHA (PHM), on mental health across the life cycle, Allan Krasnik, EUPHA (MIG) on migrant health, and Julian Mamo, EUPHA, on healthy ageing.

1.7. Exhibition
The following exhibitors were present at Ljubljana 2018 conference:

- CHAFEA
- EUPHA
- ASPHER
- European Observatory
- EPH Conference
- EuroHealthNet
- Oxford University Press
- Frontiers in Public Health
- Taylor & Francis Group
- Springer Nature
- WHO

The Participants’ Evaluation showed that 70% of respondents had visited the exhibition area at least once. Around 73% of the respondents sought the exhibition stands as very relevant and relevant to their work.

1.8. Accreditation
The 11th European Public Health Conference, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 28/11/2018-01/12/2018, has been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) with 24 European CME credits (ECMEC®s). Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

Through an agreement between the Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes and the American Medical Association, physicians may convert EACCME® credits to an equivalent number of AMA PRA Category 1 CreditsTM. Information on the process to convert EACCME® credit to AMA credit can be found at www.ama-assn.org/education/earn-credit-participation-international-activities.

Live educational activities, occurring outside of Canada, recognised by the UEMS-EACCME® for ECMEC®s are deemed to be Accredited Group Learning Activities (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.
1.9. Social programme

The Welcome Reception was held at Vodnikov trg square in the historic city centre. From Monday to Saturday, the square is the site of Ljubljana’s Central Market. The square is more than just a place to shop. Traditionally, it has also been a place for the locals to meet and enjoy themselves. The marker stalls offer fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers but also a choice of tropical fruits, dry-cured meat products, flowers and plants. Each Wednesday, the market hosts an organic market where you can get organic food produced by Slovenian farms. The square was built after the devastating earthquake of 1895, when an old monastery had to be pulled down. The space gained was dedicated for use as an outdoor market. The square was named after the Slovenian poet Valentin Vodnik, whose monument has stood on its site since 1889.

The Conference Dinner and Dance was held at the Grand Hotel Union in Ljubljana’s historic city centre. Built in Art Nouveau style, the Grand Hotel Union opened its doors in 1905. It was the first modern hotel in Ljubljana at the time, and the highest building. According to contemporary newspapers it was one of the largest and most modern hotels in south-eastern Europe. The greatest pride of Grand Hotel Union is the Union Hall. In the past it was the place for concerts, dances, parties, but also rallies and lectures. In 1934, it was turned into at the time ‘the most modern city centre cinema in Ljubljana’. The hall came to shine again in all of its original grandeur in 2002. The Conference Dinner & dance held on Friday 30 November was attended by 450 people.
2. LJUBLJANA 2018: DELEGATES

The conference was attended by public health professionals, researchers, education specialists, training professionals, students, policy makers and representatives from international and European organisations, like the European Commission, WHO Europe and WHO headquarters, ECDC, and the European Observatory. European (public) health networks and organisations actively participated in the conference programme.

2.1. Number and origin of delegates

The EPH Conference registered 1,675 delegates, including pre-conference only registrations. In the past five years the number of delegates has increased steadily from 1,200 in Malta to 2,002 delegates in Stockholm 2017. Over 218 delegates registered as students.

The figure below shows the gradual increase in the number of registrations in the past decade. Also the number of submitted abstracts has grown significantly to 1,365 in 2018.

*Figure 1: Overview of conference registrations and abstract submissions 2004 – 2018*

![Graph showing conference registrations and abstract submissions 2004-2018](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 3: The number of abstract submissions per country, Ljubljana 2018*
Most registrations were received from Italy (205), followed by Slovenia (141), the United Kingdom (131) and the Netherlands (124).

Table 4: Overview of registrations Ljubljana 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of registration</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full conference registrations</td>
<td>1266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day registrations</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students, full conference</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-conference only</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibitors</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1675</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Number of registrations per country, Ljubljana 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland, Sweden</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark, Norway</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>Luxembourg, Russia</td>
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### 2.2. Participation from students

As for previous EPH Conferences, Ljubljana 2018 paid special attention to the participation of students. A special registration fee for this category (€ 420) was set up. In total, 218 students registered for the conference.

As part of the main conference programme, the Ferenc Bojan Young Investigators Award session was held for the five highest scoring abstracts submitted by young public health professionals. In the closing ceremony of the conference, the Ferenc Bojan memorial prize, which is awarded to the best presentation by a young public health professional, was presented to José Luis Sandoval from Geneva University Hospitals, Unit of Population Epidemiology with a presentation *The impact of a public smoking ban on smoking socioeconomic inequalities in a Swiss urban population* (Co-authors: T Leão, JM Theler, S Cullati, S Joost, JP Humair, JM Gaspoz, I Guessous).

### 2.3. Participation from South East Europe and Central Asian countries

Special attention was paid also to public health experts from low-income countries, particularly from South East Europe and Central Asian countries. Unlike previous years, when Open Society Foundations (OSF) was the main partner in this effort, financial support to participants South East Europe and Central Asian countries and presenting experts was granted by EUPHA and EPH Conference Foundation. Support consisted of granting the registration fee waiver or special fee reduction (420 euros instead of regular fee). Participants themselves had to co-fund part of their travel and accommodation expenses. In total, 41 public health professionals from South East Europe and Central Asian countries could be supported by these grants.
3. LJUBLJANA 2018: ORGANISATION

3.1. Organisation of the conference

The 11th European Public Health Conference took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 28 November – 1 December 2018. The conference was held at the Cankarjev dom kulturni in kongresni center/Cultural and Congress Centre in Ljubljana, Slovenia. For Ljubljana 2018, one large auditorium and fifteen session rooms were available. The Gallus hall with a capacity of more than 2,000 people, was used for the plenaries on Thursday, Friday and on Saturday. The breakout rooms varied in size. Wireless access was provided free of charge to participants throughout the conference venue.

Co-organisers of Ljubljana 2018 were:
- EPH Conference Foundation
- EUPHA – European Public Health Association
- NIJZ – National Institute of Public Health in Ljubljana, Slovenia

International Partners:
- European Commission
- WHO Europe
- ECDC
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- EuroHealthNet
- ASPHER
- EHMA

Partners for specific activities:
- The Health Promotion Administration, Taiwan
- MSD
- Pfizer
- International Organization for Migration
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
- International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health
- GSK
- LPP (Ljubljanski potniški promet) in Ljubljana, Slovenia

The EPH Conference Foundation 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, CHAFEA, ECDC, WHO EURO, and European Observatory).

As with past conferences, the parallel programme was set up with the help of the International Scientific Committee (ISC) consisting of public health experts from across Europe with a large representation from the conference host country. The ISC is responsible for the scoring of abstracts. Selection of abstracts and programme planning is done by the Executive Board with the help of the Local Support Committee, consisting of public health organisations, universities and health services in Slovenia.
3.2. EPH Conference Office

The EPH Conference Office was responsible for the organisation of the conference, from the abstract handling process to the printing of the Programme Book. Furthermore, the Conference Office was responsible for:

- Search for and negotiations with European partners and sponsors;
- Public relations and marketing of the conference;
- Organisation of pre-conferences and lunch symposiums.

Key staff of the Conference Office are: Dineke Zeegers Paget, Director; Floris Barnhoorn, Deputy Director; Robert Klarecki, Conference Officer; Ingeborg Vlug, Financial Officer; José Velthuis, Office Manager and Maaike Droogers, Scientific Officer. The EPH Conference Office was supported by external staff: Elita Zoer, Conference Coordinator and advisory PCO; Jessica van Diemen, Exhibition Officer and Lydia Rink, Registration Officer.

3.3. Local assistance

The NJZ and the Chair of the 11th EPH Conference, Prof Ivan Erzen, made a great effort in successfully finding the national conference partners in Slovenia and raising awareness for the conference resulting in an amazing number of delegates.

The Local Support Committee provided assistance in the selection of abstracts at the preparatory meeting in June 2018.
4. LJUBLJANA 2018: VISIBILITY

The Announcement of Ljubljana 2018 was first distributed to all delegates of the 10th EPH Conference in Stockholm, in 2017. A presentation of the theme was given in the closing session of Stockholm 2017. 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 that were used to promote the 11th EPH Conference included:

- EPH Conference E-News: the monthly electronic newsletter with conference news was published from January until October.
- European Journal of Public Health: updates on Ljubljana 2018 were published every two months in the European Public Health News pages of the EJPH.
- EUPHA Newsletter: concise articles on the conference were published in the monthly electronic EUPHA Newsletter, distributed to over 16,000 readers;
- Website and Twitter: the EPH Conference website was updated regularly, accompanied by Twitter feeds
- Conference Newsletters: two electronic conference newsletters were distributed to all registered delegates a few weeks before the conference
- Conference E-banners appeared on websites of partner organisations

4.1 Conference App

The online programme was refurbished offering more user-friendliness and usefulness for different screen sizes. The App was linked to the online programme (updated every 15 minutes) and Abstracts Supplement. The App included: Info on keynote speakers, venue and Ljubljana nap, exhibitors, partners, participants list and voting system. The newly introduced voting system gave participants 2 possibilities: to vote for the best poster and interact during the different sessions. The App was quite popular during the Ljubljana 2018 Conference.

4.2 Twitter

Like in previous years, Twitter was used extensively throughout the conference. There were 1,608 tweets during the conference, by 285 tweeters, with 2,642 retweets received. Overall, 71 (25%) tweeters received 80% of retweets (from 1,073 tweets posted), while 62 (22%) tweeters received no retweets (from 101 tweets posted).¹

¹ Source: Graham Mackenzie, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
5. **LJUBLJANA 2018: REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES**

Ljubljana 2018 was well organised, of scientific good quality and reached the objectives it set out to achieve: 89% of the participants rated the quality of the Ljubljana 2018 conference as excellent/good.

The exhibition area was successful also with 70% of all respondents visiting the exhibition area. Around 73% of the respondents sought the exhibition stands as very relevant and relevant to their work.

A large basis for the conference, also on international level, is seen as positive. For Ljubljana 2018, several European NGOs and international organisations were involved in organising the plenary programme.

The main purpose of the 11th 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*

EPH Conferences are known for the excellent organisation, the high number of participants and a broad programme covering relevant public health topics. Ljubljana 2018 was no exception to this with over 1,675 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 over 72 countries from Europe and beyond. The professional background of the participants showed a balanced mix of research, policy, practice and training. The majority of delegates (over 60%) has a university background and this proportion is keeping over last years. The absolute and relative numbers of delegates with a policymaking, public health practice and education background is also keeping at the same level.

The conference aimed at increasing knowledge and skills among European public health professionals. The programme of Ljubljana 2018 was varied and nearly all sessions mixed aspects of 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, Observatory) has broadened. In many workshops and round tables, representatives from European health organisations were present and participated in discussions.

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

Collaboration among European (public) health organisations takes place in 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, CHAFEA, 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.

At Ljubljana 2018, all EUPHA Sections (theme-specific networks) and EUPHAnxt 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.
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASPHER - Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region
CHAFEA – Consumers, Health, Food and Agriculture Executive Agency, European Commission
DG RTD – Directorate-General Research and Innovation, European Commission
DG SANTE – Directorate-General Health and Food Safety, European Commission
EAHPR - European Alliance for Health Promotion Researchers
EAP - European Academy of Paediatrics, Netherlands
EC – European Commission
ECDC – European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
ECPCP - European Confederation of Primary Care Paediatricians
EHFG – European Health Forum Gastein
EHMA – European Health Management Association
EPA/UNEPSA - European Paediatric Association
EPH Conference – European Public Health Conference
EPHA - European Public Health Alliance
EU – European Union
EUPHA – European Public Health Association
EUPHA (CAPH) – EUPHA Section Child and adolescent public health
EUPHA (CHR) - EUPHA Section Chronic diseases
EUPHA (ENV) - EUPHA Section Environment-related diseases
EUPHA (EPI) - EUPHA Section Public health epidemiology
EUPHA (ETH) – EUPHA Section Ethics in public health
EUPHA (FN) - EUPHA Section Food and nutrition
EUPHA (HIA) – EUPHA Section Health impact assessment
EUPHA (HP) - EUPHA Section Health promotion
EUPHA (HSR) – EUPHA Section Health services research
EUPHA (HTA) – EUPHA Section Health technology assessment
EUPHA (HWR) – EUPHA Section Health workforce research (proposed)
EUPHA (IDC) – EUPHA Section Infectious diseases control
EUPHA (INJ) – EUPHA Section Injury prevention and safety promotion
EUPHA (LEAD) – EUPHA Working Group Leadership in public health
EUPHA (MIG) – EUPHA Section Migrant and ethnic minority health
EUPHA (ECO) - EUPHA Section Public health economics
EUPHA (PHG) – EUPHA Section Public health genomics
EUPHA (PHMR) – EUPHA Section Public health monitoring and reporting
EUPHA (PHPP) – EUPHA Section Public health practice and policy
EUPHA (PMH) – EUPHA Section Public mental health
EUPHA (PO) – EUPHA Policy Pillar
EUPHA (PR) – EUPHA Practice Pillar
EUPHA (SGMH) – EUPHA Section Sexual and gender minority health
EUPHA (SSWH) – EUPHA Section Social security, work and health
EUPHA (URB) - EUPHA Section Urban public health
EuroNet MRPH – European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health
FHI - Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway
FIOH - Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Finland
FPH – Faculty of Public Health, UK
GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IHMT - Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Portugal
IMAD - Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia
InfAct - Joint Action on Health Information
IOM - International Organization for Migration
IRSSV - Social Protection Institute of the Republic of Slovenia, Slovenia
ISS - Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy
IUHPE - International Union for Health Promotion and Education
LSHTM – The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
MOCHA - Models of Child Health Appraised (project)
NIJZ – National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia
NIVEL – Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, Netherlands
NSPH – National School of Public Health, Portugal
Observatory – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
OECD – Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
RIVM – National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Netherlands
SFSP – Société Française de Santé Publique, France
TU Berlin - Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
UniSR - Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Italy
WFPHA - World Federation of Public Health Associations
WHO ECEH – World Health organization, European Centre for Environment and Health
WHO EURO – World Health Organization, Regional Office for Europe
WHO RHN – World Health Organization, Regions for Health Network
YFG – Young Forum Gastein, Austria