

2015 Annual Report: EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)

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1. ESCD in brief

The EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD) was formally established at the 14th EUPHA annual conference in Montreux, Switzerland in 2006 and currently has over 1300 members.

The **aim** of the section is to increase and spread knowledge on chronic disease control and management. The section seeks to identify common approaches to develop the evidence and information base needed to guide policy and identify best practices for combating chronic diseases, and thus contributing to a sustainable and significant reduction of illness, disability and premature death. Furthermore, the section aims to lead efforts that help eliminate health disparities and negative socioeconomic consequences caused by chronic diseases and that promote health and well-being.

Who is who at ESCD?

- Dr Iveta Nagyova, president – PJ Safarik University, Kosice & Slovak Public Health Association (SAVEZ), Slovak Republic
- Prof David Stuckler, vice-president – Oxford University & London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- Dr Colette Andree, vice-president – CRP-Santé, Centre for Health Studies, Luxembourg University, Luxembourg & University of Basel, Switzerland

2. Conferences | Pre-conferences | Workshops

During the 8th European Public Health (EPH) conference, 14–17 October 2015, Milan, Italy we co-organized a workshop together with EUPHA Sections on Public Mental Health; Public Health Epidemiology; Social Security, Work and Health.

Workshop 7D: *Systematic reviews in Public Health fields: challenges and how to bridge with policy*

- Date and place: Saturday 17 Oct 2015, 9:00–10:30, room: Amber 6
- Organizers: EUPHA Sections on Public Mental Health; Public Health Epidemiology; Social Security, Work and Health, and EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)
- Aims: The goal of this workshop was to contribute to better understand the use, challenges and problems of systematic and narrative reviews in Public Health. The following four abstracts were presented:
 - How to assess the methodological quality of Systematic and narrative Reviews in a Public Health perspective (Public Health Epidemiology)
 - The use of systematic review in the field of sickness absence (Social Security, Work and Health)

- The challenges of performing Systematic Reviews in mental health (Public Mental Health)
- The use of Systematic Reviews for political challenges (Chronic Diseases).

The ESCD supported the organisation of two international conferences:

- 2nd V4 Conference on Public Health 2015 "Health for public, public for health", 17–18 September 2015, Zabrze, Poland; <http://www.v4-publichealth.eu/>
- V4 conference on NCDs "Priority actions for the prevention and management of chronic diseases", 28 – 29 September 2015, Kosice, Slovak Republic; <http://v4ncd2015.savez.sk/>

3. Representation on behalf of the EUPHA / ESCD

In 2015 Dr Iveta Nagyova, president of the EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases was the formal representation of EUPHA/ESCD at the following events:

Technical Consultation Meeting on the Roadmap of actions to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe. 24–25 February 2015, Moscow, Russian Federation

The technical consultation was held with three main objectives: 1) To provide Member States with an opportunity to review and comment on the existing draft of the Roadmap of actions to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe (2015–2020), with a view to guiding its further development. 2) To ensure any relevant lessons from the country level experience are captured and inform the next draft as well as incorporating emerging or missing scientific evidence. 3) To contribute to further development the Roadmap of actions ahead of the Regional Committee in Vilnius in September 2015.

8th Italian Barometer Diabetes Forum, 2 – 3 July 2015, Rome, Italy

Keynote lecture within a Session: 'Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes: A Public Health Priority'.

The Forum 2015 welcomed representatives from the Italian Parliament, scientific societies, and patients associations. Its specific aim was to discuss the up-to-date situation of the burden of disease on diabetes and its care, and activate – together with the other countries involved – a shared and consistently updated system for the exchange of information and experience.

EC conference "Which priorities for a European policy on multimorbidity?" 27 October 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The conference aimed to: Raise awareness on the relevance and urgency to deal with multimorbidity, Share experiences and practices in the management of multimorbidity, Learn from innovative healthcare approaches, Explore together how to address the barriers to address a common framework on multimorbidity, Create a common engagement across stakeholders to start addressing the issue at European level. http://ec.europa.eu/health/ageing/events/ev_20151027_en.htm

1st International Congress of Polish Society of Public Health, 27 November 2015, Wroclaw, Poland

Panel discussion within a session "Public Health Threats"

The aim of the event was to start a systemic discussion on the role of public health from financial, organizational and medical points of view as well as about the major threats that public health will face in the coming decade. The conference participants were members of the Polish Society of Public Health, representatives of sister societies from other countries, representatives of the central and local governments as well as of academia and other institutions active in the field of public health.

4. Commenting strategic policy documents

WHO EURO: Roadmap of actions to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe

The aim of the roadmap is to assist the WHO/Europe Member States to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe (2015–2020), ensuring that no Member State is left behind, see that time-bound commitments are met, and provide the opportunity for all States parties to gain from innovation, share experience and together face emerging (and cross-boundary) challenges. This roadmap was adopted at the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Vilnius, Lithuania held on 14–17 September 2015.

5. Projects

In 2015 we have been involved in the preparation of one EC H2020 project proposal, which successfully passed the H2020 Stage 1 procedure. This was in particular a project co-ordinated by Prof Jutta Lindert – president of the EUPHA section on Mental Health at the project dealt with preventing mental and neurological disorders in community dwelling older people. At H2020 Stage 2 procedure this project was however, not supported.

6. Collaboration

Our main strategic collaborating non-EUPHA partner is the WHO-EURO Division on Noncommunicable Diseases and Life Course. So far we organized together 3 workshops at the European Public Health Conferences (2011, 2012, 2014). Moreover, in years 2014 and 2015 Prof D. Stuckler and Dr I. Nagyova were members of the WHO Senior Advisory Group for strategic WHO document 'Roadmap of actions to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe 2015–2020'.

With regard to EUPHA sections, in 2015 we organized a workshop with EUPHA Sections on Public Mental Health; Public Health Epidemiology; Social Security, Work and Health on using systematic reviews in public health fields and challenges for bridging with policy.

7. Communication

ESCD website

The section's website is regularly updated. It contains information on activities organized by the section since its establishment; such as workshops and preconference organized during the annual EUPHA conferences. It also contains ESCD publications such as texts from the EUPHA conference proceedings and short reports from the European Journal of Public Health. For section web pages at the EUPHA website see: <http://www.eupha.org/chronic-diseases>

EUPHA mailman system

The ESCD has been using the EUPHA mailman system for distributing information among its members. This mainly concerned up-to-date information on conferences, workshops, initiatives, projects or strategic documents.

30 January 2016

EUPHA Section on Chronic Diseases

Dr Iveta Nagyova, president; Prof David Stuckler, vice-president; Dr Colette Andree, vice-president