

Annual Report 2017

Introduction

Letter from the President

EPHA aspires to be an agent of change for protection and improvement of health for everyone in Europe.

During 2017, we continued to see signs of success in that mission. Increasingly, our priorities and concerns are being shared by policy-makers from local Mayors to the UN Secretary-General. Europe's health challenges are shared right across the continent, and in many cases around the world. If there were any barriers between 'global health' and 'public health' in Europe, these have been torn down as we all work towards the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

We stepped out of the "Brussels bubble", not least with an investigation into the challenges on the frontline of antimicrobial resistance in Romania. We also gathered real-world evidence of barriers to accessing healthcare and the right to health with a survey that reached hundreds of Roma people across seven countries.

On our home turf at the heart of Europe, we made strides on our priorities in 2017. We have stepped up our engagement at national level and met more Health Ministers than ever, not least in a Ministerial Forum on pharmaceutical policy which I attended in Valletta.

We joined forces with both the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU on inclusive digital health and the (incoming) Bulgarian Presidency on game changers for more affordable medicines. Access to medicines is an ever-hotter topic, kept top of the health policy agenda in 2017 by the WHO's Fair Pricing Forum, by an OECD consultation, by an EU Ombudsman investigation and by a number of European governments working together on joint procurement to shine light into the black box of price setting for medicines.

At the EU level, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker mentioned health for the very first time in his State of the Union address, and particularly vaccine-preventable diseases and inequalities between Member States – both long-held EPHA priorities. We welcomed the long-awaited release of the EU One Health Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), a concrete

result of our 2016 conference which was a pivotal moment in securing a common EU approach.

A highlight of 2017 was the EU Heads of State agreement on the European Pillar of Social Rights, with a nod to the crucial importance of “more effective public health and prevention policies”, as well as adopting a principle to guarantee access to health and long-term care for all.

This tees up a critical debate for the coming year, in preparation for a UN Heads of State meeting on prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in autumn 2018. Dismantling barriers to prevention was, therefore, the theme of our annual conference in September 2017. Inspiring examples were presented from around the world but also the hard truth that Europe is a laggard, not a leader, in terms of measures to prevent chronic diseases.

But there are glimmers of hope. EU agriculture and food policies had been immune to calls to align them with public health, improving nutrition and curbing AMR... until this year. EPHA's work has been a part of this important breakthrough and we will keep pushing until all policies become coherent with Europe's health and sustainability commitments.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the expertise and support of EPHA's highly motivated and unstoppable membership.

Thank you.

On a sadder note, Stephen Gordon, one of EPHA's Board members and longest standing supporters, died in July 2017. The General Assembly in September paid tribute to his many contributions to EPHA's success. As one of the first Board members, his councils, wise insights and humour are much missed.

It is a privilege as EPHA President to work with and for you all and I wish you all continued success as change-makers for health in Europe.



ARCHIE TURNBULL
President

EPHA 25 and Beyond:

The Future for Public Health in Europe

Nina Renshaw, Secretary General

2018 marks the 25th anniversary of public health in the EU Treaty and the first EU health framework.

Not coincidentally, EPHA was also founded in the same year, 1993, as the voice of public health civil society at the European level and to engage with the EU institutions. Whilst we celebrate the achievements of the last quarter of a century, we cannot take continued progress for granted. In today's chaotic political environment, even past victories are under threat of being rolled back. The near future brings unprecedented challenges as well as exciting opportunities.

2018 is a critical year for the future of the European Union, with a storm brewing around the post-2020 EU budget, the end of the current term of the European Commission and European Parliament elections in 2019. The biggest challenge is how to connect more effectively with citizens. That's where EPHA comes in.

Surveys consistently show that health and wellbeing are among Europeans' top concerns. And since all European countries (EU and beyond) are facing the same health threats, including rising inequality, unhealthy food and drink environments, stresses on mental health, Antimicrobial Resistance and prohibitively expensive medicines, it makes so much more sense to tackle them together.

EPHA's activities in 2018 will illustrate the vital importance of coordinated European action to advance the protection and improvement of health for all. We are particularly mindful in the current external political environment, including Brexit, of challenges to the governance and funding of public health action at EU level. Our strong UK membership and several UK-based scientific advisors means we are well-placed to convene insights regarding health impacts of Brexit, as a contrast to the value for working together.

EPHA had unprecedented impact and visibility in 2017. In particular, we achieved significant breakthroughs addressing ris-

ing prices of medicines and Antimicrobial Resistance in the public and political sphere and secured commitments to address the health impacts of EU agricultural policies and programmes as well as trade agreements. EPHA welcomed new member groups, saw increased demand for our capacity-building activities and our public events attracted record participation. As a result, we attracted more readers and followers and increased press coverage for our priority issues.

In today's context, the role of civil society alliances and independent expertise is more important - and more powerful - than ever. Our Alliance for public health continues to make gains and prove ourselves to be game changers. The final go-ahead for minimum unit pricing in Scotland after a well fought battle by campaigners is to be savoured and replicated. Likewise, policy progress on food is leading to reformulation in a way that voluntary agreements never did, especially when it comes to added sugar and trans fats, and is steadily rolling out across Europe. Citizen campaigns for access to affordable medicines, smarter health systems and better air quality are becoming ever louder.

If we find ourselves more challenged on all fronts, it is because our movement is a proven force for change. With 25 years of experience together, EPHA is well anchored to weather any storm and to set Europe on a course for a brighter, fairer future.



NINA RENSHAW
Secretary General

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Our Year in Numbers

8

new members

15

public events attracting

1300+

participants

117

press mentions

13

open letters

9800+
followers

(Twitter, FB,
Linkedin)

20

meetings in 12 expert
groups and advisory
committees

26

coordinated
responses to public
consultations

29

statements
& press
releases

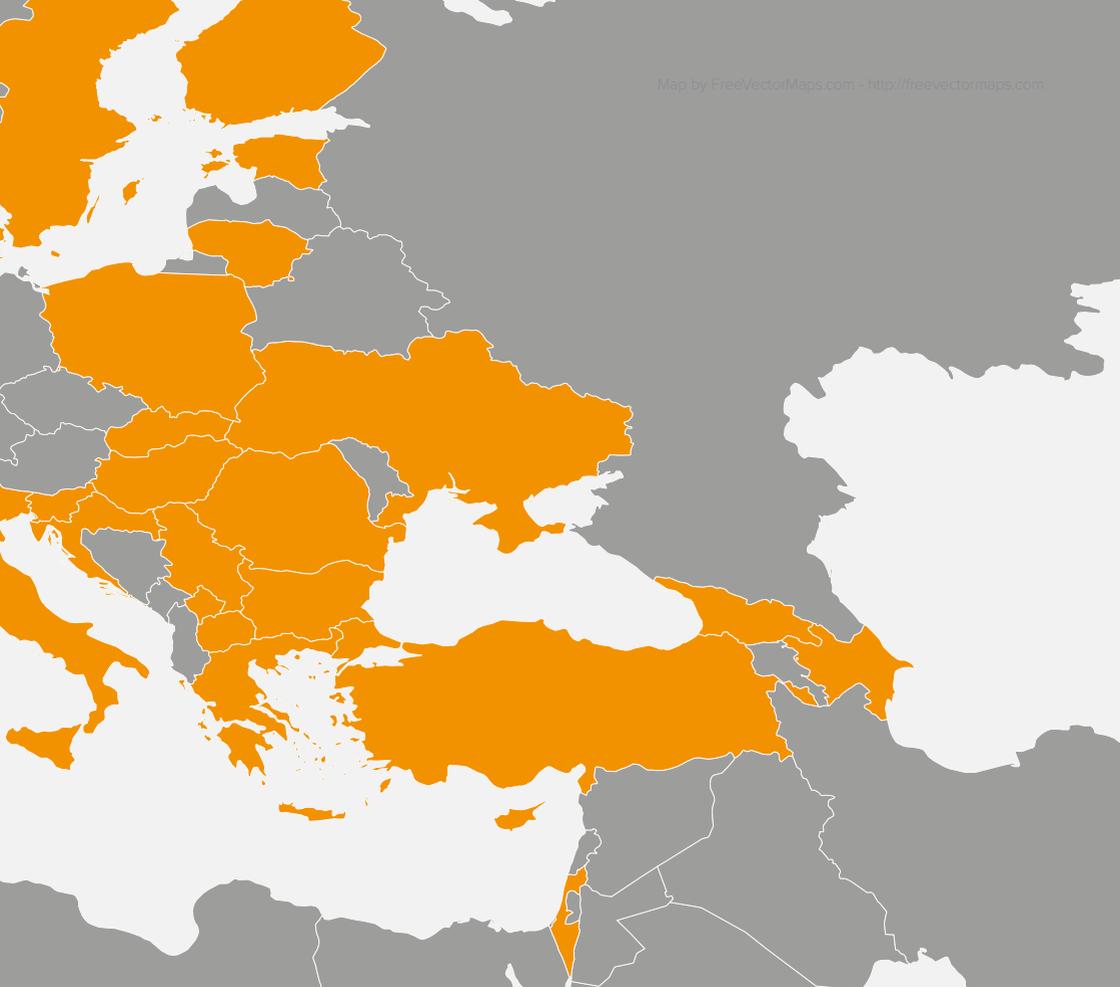
Our Members



PAN EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS: Active - Sobriety, Friendship and Peace (ACTIVE), AGE Platform Europe (AGE), Association for Natural Medicine in Europe (ANME), Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), Eurochild, European Academy of Paediatrics (EAP UEMS SP), European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG), European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare), European Association for Pulmonary Hypertension (PHA Europe), European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), European Association of Hospital Pharmacists (EAHP), European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians (AEMH), European CanCER Organisation (ECCO), European Central Council of Homeopaths (ECCH), European Chiropractors' Union (ECU), European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH), European Council of Doctors for Plurality in Medicine (ECPM), European Council of Optometry and Optics (ECCO), European Federation of Homeopathic Patients' Associations (EFHPA), European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), European Federation of Patients' Associations for Anthroposophic Medicine (EFPAM), European Heart Network (EHN), European Hematology Association (EHA), European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH), European Medical Students' Association (EMSA), European Network for Smoking Prevention (ENSP), European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health (Euronet MRPH), European Pharmaceutical Students' Association (EPSA), European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT),

European Respiratory Society (ERS), European Scientific Working Group on Influenza (ESWI), European Shiatsu Federation (ESF), European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), European Specialist Nurses' Organisation (ESNO), Federation Européenne des Medecins Salariee / European Federation of Salaried Doctors (FEMS), Health Action International – Europe (HAI), International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (ICMART), International Diabetes Federation – European Region (IDF Europe), International Federation of Anthroposophical Medical Associations (IVAA Liaison Office), International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), Medecins du Monde – Doctors of the World International Network Head Office (MdM), Mental Health Europe-Santé Mentale Europe (MHE-SME), Safe Food Advocacy Europe (SAFE), Smoke Free Partnership (SFP), The Association of School of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), Universal Education Foundation (UEF)

NATIONAL LEVEL: **BULGARIA:** Bulgarian Association for Patients' Rights Defence (BAZP (BAPRD)). **CROATIA:** Life Quality Improvement Organisation (Flight/LET). **CYPRUS:** Cyprus Turkish Medical Association (CTMA). **DENMARK:** International Medical Cooperation Committee Denmark (IMCC Denmark). **ESTONIA:** Tallinn Children's Hospital Foundation (Tallinn CHF). **FINLAND:** Suomen ASH. **FRANCE:** Association Nationale de Prévention de l'Alcoolisme et Addictologie (ANPAA); France Assoc Santé.



GREECE: Programmes of Development of Social Support and Medical Co-Operation (PRAKSIS). **HUNGARY:** Hungarian Alliance of Patient Organizations (BEMOSZ-HAPO). **IRELAND:** Alcohol Action Ireland (AAI). **ITALY:** Associazione Italiana Chiroprattici (AIC). **LITHUANIA:** Union of Lithuanian Health Psychologists (ULHP). **MALTA:** Malta Health Network (MHN). **POLAND:** Polish Society for Health Programs (PSHP-PTPZ). **PORTUGAL:** Associação Nacional dos Médicos de Saúde Pública (ANMSP). **ROMANIA:** Romanian Health Observatory (RHO); Romtens Foundation (ROMTENS). **SLOVAKIA:** Platform for Support of Health of Disadvantaged Groups (PPZZS). **SLOVENIA:** Center za zdravje in Razvoj Murska Sobota (CZR Murska Sobota); No Excuse Slovenia/Brez izgovora Slovenija; Slovenian Coalition for Tobacco Control (SCTC). **SPAIN:** Fundación de Ciencias del Medicamento y productos sanitarios (FUNDAMED). **SWEDEN:** IOGT-NTO **THE NETHERLANDS:** Wemos Foundation (WEMOS). **UNITED KINGDOM:** British Heart Foundation Centre on Population Approaches for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention (BHFCNP); Cancer Research UK; Faculty of Public Health (FPH); Health Equities Group (HEG); Royal College of Nursing (RCN); Royal College of Physicians of London (RCP); Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP); The Health and Europe Centre, UK.

WHO EUROPEAN REGION – NON EU: **AZERBAIJAN:** Center Women and Modern World (CWMW). **FYRO MACEDONIA:**

Center for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation. **GEORGIA:** The Genesis Association (GENESIS). **ISRAEL:** Patient Fertility Association (CHEN). **SERBIA:** National Health Alliance of Serbia and National Association of Emergency Medical Service Staff (NAZS and NAZHMP). **SWITZERLAND:** Dachverband Komplementärmedizin. **TURKEY:** Turkish Pharmacists' Association (TEB). **UKRAINE:** SALUS Charitable Foundation (SALUS).

New Members in 2017

Pan-European Organisations:

European Academy of Paediatrics
European Specialist Nurses Organisation
Safe Food Advocacy Europe

Portugal: Associação Nacional dos Médicos de Saúde Pública

Hungary: Hungarian Alliance of Patient Organizations
Denmark: International Medical Cooperation Committee Denmark

Slovenia: No Excuse Slovenia

Romania: Romanian Health Observatory

Why We Joined EPHA

“Romanian Health Observatory is already a well-known organization in Romania and, especially in the last year, our activities have had quite an impact. What we realized is that for many important public health issues, an European perspective is not only useful but is the sine qua non condition for designing concrete solutions at a national level, for example in autumn 2017 when an open letter signed by 40 European organizations (EPHA among them) determined the Romanian authorities to upgrade laws essential for TB patients.”

Romanian Health Observatory



“We joined EPHA expecting to strengthen our activities by sharing experience with European actors in the public health arena, and to build our capacity towards European policy development. We are currently present in the AMR and A2M working groups, and we look forward to the continued collaboration for European health!”

International Medical Cooperation Committee



“No Excuse Slovenia joined the European Public Health Alliance last year as we believe this is a very important network of organizations working on different health topics, among which our main field of work: the NCDs. Since we joined just recently we are still finding our place under the sun, we are looking forward for the upcoming activities in 2018.”

No Excuse Slovenia



“Based on the experience of last year, the members of the European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO) decided to contribute to European initiatives related to health issue and above all, to take responsibility by contributing from the advanced and specialist nurses perspective. The best is to do this in collaboration with NGOs and in an EPHA context”.

European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO)



Supporting Development

EPHA is committed to building public health capacity to deliver equitable solutions to European public health challenges, to improve health and reduce health inequalities. This is achieved through our monthly Policy Coordination Meetings (PCMs): regular working group meetings on specific issues with our members; and by providing regular policy updates on a range of public health policy areas via our monthly newsletter, news feeds, briefings and position papers or workshops and seminars.

Our Roma Fellows

As part of our work on health inequalities, EPHA has focused on the particular health needs of Roma people. Our Roma Health Fellowship programme for Roma health advocates and traineeships for students of public and global health, supported by Open Society Foundations, aims to support them to develop the necessary tools to engage with European policy makers and to increase the capacity of the Roma community to become leaders on Roma health at EU, national and local level.

In 2016 EPHA also launched an Early Childhood Development programme for Roma, focused on advocating for investment in health and social policies for Roma children and their families

Roma Fellows during 2017

Dănut Dumitru - *Early Childhood Development Fellow*

Ionut Alin Banu - *Roma Fellow*

“I am much more involved in promoting access to health services at local level, I understand the role of NGOs and which steps need to be followed in advocating policies at both national and EU level.”

- Florin Nasture
Former EPHA-OSF Roma Fellow, 2nd Roma Health Fellowship Programme (2015-2016)

Training

Knowledge sharing is at the heart of EPHA's activities. In 2017, we hosted a number of student and professional groups to share our vision of public health, and exchange views with future health leaders. EPHA also offered two targeted Professional Development Programmes to members and partners in order to help them navigate the European health policy sphere more effectively and demonstrate how public health advocacy works in practice.



Our Interns

EPHA offers students interested in finding out more about public health the opportunity to spend time with the Secretariat and get involved with different aspects of our campaigns. Our 2016 interns were:

- Konstantin Breunig - Germany
- Simone Damm Nielsen - Denmark
- Sofie Errendal - Denmark
- Lenart Nijs - Belgium
- Riccardo Grisanti - Italy
- Weronika Gryko - Poland
- Sanja Kulic - Denmark
- Chiara Olivero - Italy
- Emily Pieterse - The Netherlands
- Wayne Rebello - United Kingdom
- Marta Stenz - Denmark
- Christiane Vogel - The Netherlands
- Veronica Voltolini - Italy





Our Campaigns

Prevention of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

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Rights for Health

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Context

EPHA's goal is to free Europe's youth from health-harmful marketing, ensure healthy and sustainable diets for all, and reinvent the EU's Common Agriculture and Food Policy to help shape a food and drink environment conducive to good health. Through these actions, we aim to break down barriers to taking effective action against non-communicable diseases.

Prevention of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

2017 at a glance...

MAR

DISCUSSION PAPER: Animal Farming & Public Health: Unavoidable Transition towards Sustainable Healthy Diets

JOINT STATEMENT: Reform of European Agricultural Policies: Good Food, Good Farming – Now

APR

JOINT LETTER: To European Parliament Culture Committee: Time to put words into action on child marketing

MAY

CONSULTATION RESPONSE: The future of EU agricultural policy | EPHA response to CAP consultation

OPEN LETTER: Call for EU-wide nutrient profiles for nutrition and health claims

OPEN LETTER: Ministerial action needed to improve AVMSD

JUN

JOINT STATEMENT: The continued need for public health research in Europe

JUL

REPORT: Chronic Diseases: From the Frontline

SEP

JOINT STATEMENT: WHO European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020

EVENT: EPHA 2017 Annual Conference | Make Health Your Business

PRESS RELEASE: Call to international action to break deadlock on chronic diseases crisis

OCT

RECOMMENDATIONS: Chronic diseases: 13 Recommendations from EPHA's 2017 Annual Conference

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: Milking It: How milk formula companies are putting profits before science

NOV

JOINT STATEMENT: The time is ripe for simplified front-of-pack labelling

STATEMENT: CAP Communication | Future-proof food and farming must do better for health

DEC

EVENT: FRESHER: Final Conference

LAUNCH: of the FRESHER Microsimulation Model Tool

Impact

For the first time ever, the European Commission's plans for a revised Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) express a clear commitment to promote healthier diets - including making products such as fruits and vegetables easily available for EU citizens - and address Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The CAP is EU's biggest budget line and the acknowledgment of such health links is an important milestone. EPHA has established itself as the focal point for advocacy on healthy food systems, and will continue pushing for strategic reforms in coordination with our partners.

At EPHA's 2017 annual conference, we brought together key European and international thought leaders to discuss NCDs and how to make change for health promotion and disease prevention. We were proud to host keynote speaker Dr. Sania Nishtar, who now co-chairs the World Health Organization (WHO) High-level Global Commission on NCDs. Following the success of the event, EPHA was invited to the global NCD Alliance meeting in December, contributing to the discussion and developing international coordination.

We continued to build a narrative around the need for sustainable and healthy diets, through advocacy in the European Parliament, by publishing a discussion paper on animal farming and public health and through the launch of a new food news feed.

Our work, together with allies, on the Audio-Visual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) in the European Parliament, helped to put children's health on the agenda as part of the negotiations.

Priorities for 2018

- Focus on fostering sustainable healthy diets for all, both through CAP reform, and by contributing to the process of envisioning an integrated food policy for Europe.
- Progressively link effective NCD prevention strategies with the planetary health agenda. We will extend our advocacy to the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs that will take place in September 2018.
- Continue to advocate for food and alcohol policies which put good health first.



“A multi-stakeholder effort is needed for #FutureofCAP that plays a central role in creating a healthy food system that enables people to live in a healthful food environment and to adopt and maintain healthful dietary practices”



European Heart Network

2017 Annual Conference

Make Health Your Business

7 September 2017

Enabling Change for Health: Breaking down barriers to action against chronic diseases

Chronic diseases represent 86% of mortality and 77% of the disease burden in Europe. EU Member States spend 9-10% of GDP on healthcare, 80% of which goes towards the treatment of chronic diseases, amounting to around € 700 billion per year. Much of this is preventable. Despite the existence of many well-evidenced health policy recommendations, too few of these have been implemented in Europe. EPHA therefore brought over 200 people together - high level speakers, experts, investors, local government representatives as well as policy makers and decision makers - in September 2017 to discuss how to use new levers and different levels of power to unleash action to prevent chronic diseases and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.



“Great start to #EPHA2017 with strong wordings of President Archie Turnbull and setting the scene with impressive figures and conclusions”



European Specialist Nurses
Organisations - Nurses in EU

Dr Sania Nishtar, since appointed Co-Chair of the WHO High-Level Independent Commission on Non-Communicable Diseases, Founder and President of Heartfile and former Federal Minister, Government of Pakistan, was the event’s keynote speaker. She stressed that there is no lack of appetite and awareness from policy-makers worldwide to tackle the chronic disease epidemic. However, more attention, support and a clear institutional framework are needed to turn this into policy action and ensure similar success to that achieved in tackling infectious diseases.

At the event, Dr Nishtar called for international action to break deadlock on chronic diseases crisis, and to put in place a lean and a new financial instrument for the era of the Sustainable Development

Goals to provide the catalytic resources to leverage public and private financing, and be an independent monitoring and accountability mechanism creating policy space for action.

In October 2017, the WHO established a high-level commission on NCDs, chaired by Dr Nishtar.

Building on this momentum, EPHA developed 13 Recommendations - our "Recipes for Change," presenting practical ideas to break the deadlock in tackling chronic diseases, and to challenge to European governments, EU Institutions, local authorities and civil society to take action to improve the health of European citizens.



"At #EPHA2017 today working to "break down #barriers to action against #chronicdiseases" & making #health everyone's #business @EPHA_EU"

European Brain Council



Keynote speaker: Dr Sania Nishtar, President of Heartfile, former Minister of the Government of Pakistan, instrumental in establishing the Ministry of Health, nominee WHO Secretary General

FRESHER: Foresight and Modelling for European Health Policy and Regulation

About the project

The FRESHER project brought together ten research groups from across Europe, experienced in foresight projects and health policy modelling. We developed a micro-simulation model to quantitatively estimate the future global burden of chronic non-communicable diseases in the EU and their impact on health care expenditures and delivery, on population well-being, and on health and socio-economic inequalities. The project also examined potential changes in these impacts according to alternative health and non-health policy options.

While the importance of public health in underpinning Europe's social dimension is broadly recognised by the public health community, the question on how to contribute to better lives and more inclusive economies, while ensuring EU's broader commitment to sustainable health systems has become a pressing concern.



“@JpmMOATTI says @FRESHER_project shows focus on the #SDGs can be key to introducing the innovative policies we need to tackle #NCDs in #Europe”

@FRESHER_project



FRESHER Workshop: How healthy will your future be?

The workshop “How Healthy Will Your Future Be” was a key milestone in the project, presenting the four health scenarios - the FRESHER project's vision of the future based on how trends such as urbanisation, medicine innovation or climate change might affect individual health outcomes until 2050. The event was an opportunity to bring together policy makers and the public health community to discuss how to address the burden of NCDs and its negative impacts on the wellbeing of European citizens and societies as a whole.



Andrea Ricci, Vice-President, ISINNOVA

FRESHER Final Conference

The FRESHER final project conference on 7 December presented the key findings of the project's interdisciplinary research to EU policy makers, NGOs and research groups, including the eight key societal trends likely to influence people's health and alternative policies to manage these trends.

The research results included the prediction that NCD rates may increase up to a third by 2050 relative to current levels, with demographic trends remaining the main driving force behind this increase. An assessment of the public health policies to tackle the growing NCDs burden highlighted the need for additional and innovative policies promoting improvements in nutrition, environment and lifestyle, and the integration of public health policies with the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The event also saw the launch of a dedicated web tool www.fresher-explorer.eu which enables an in-depth comparison between the different health scenarios, their impact on NCDs' evolution and the effectiveness of standard public health policies.

FRESHER Project Partners

- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
- Austrian Institute of Technology
- Aix-Marseille University
- European Public Health Alliance
- Governance and Economics Research Network, Spain
- Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Institut National de la Santé de la Recherche Medicale, France
- Fourth View Consulting, Estonia
- Istituto di Studi per l'Integrazione dei Sistemi, Italy
- Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy
- National Institute for Health and Welfare, Finland
- Silesian Center for Heart Diseases





Context

In 2017, over half of the world's population does not have full access to what the WHO's Universal Health Coverage (UHC) defined as essential health services. Since our foundation, EPHA has been working towards equal access to health and care for all people living in Europe, regardless of their ethnicity, residence status, gender, nationality, income / education, physical and mental health. Our work calls for inclusion, combating discrimination, and providing everybody with the same opportunities to live, work and age in sustainable and healthy environments.

Rights for Health

2017 at a glance...

JAN

JOINT STATEMENT: EPHA joins call for EU Actions on Health and Equity

FEB

JOINT STATEMENT: Mental health is everyone's concern. Joint statement by European organisations calling for more action on mental health in Europe

MAR

EVENT: MEP Friends of the Liver: The Challenge of Hepatitis C in Central and South Eastern Europe
CONSULTATION: Joint inputs of 9 NGOs coordinated by EPHA to the Commission to prepare the public consultation on the mid-term review of the European Roma Framework

APR

CONSULTATION: EPHA's response to the Public Consultation on the European Solidarity Corps
EVENT: Joint Roundtable event: Romani Early Years: Status quo 2017
SPEECH: Added Benefits of the EU on the Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety

MAY

DISCUSSION PAPER: The Power of Digital Solutions for Health and Disease Management
EVENT: My ehealth, My Way Personal Experiences in effective eHealth Use

JUN

JOINT OPEN LETTER: to President Juncker calling for continued EU Health collaboration
PRESS RELEASE: Over 250 Non-Government Organisations launch alternative vision for Europe

SEP

EVENT: Antigypsyism - combating negative attitudes about Roma in Romania
STATEMENT: EPHA welcomes President Juncker's stance for equality of opportunity in 2017 State of the European Union

OCT

JOINT STATEMENT: Pledge for a future EU Roma Framework which delivers
CONSULTATION: on the EU Mid-term Evaluation of the National Roma Integration Strategies

NOV

JOINT STATEMENT: The post-2020 MFF must invest in children and aim to end child poverty
ENDORSEMENT OF JOINT STATEMENT: Migration and Health, drafted for EU Health Policy Platform by PICUM

Impact

Active in the protection of rights for health for over two decades, EPHA stepped up our game in 2017 to put health inequalities higher on the EU agenda.

Our new Roma team successfully influenced the agenda at strategic events around International Romani Day. By establishing strong connections at local level, we obtained an overwhelmingly positive response to a survey conducted in EU countries with significant Roma populations, with the objective to seek grassroots inputs into the future EU framework for the National Roma Integration Strategies post-2020.

As we move into the implementation phase of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, EPHA provides a public health perspective on the European Commission's High Level Multi-stakeholder Platform on the implementation of the SDGs, which we were invited to join at the end of 2017.

Seeking to ensure a holistic and socially-inclusive approach to the use of technology in public health, we were invited to present our perspective on the public health dimension of e-health and mobile health during 2017 eHealth Week in Malta.

EU, Do More for Health!

In June, following concerns about the future of health in EU policies and programmes after the publication of the European Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe, we joined forces with the European Patients' Forum to call on President Juncker to ensure that health remains a core activity of the European Union, as the best way to tackle health inequalities and cross-border health challenges. Over 230 organisations have now joined our campaign "EU, Do More for Health" calling for the inclusion of a new and robust European Commission health programme after 2020.

"I fully share your view that European Union added value action on health and cooperation between Member States to address common challenges contributes to the sustainable development of our Union."

- Letter from President Juncker to MEP Andrey Kovatchev

Priorities for 2018

- Consolidate our Roma health and early childhood development networks.
- Advocate for targeted action at the local level to improve involvement of Roma in grassroots health advocacy.
- Emphasise the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals in the European context, in the effort to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all, including for migrants and other marginalised groups.
- Campaign for a new EU budget proposal which mainstreams health as a priority and includes a strong Health Programme.

Roma Health and early childhood development - Romani Early Years:

Status quo | Brussels, April 2017

On the occasion of the 2017 International Romani Days, EPHA, together with the International Step-by-Step Association - Romani Early Years Network (ISSA/REYN) and the European Foundation Centre (EFC) co-organised a roundtable entitled 'Romani Early Years Status Quo 2017'.

The event brought together civil society organizations, foundations, representatives of the European Commission and EU national governments to discuss steps towards increased access to quality early childhood education and care for Romani children. The roundtable highlighted the current situation of young Romani children and their families and discussed how to ensure policies to support them are implemented more effectively.

“With the EU economy at a crossroads, there is no better time to highlight the importance of better health as pre-condition of economic growth. Measures to tackle health inequalities such as those experienced by Roma children should also be a cornerstone of these economic discussions, as the EU considers its future direction.”

- Dănut Dumitru, Roma Early Childhood Development Fellow, 2017

22 MARCH 2017

MEP FRIENDS OF THE LIVER GROUP

HOSTED BY MEP CRISTIAN-SILVIU BUȘOI

Organised by the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

🕒 13:00 - 15:00
📍 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, ROOM JAN 601
🌐 EPHA.ORG/MEP-FRIENDS-OF-THE-LIVER/
#LIVERFRIENDS @MEPLIVERGROUP

MEP Friends of the Liver: The Challenge of Hepatitis C in Central and South Eastern Europe

March 2017, European Parliament

While approximately 14 million people are living with Hepatitis C (HCV) in the WHO European Region, the situation is particularly acute for patients in Central and Eastern Europe. Despite having one of the highest rates of HCV prevalence, patients have limited access to screening, diagnosis and treatment. Together with EPHA member, the European Association for the Study of the Liver and the European Liver Patients Association, EPHA organised an event in the European Parliament hosted by MEPs Dr Cristian-Silviu Busoi, Dr Biljana Borzan and Dr Andrey Kovatchev to highlight the issue and discuss possible solutions.

My Health, My Way | May 2017, Malta

A session at eHealth Week in May, organised with the Maltese Presidency of the EU, we explored the added value of digital tools designed to increase health awareness and improve disease management. EPHA members Mental Health Europe, the International Diabetes Federation and Malta Health Network highlighted how digital tools were already being integrated into their users' healthcare, and discussed some of the pros and cons of their use.



Antigypsyism - combating negative attitudes about Roma

Romania September 2017

In September EPHA and the Center of Resources for Social Inclusion (CRIS) brought together almost 100 representatives from the European institutions, European national and local Roma organisations working for and with the Roma, national government, public authorities and members of the Roma community to discuss how to tackle the persistent issue of antigypsyism.

Local Roma people were able to share their personal experiences of stigma and discrimination faced on a daily basis directly with European, national and local politicians. They also questioned how measures to tackle Roma exclusion, such as the integration of Roma mediators into the school system, and the involvement of local Roma experts in the collection of data which shape the development of Roma inclusion policies, are actually being implemented in practice. As a result of the event, a set of recommendations were developed on combating anti-gypsyism and other negative attitudes and stereotypes.





Context

Our “Universal Access and Affordable Medicines” campaign promotes transparency, accountability and the public interest in the field of pharmaceuticals. Our evidence-based advocacy aims to guarantee better and affordable medicines for Europe by questioning and reforming the current pharmaceutical business model and calling for better access to medicines for all.

Universal Access and Affordable Medicines

2017 at a glance...

JAN

RESPONSE: To Public Consultation on strengthening EU Co-operation on Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

MAR

PRESS RELEASE: European Parliament calls for new rules to improve access to medicines

PRESS RELEASE: EPHA joins Europe-wide challenge to patent for Hepatitis C treatment

JUN

LONG READ: New game, new rules: Pathways for better and affordable medicines in Europe

EVENT: Ensuring Safety, Efficacy and Access to Medical Products in the Age of Global Deregulation, Yale University

AUG

EVENT: Plenary session: Affordable access to innovative medicines, European Forum Alpbach

SEP

REFLECTION PAPER: BENELUXA: First results of multi-country cooperation on medicine price negotiations

OCT

EVENT: Medicines: New Game, New Rules, European Health Forum Gastein

SPEECH: Politico Health Care Summit "Agenda setting: doubling down on access to healthcare"

NOV

EVENT: 2017 Universal Access & Affordable Medicines Forum | Game Changers for better and affordable medicines for Europe

RECOMMENDATIONS: Recommendations on a new model for the provision of scientific advice

DEC

OPEN LETTER: To Chief Negotiators Ahead of the Completion of EU-Mercosur Trade Negotiations

PRESS RELEASE: Reaction to Leaked Documents from EU-Mercosur Trade Talks

OPEN LETTER: On the future of EU Funding for R & D

Impact

In 2017, EPHA worked with several governments in Europe to drive the access to medicines debate forward. As the only representative of expert civil society, in May 2017, we took part in the 3rd round-table discussion between Health Ministers and European Heads of pharmaceutical companies. EPHA is now a member of the High Level Group mandated by the Health Ministers to prepare the agenda for the upcoming round-table discussions.

The 2nd EPHA Universal Access & Affordable Medicines Forum took place in Brussels in November 2017 under the auspices of the incoming Bulgarian Presidency of the EU. The standing-room-only conference provided input to the work of the Presidency by fostering an honest discussion around the hottest topics in pharmaceuticals.

EPHA contributes to the ongoing debate with evidence. To this end, in June 2017 we joined forces with the Collaboration for Research Integrity and Transparency (CRIT) of Yale University and co-hosted an international conference in New Haven, Connecticut, entitled “Ensuring Safety, Efficacy, and Access to Medical Products in the Age of Global Deregulation.”

As one of the few members of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Stakeholder Pool, we are actively engaged in shaping the future of European collaboration in the field of HTA. We are committed to improving the work of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Our recommendations for a transparent provision of scientific advice by the EMA to the pharmaceutical sector

are endorsed by two Health Technology Assessment Agencies and by the Belgian Social Insurance Agency. EPHA also actively participates in the Patient and Consumer Working Party (PCWP) of the EMA and hosts the secretariat of the European Alliance For Responsible R&D and Affordable Medicines.

Last but not least, EPHA is regularly invited by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and the World Health Organization to contribute to ongoing access to medicines policy debates.

Priorities for 2018

- Work with upcoming Presidencies of the EU on their pharmaceutical agenda as a top priority.
- Continue to constructively engage in the scrutiny of pharmaceutical regulatory affairs.

“We need to find solutions because human lives are at stake, public health is at stake. We need to have all the issues on the table.”

- Yannis Natsis Forum Alpbach
Alpbuzz August 2017



Medicines: New Game, New Rules European Health Forum Gastein

October 2017

Organised by Open Society Foundations (OSF) in cooperation with European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and European Public Health Association (EUPHA)

The conference built on the growing political recognition of the imbalances in the existing pharmaceutical system, the rising costs of both old and new medicines, and widespread concerns about the sustainability of healthcare systems in Europe. We brought together policy makers, pharmaceutical company representatives, NGOs, academics and patient advocates to discuss the need for public health needs-driven regulatory reform and possible policy solutions to guarantee genuine therapeutic advances for the benefit of all patients.

The event also saw the presentation of the findings of a new ground-breaking study by the British Medical Journal on the overall survival and quality of life benefits of cancer drugs approved by the European Medicines Agency on the day of the study's release. It questioned the meaningful clinical benefit of cancer drugs entering the market between 2009 and 2013.

Game Changers for Better and Affordable Medicines for Europe

November 2017

2017 EPHA Universal Access & Affordable Medicines Forum - under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Health

The second EPHA Access to Medicines Forum discussed how to tackle some of the hottest questions in the access to medicines debate, such as the case for transparency in clinical drugs trials, and in the pharmaceutical industry more generally; the role of incentives in drug development; and whether accelerated ap-approval of new drugs is putting faster market access and deregulation over patient safety and robust evidence.

Representatives of EU national governments, the pharmaceutical industry, NGOs, payers' organisations, academics and patient advocates vigorously debated these issues, identifying a number of solutions to improve patient access, develop a more equitable system for funding pharmaceutical research and development and ensure the rules of the game are clear to all.

The event inspired the official Bulgarian Presidency of the EU conference on options to provide better medicines for all, which took place in Sofia in March 2018.



A grayscale, high-magnification microscopic image of several rod-shaped bacteria with flagella, likely E. coli, swimming in a liquid medium. The bacteria are out of focus, creating a bokeh effect with soft, glowing halos around them.

Context

EPHA's campaign seeks to tackle Anti-microbial Resistance (AMR) by ensuring policy coherence between the international, European and national actions against AMR, highlighting the huge variation of antibiotic consumption and prevalence and the best and worst practices against the region, emphasising the need for a strong EU role. We advocate for dedicated European funding and other resources to ensure that Europe's "safety net" is tight and no country is left behind in the fight against this urgent cross-border threat. If urgent action is not taken, the consequences for everyone are too grave to contemplate.

Action on Antimicrobial Resistance

2017 at a glance...

JAN

OPEN LETTER: The European Commission must fulfil their obligation to reduce pharmaceutical pollution

APR

POSITION PAPER: on the 2017 EU Action Plan on AMR

JUN

OPEN LETTER: to Commissioner Bienkowska on Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment and AMR

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT: In the Red Zone Antimicrobial Resistance: Lessons from Romania

AUG

STATEMENT: New EU Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance advances One Health vision but falls short on concrete action

OCT

SPEECH: First Call to Action on AMR, 12-13 October 2017. Co-hosted by the governments of Ghana, the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Thailand, together with the Wellcome Trust and the UN Foundation

NOV

OPEN LETTER: 20 organisations call for ambitious EU action on pharmaceuticals in the environment

OPEN LETTER: Call for urgent action to tackle environmental pollution at pharmaceutical factories supplying the UK National Health Service

JOINT STATEMENT: (Health Policy Platform) One Voice for One Health led by EPHA

STATEMENT: Put an end to business as usual - 2017 European Antibiotic Awareness Day

Impact

In 2017, EPHA published a comprehensive Position Paper on the follow-up EU One Health Action Plan against AMR. The paper, offering detailed recommendations for policymakers to act, and demonstrating the EU added value in terms of improving legislation, guidance, funding and cooperation on AMR, has gained wide support from external stakeholders and endorsement from our members. This resonated particularly with many of our partners, who endorsed an EPHA-led Joint Statement and Call to Action on AMR, drafted for the European Commission's Health Policy Platform in November. We are in regular contact with, and provide targeted advice to key European and international AMR stakeholders including national governments, foundations, industry associations and civil society organisations.

In particular, EPHA has highlighted the importance of the often-neglected environmental dimension of AMR, and the need to provide targeted support for poorer European countries that struggle to develop and implement their AMR strategies.

Priorities for 2018

- Ensure that all dimensions of the One Health approach are acted on, including the environmental angle, for which policy coherence with the European Commission's strategic approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment must be achieved.
- Work in partnership with national, European and international AMR stakeholders to underline the important role played by Europe as a leading region in the fight against AMR.

“An effective EU AMR response must be backed up with policies and funds, starting with the weakest link. No country can go it alone. Lack of action in one country or region will ultimately hurt us all. There is no better case for ‘more Europe.’”

- Nina Renshaw European Public Health Alliance June 2017 Euractiv



Context

Under our Trade for Health Campaign, we strive to protect and promote public health in the EU's international trade policy, by working to integrate health into ongoing negotiations, and to promote a vision, together with allies, of a progressive trade policy that works for the public good.

Trade for Health

2017 at a glance...

JAN

REPORT: Unhealthy CETA

OPEN LETTER: EPHA calls on INTA Committee to reject CETA

FEB

OPEN LETTER: MEPS asked to choose a better deal for health ahead of CETA vote

JOINT STATEMENT: CETA is an unhealthy deal: lessons to be learnt for future EU trade policy

PRESS RELEASE: CETA gets the INTA Committee's approval amidst concerns of legal uncertainty

MAR

STATEMENT: Brexit negotiations must not relegate health warns Marian Harkin MEP

EVENT: Brexit, Trade and Health

JUN

EVENT: Civil Society Trade Lab

AUG

JOINT STATEMENT: Ten demands for a progressive trade policy

SEP

REPORT: The Unhealthy Side Effects of CETA (EPHA contribution to "Making Sense of CETA")

OCT

JOINT STATEMENT: on health sustainability in trade and investment agreements

NOV

OPEN LETTER: To Chief Negotiators Ahead of the Completion of EU-Mercosur Trade Negotiations

PRESS RELEASE: Reaction to Leaked Documents from EU-Mercosur Trade Talks

DEC

EPHA appointed to the EU Trade Advisory Group

Impact

EPHA worked to raise awareness of the public health concerns in the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), during the process of approval by the European Parliament. Although the Treaty was eventually ratified by the European Parliament, it was delayed and almost halted by these and other concerns, following a concerted civil society campaign including EPHA. A declaration was attached to the CETA agreement aiming to protect certain aspects of public interest and mentions explicitly several of EPHA's demands concerning public health.

At the Civil Society Trade Lab, which took place in June 2017, we prompted debate on the future of EU trade policy and how it can better integrate health, environmental and labour rights. The main outcome was a paper calling for a progressive trade policy which we presented to policy-makers.

EPHA developed a joint statement on the necessity to include health in Trade and Sustainable Development chapters, as health is both an outcome and precondition for achieving the UN's Agenda 2030, presented to Commissioner Malmström in person.

In 2017, EPHA was invited to join the European Commission's Trade Advisory Group, recognising the important role we play in providing a public health perspective on ongoing EU trade discussions.

Priorities for 2018

- Continue to focus on the EU's future trade relationship with the United Kingdom and its ongoing negotiations with Latin American countries.
- Engage in the debate around food, farming and trade and formulate our vision for a healthy trade policy.
- Ensure policy coherence between EU trade and health policy, focusing on agreements between EU-Latin America.

“Trade policy must not threaten - or impede - European and global efforts to reverse the epidemic of non-communicable diseases and obesity through preventative measures, or the development and promotion of standards to reduce anti-microbial resistance, a cross-border challenge especially relevant to Trade.”

- EPHA's Demand for a Progressive Trade Policy August 2017

Brexit, Trade & Health

Ahead of the triggering of Article 50 TEU by the United Kingdom, EPHA, in partnership with the University of Manchester and the Economic and Social Research Council, organised a briefing to discuss the potential implications of Brexit on trade and investment from the perspective of health. Trade experts, NGOs and company representatives highlighted some of the possible outcomes, including more expensive medicines for both British and EU patients, slower-paced investment of research and innovation, and the impacts on the UK health workforce. Marian Harkin MEP, speaking on the particular situation in Ireland, underlined the need to put public health and the needs of patients at the forefront of the Brexit negotiations.



Civil Society Trade Lab

Following the recent heated debates stimulated by prospective EU trade deals, EPHA joined with Transport & Environment, the European Trade Union Confederation, Friends of the Earth Europe, European Digital Rights, ClientEarth, the Eurogroup for Animals, Greenpeace, the Center for International Environmental Law and the Fair Economy Alliance to kick-off a discussion on the EU's future trade agenda. How to ensure high levels of protection for human health and the environment, and the broader question of what can and cannot be accomplished by the EU's trade policy were some of the issues addressed. A joint statement by the organisers called on the EU to adopt ten principles to ensure a more progressive trade policy in the future.

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- Specialist Trainee in Public Health Medicine at the Ministry of Health, Malta

Financial Information

EPHA Financial information 2017

EPHA is an independent non-profit organisation, registered under Belgian law as an AISBL (Association internationale sans but lucratif) under Registration Number 451 133 736.

Operational Budget

In 2017, the total income of EPHA was 1.298.385 €.

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

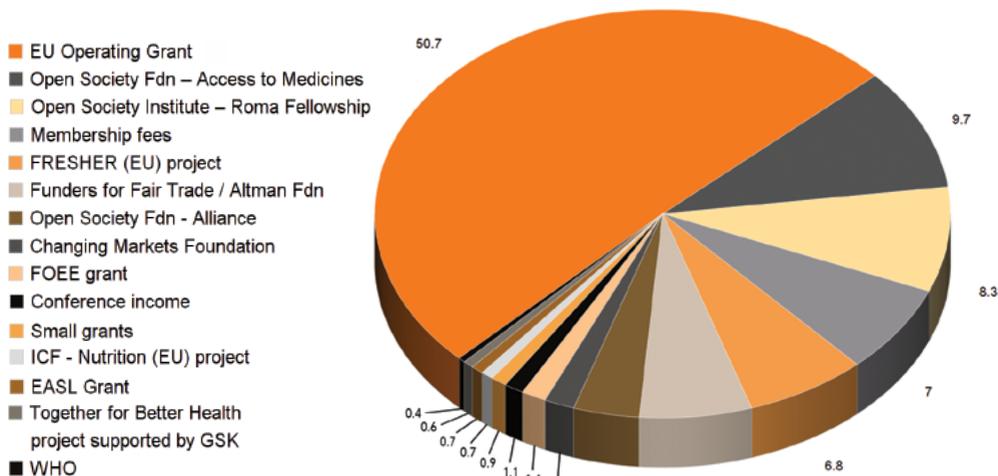
Our biggest contributor is the Operating Grant received from the Health Programme of the European Commission. In 2017 this represented 50.7% of EPHA's total income.

In 2017, the total contribution of the membership fees represented 7% of the total income.

Projects

In addition to the Operating Grant, EPHA is a partner in EU health research projects. Other projects and grants from foundations represented the remainder of our income.

Total income	2017	%
EU Operating Grant	€ 658.869	50,7%
Open Society Fdn – Access to Medicines	€ 126.072	9,7%
Open Society Institute – Roma Fellowship	€ 107.692	8,3%
Membership fees	€ 90.702	7,0%
FRESHER (EU) project	€ 88.356	6,8%
Funders for Fair Trade / Altman Fdn	€ 81.250	6,3%
Open Society Fdn - Alliance	€ 48.305	3,7%
Changing Markets Foundation	€ 21.750	1,7%
FOEE grant	€ 17.900	1,4%
Conference income	€ 14.794	1,1%
Small grants	€ 11.809	0,9%
ICF - Nutrition (EU) project	€ 9.615	0,7%
EASL Grant	€ 8.560	0,7%
Together for Better Health project supported by GSK	€ 7.710	0,6%
WHO	€ 5.000	0,4%
Total	€1.298.385	100%



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