

Minutes – 2015 Join the Network Meeting: EUPHA section on Chronic Diseases (ESCD)



AGENDA (as sent to section members on 13-10-2015)

1. Welcome
2. Activity report 2015 (draft report attached)
3. Reflections on the 2015 conference
4. GenCAD project (project flyer attached)
5. Suggestions for collaborations, work groups, projects
6. Communication: Website, letters, brochure, EJPH
7. Strategies to increase/widen membership
8. Suggestions for pre-conference and workshop for 2016 EPH conference
9. Any other business

Minutes

1. Welcome

Iveta Nagyova, section president, welcomed all present at the "Join the Network" (JTN) meeting of the EUPHA section on Chronic disease, previously known as "annual meeting". The meeting took place on Friday, 16 October, 17:25-18:15, Room: Amber 6; and there were approximately 17 persons present.

2. Activity report 2015

In the beginning of the meeting the president gave a short presentation delineating the mission of the section, its roles and activities with a special focus on 2015 activities as compared with plans. The section's Annual report 2015 (draft report) has been sent to section members prior the 8th EPH conference in Milan.

Summary of 2015 main activities: the section was successful in organizing a conference workshop together with three EUPHA sections; the section president officially represented EUPHA at several strategic meetings in the field of chronic diseases; the section was involved in supporting several international conferences, especially in Central and Eastern European (CEE) Countries; and was involved in preparing the WHO/Europe document '*Roadmap of actions to fully implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in Europe*', which has been formally adopted at the 65th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, Vilnius, Lithuania held on 14-17 September 2015.

(For more information see the section's 2015 Annual report.)

3. Reflections on the 2015 conference

The main section activity during the 8th EPH in Milan was a workshop co-organized in collaboration with EUPHA sections on Public Mental Health; Public Health Epidemiology; and Social Security, Work and Health. The goal of the Workshop 7D '*Systematic reviews in Public Health fields: challenges and how to bridge with policy*' was to contribute to better understanding of the the use, challenges and problems of systematic and narrative reviews in public health. The workshop was well attended, with over 30 participants present, and had a very vivid discussion and a lot of following positive feedback.

4. GenCAD project

Next, the floor was given to Floris Barnhoorn, EUPHA Deputy Director, who presented the GenCAD project - '*Gender specific mechanisms in coronary artery disease*', in which EUPHA is one of the partners. The GenCAD aims to close the gender gap in chronic diseases in Europe, using the example of coronary heart disease (CAD). The project expects to provide novel insights as to how and why different forms of CAD affect women and men and which preventive approaches are most effective in a gender specific manner to help counteract these differences.

The project currently seeks more inputs from EU member states and the JTN meeting was used as a platform for dissemination activity as well as brainstorming how to reach more countries. One of the suggestions for project coordinators regarding wider reach was a recommendation to sign a written agreement with potential country experts to ensure that the efforts invested into the project are also formally recognized.

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In the final minutes of the meeting a very fruitful discussion among participants was going on with suggestions for more visibility of the section as well as proposals for future activities and projects. As to visibility there has been a discussion about setting up a Twitter account, LinkedIn group and/or a Blog. With regard to future projects, based also on inspiration from the 2015 section workshop on systematic reviews, there has been a suggestion by Giuseppe Grosso for collaboration on performing a meta-analysis on the impact of obesity on chronic diseases, which could serve as a basis for future EU projects. The aim is to find funding for these types of activities following the example of the OPEN project - Obesity Prevention through European Network: <http://openprogram.eu/> Furthermore, the section members will get in touch with regard to the 'Health, Demographic Change and Well-being' Work Programme 2016-2017 in order to investigate the potential for collaborations.

Update 22-02-2016

Dr Iveta Nagyova, section president