

EPHA annual review 2015

european public health alliance



Reflections from EPHA



2015 was a year of challenge and change for public health.

We may well look back on it as the year when global leaders put the world on a more sustainable course for the future, following the international climate agreement in Paris and the global sustainable development agenda agreed in New York. At the same time, action at home in Europe on public health seemed to be grinding to a halt after our recent successes on tobacco control and clinical trials. Current policies are feeding a rise in inequalities, inextricably bound to negative impacts on our health. A limited policy agenda for health, and ill-considered impacts of economic, trade, foreign and other policies on health was something we challenged at our Annual Conference 'Towards a European Union for Health' in September.

Whilst Europe is suffering from a lapse of ambition, some countries are showing the way, for example moving forward with implementation of the Tobacco Products Directive, which will go some way to cutting the death toll of 700,000 people in Europe every year. Scotland and Ireland are also blazing a trail with policies to cut the toll of harmful drinking to health, families, communities and health services. Our admiration was returned when, Dr James Reilly, Irish Minister for Children and Youth Affairs told our conference audience,



“Public health needs champions like EPHA who are trustworthy and can drum up public support.”

– Dr James Reilly, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Ireland

The European Public Health Alliance reached some satisfying milestones in 2015, crossing the threshold of 100 member organisations at our Annual General Assembly and moving forward to a new strategic vision which will take us to 2020. This new plan, endorsed by EPHA members, aims to “bring together the public health community to provide thought leadership and facilitate change, to build public health capacity to deliver equitable solutions to public health challenges, to improve health and reduce inequalities.” We are putting this into practice with a focus on a number of key policy campaigns selected by the membership.

At our conference we heard from leading policy-makers that a Union for Health is already happening. But there is much still to do.

As the civil society voice of public health in Europe EPHA’s mission to put health at the heart of all policies and to reduce the inequalities that do so much damage to health, will us drive forward in the years ahead.

We thank our members and team for their invaluable efforts to making this vision a reality.

Archie Turnbull,
EPHA PRESIDENT

Nina Renshaw,
*EPHA SECRETARY
GENERAL*

168

reports, articles, press releases

29

stakeholder expert meetings

3.000

newsletter subscribers

930

event participants

1500+

new social media followers

80.000

website visits

12

team members

4

new members

3

capacity building programmes

Trending in 2015 – Our year in numbers

168 EPHA publications, reports, consultation response, articles and press releases, including:

- [Q&A on European Legal Challenge to Minimum Unit Pricing of Alcohol: Does Europe have an Alcohol Problem?](#)
- ['The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership: international trade law, health systems and public health' London School of Economics and Political Science and Modus Europe report for EPHA Trade Working Group](#)
- [Joint Pro-Roma Civil Society Contribution to the Public Consultation on Access to Health Services in the European Union](#)
- [Closing Gaps, Stimulating Health Equity: Implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive](#)
- [Access to Childhood Vaccination](#)
- [Progress Report on the General Data Protection Reform](#)
- [Analysis 2015 Country Reports for European Semester](#)
- [Analysis 2015 Country-Specific Recommendations](#)
- [Access to Healthcare and the Economic Crisis in Europe](#)
- [Pharma Pollution: an Ignored Cause of Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [How to Include Public Health into the EU Trade Strategy](#)

EPHA was represented at 29 meetings of 8 European advisory and expert groups, including:

- [European Medicines Agency Patients' and Consumers' Working Party](#)
- [European Commission eHealth stakeholder group](#)
- [DG SANTE's Health Policy Forum and European Platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health](#)

- [European Commission Expert group on Cancer Control](#)
- [Advisory Group to DG Trade on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#)

5 major projects: EPHA is a partner in key European projects: [FRESHER](#), [Together4Better Health Roma Health advocates](#), [Roma Health Fellows](#), [Health Workers for All](#) (led by WEMOS), [ENS4Care](#) (led by EFN)

930 participants across 15 events and conferences co-hosted by EPHA, with members and civil society partners:

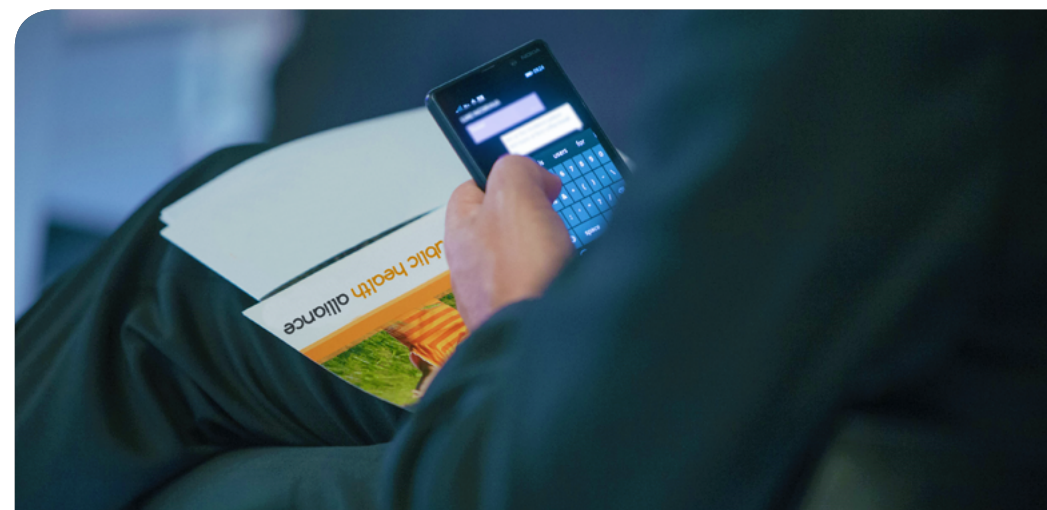
- ‘Pharma pollution: An ignored cause of AMR’ , with Changing Markets
- ‘Exploring the migration-development nexus: Global aspects of the WHO Code implementation’, with Stichting Wemos #hw4all_eu
- ‘Science Policy Flu Summit’ with ESWI
- ‘Mobility of Health professionals in the EU’, with Stichting Wemos
- MEP ‘Friends of the Liver’ group, with EASL
- ‘Increased trade for better living’, with Demete

2 strategic policy training sessions for EPHA members: Trade and Health and European law and NCDs.

Social media actions:

[European Antibiotic Awareness Day #EEAD @EEAD_EU](#) with European Centre for Disease Control, 18 November, now also part of World Antibiotic Awareness Week with WHO [#WAAW](#)
[#datasaveslives](#) campaign with Cancer Research UK

4 new members – Health Equities Group (UK), BabyMilk Action (UK), European Federation of Salaried Doctors (EU), SA Tallinna Lastehaigla (Tallinn Children’s Hospital) (Estonia)



6 new campaigns and members’ working groups.

[Action on Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

[Inclusive E-health](#)

[Food, Drink and Agriculture](#)

[Healthy Economic Policy](#)

[Trade for Health](#)

[Universal Access and Affordable Medicines](#)

Supporting EPHA members’ work on key themes: Air quality, Health workforce, Mental Health in all Policies, Investment in children, implementing the Tobacco Products Directive.



Our year in quotes

“We need to change our consumption and prescription culture. This involves a big effort in educating patients, health professionals and pharma industry in order to change expectation and habits and force the correct use when antibiotics are necessary and remove perverse incentives that encourage unnecessary consumption and production,”

Sascha Marschang on AMR in Euractiv, 11 Dec 2015



«Dobbiamo cambiare il nostro consumo e la cultura della prescrizione – ha detto ieri al Parlamento europeo Sascha Marschang, della European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) – Si tratta di un grande sforzo di educazione dei pazienti, operatori sanitari e industria farmaceutica al fine di cambiare le loro abitudini, imporre un utilizzo corretto degli antibiotici e rimuovere gli incentivi perversi che incoraggiano consumo e la produzione non necessaria». – Sascha Marschang in Rinnovabili.it , 11 December 2015 on AMR

“Years of EU inaction have allowed the alcohol industry to hide the harm – and even the calories – in their drinks. The Commission is currently fixated on “Better Regulation”, but what’s “Better” about the Commission failing in its duty to protect public health?” - Nina Renshaw in Euractiv, 30 April 2015

“Some NGOs and public health experts have accused the Commission of dragging its feet. The European Public Health Association praised the report, but also said the key will be in implementation. “We are very pleased the Commission appears to favor the legislative option on trans fats,” - Nikolai Pushkarev in Politico, 12 March 2015



“Better Regulation’ is a gamble for our health, our wallets and the future of the EU” – Nina Renshaw in Euractiv, 4 Nov 2015



“The commission has finally admitted what the health community has long suspected - that they have abandoned alcohol policy altogether. In return for some self-defined voluntary actions under the forum, the drinks lobby has fended off much needed legislative action and our health will continue to suffer. The promises that the industry commitments in the forum would deliver better health have proved empty.” - Nina Renshaw in Parliament Magazine, ‘NGOs call time on EU Alcohol Forum,’ 3 June 2015

“Largely semantic changes from arbitration to Tribunal will not convince us to support a fundamentally biased system with a long track record of being used and abused - most frequently by the tobacco industry - to abort public health policies.” - Nina Renshaw on TTIP in Parliament Magazine, 12 November 2015

Today’s new medicines come with a dangerous side effect, says Sascha Marschang of the European Public Health Alliance: “financial toxicity.” His is just one voice among a mounting chorus of denunciations of drug industry exploitation of patients and the public purse. — Sascha Marschang on drug prices in Politico, 11 August 2015

Towards a European Union for Health: Annual Conference 2015

On 2-3 September 2015, we hosted our annual conference in Brussels for over 250 participants. Our leading speakers and expert audience discussed how the EU can fully implement the Health in All Policies (HiAP) principle and move forward to become a Union for health and wellbeing.

Our keynote speakers Professors Martin McKee and Ilona Kickbusch asked what could be a “bigger thing” for Europe than public health, in reference to the limited set of policy priorities set by President Juncker for the European Commission. Professor McKee called for more research into the health impacts of austerity and migration policies. Professor Kickbusch argued that “the global is becoming local” with the fields of public health and global health merging into the new set of UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. She agreed that health impacts are not properly considered in economic and fiscal policies and also argued for better consideration of public health in foreign and development policies.

The audience was reminded that the EU is committed to increasing the average healthy lifespan in the EU by two years to 2020, as part of the Europe2020 strategy, and that politicians must be held accountable where it is failing.

Conference participants enjoyed a great insight into the diversity of EPHA’s member organisations during the conference, hearing views from Smoke-Free Partnership, the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), Cancer Research UK, European Heart Network, Doctors of the World International (MDM),



“Health is political, will stay political and to an extent must stay political: Health is a political choice.” – Prof. Ilona Kickbusch

the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), the Royal College of Physicians, and the European COPD Coalition on how to make space for health across the European policy agenda and ways forward to tackle increases in non-communicable diseases.

“Health organisations should not fixate only on the EU agenda, but start setting the policy agenda in their own right.” – Freek Spinnewijn, FEANTSA

the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), the Royal College of Physicians, and the European COPD Coalition on how to make space for health across the European policy agenda and ways forward to tackle increases in non-communicable diseases.

“Every Ministers should be a Health Minister. Every Commissioner should be a Health Commissioner.” - Catherine Hartmann, European COPD Coalition

A high level panel of policy-makers included the former Greek Health Minister, Dr. Panagiotis Kouroumplis, who gave a heartfelt account of the impact of austerity and externally imposed economic policies on health in Greece. A key conclusion was the need to increase transparency – “where decisions are made

“Small changes in Finance Ministry decisions can lead to major changes in mortality rates.” - Professor Nick Sheron, Royal College of Physicians and University of Southampton, UK

behind closed doors, coherent policy is unlikely to result” – to involve health experts and civil society in decision-making and to set goals to protect improvement of health at the heart of other policies.

“The national health programme should be used as a ‘lighthouse’ document to guide all other policy.” – Dr Fernando Leal da Costa, Secretary of State for Health, Portugal

The audience was also inspired by speakers from outside the health sector. We heard from consumer representative Monique Goyes (BEUC) that “a healthier Europe would be less costly and thriving, with innovation dedicated to people’s needs.” Sian Jones of the European Anti-Poverty Network highlighted the need to rebalance the Europe2020 Strategy towards equitable growth, for which “Investing in public health is an essential means to reduce inequalities and is undoubtedly good for growth.” The Commission is starting to recognise that the current ‘jobs and growth’ model is also not delivering social objectives and is even increasing inequalities to levels not seen in half a century. This message was echoed by Francesca Colombo, Head of the Health Division of the OECD, as well as Monika Kosinska (a familiar name to EPHA) of the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

From the European Commission we heard from Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General of DG Health and Food Safety, that “An ‘EU for Health’ is already happening”, but this was challenged by



Dr Roberto Bertollini, Chief Scientist of the WHO who believes that Europe has a long way to go until we reach a vision the whole audience could agree on - namely: “Health and Wellbeing should become an overarching goal.”

EPHA AC side events 3rd September 2015

“Policies to prevent obesity-related chronic diseases” hosted with Medtronic with the participation of the International Diabetes Federation – European Region

“The case of connecting Roma people living in secluded communities to basic healthcare”; in conjunction with the Together for Better Health programme of GSK

“Towards a European Union for Health: Putting discussion into practice”; organized together with the European Health

Parliament

“The Cost of Exclusion from Healthcare: the Case of Irregular Migrants” with the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

Launch of the European Alliance for Mental Health in All Policies - Dialogue on healthy workplaces with the European Association of Paritarian Institutions (AEIP), the International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM), and Mental Health Europe (MHE).

[Read the full conference report](#)

EPHA financial information 2015

EPHA is an independent not-for-profit organisation, registered under Belgian law as an AISBL (Association internationale sans but lucratif) under number 451 133 736.

The operational budget

In 2015, the total income of EPHA was 921.242 €.

The operational budget is devoted to our core activities to improve health and strengthen the voice of public health in Europe.

Our biggest contributor is the Operating Grant received from the European Commission. In 2015 their contribution represented 49% of EPHA's total income.

In 2015, the total contribution of the membership fees represented 12% of the total income.

Projects

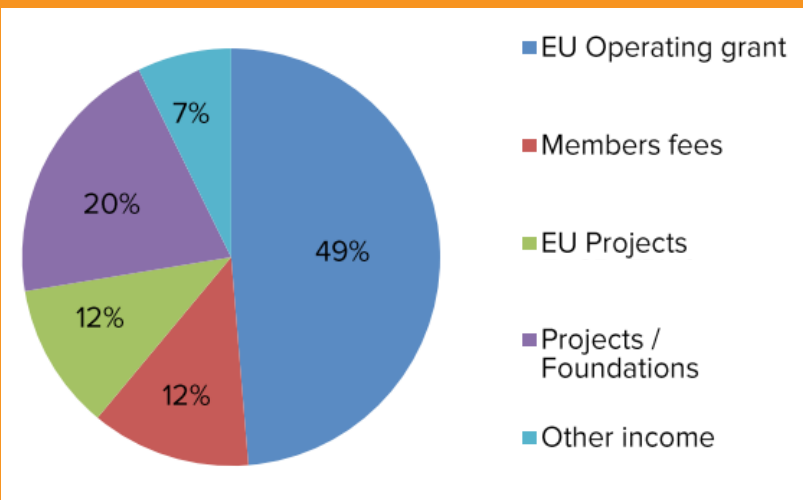
In addition to the operational budget, EPHA is a partner in EU health research projects.

Other projects and grants from foundations represented the remainder of our income.

EPHA budget 2015

EPHA BUDGET 2015

Total Income	2015	
EU – Operating grant	448.495 €	49%
Members fees	113.784 €	12%
EU Projects	104.631 €	11%
Projects / Foundations	187.238 €	20%
Other income	67.094 €	7%
Total	921.242 €	100%





Working Together

- [Alter-EU](#): Europe's campaign for lobbying transparency
- [Better Regulation Watchdog](#) (from 2015)
- [European Alliance for Investing in Children](#)
- [European Alliance for Mental Health in all Policies](#)
- [European Alliance for Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines](#)
- [HEAL – Health and Environment Alliance](#)
- [Semester Alliance](#)
- [Social Platform](#)
- [Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue \(TACD\)](#)

Team during 2015

Agata Petcov
Chris Everton Russ
Giulia Vettore
Laura Rahoveanu
Martyna Giedrojć

Masha Smirnova
Nikolai Pushkarev
Nina Renshaw
Sascha Marschang
Zoltán Massay-Kosubek

Claudia Alameida
Kolia Benie
Javier Delgado Rivera

Dorota Sienkiewicz
Emma Woodford

Policy Researchers

Eleanor Brooks

Joana Lima

Policy Assistant Interns

Jon Arozamena
Kieran Chandler
Michael Fortunato
Charlotte Godziewski

Laura Gonzalez
Laureen Missaire
Maitane Robredo
Bernadett Varga

Roma Fellows

Florin Nasture
Diana Pirjol
Marius Radulescu

Maja Saitovic – Jovanovic
Sebihana Skenderovska





europaean **public health** alliance

AISBL

Rue de Trèves 49-51

1040 Brussels

 +32 (0) 2 230 30 56

 +32 (0) 2 233 38 80

 epha@epha.org

 @EPAH_EU

 facebook.com/epha.eu

Visit us at

www.epha.org