KOLOFON

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Ljubljana, December 2019
Those of you who know me personally, know that I have been going through major life changes in the recent months, one of the biggest being changing the country where I work and live. And with it finding a new place to call home.

I have been forced to reflect on the meaning of the word- home. In the beginning, there was only the apartment. Little by little, by filling it with experiences, memories (and things that allow me to live), I am starting to understand that it is a place where one calls their own. More than just a shelter, it is a place to find peace, to rest and recharge. It is the place where you are supported and sometimes challenged by people closest to you- who make you grow. It is the place, despite its imperfections, which allows you to be yourself.

Strangely enough, I see the First European NCD Youth Conference in a similar way. For now, it is only an empty apartment. Throughout the next few days, with every shared idea, inspiring story and meaningful connection, we will be laying the foundation for a home. However, our story will not end at the final speech on the last plenary. After all, we are only laying the foundation...

Over the next months and years, we will keep building. I believe that with respect, good will and hard work, we will create a space, for people to gather in a safe and honest environment to support and challenge each other for a better, healthier world for youth. A space where people will be themselves and will call their own: The European Youth Health Forum- our home.

I look forward to meeting you there.
CONFERENCE VENUES

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For participants of the Conference that are staying in the GH Portorož, the breakfasts are available every morning until 9.00 AM in GH Portorož, while the lunches and dinners will be served in the Mind Hotel Slovenia. Lunches are included for all participants of the event wearing a conference badge, even if they are staying in different accommodations.

Dinners for Wednesday and Thursday will be served exactly at 19.00, while on other days between 19.00 and 22.00. If any changes occur, it will be communicated to you promptly by the organizers.
CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2019

Venue: Vasco da Gama Hall

9.00 – 18.00
Preconference Youth Workshop

11.00
Coffee and tea break

13.00
Standing Lunch Buffet

15.30
Coffee and tea break
FRIDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2019

Venue: Amerigo Vespucci Hall

OPENING PLENARY
The morning session is moderated by Jan Peloza

9.30  Welcome speeches
- Dr Andrej Martin Vujkovac, International Youth Health Organization
- Dr Vesna Kerstin Petrič, Sector for Health Promotion and Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases, Slovenian Ministry of Health
- Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course, World Health Organization (video message)

10.15  Keynote speech
- Dr Joanna Madureira Lima, European Office for Investment for Health and Development, World Health Organization

11.00  Coffee and tea break

11.30  Panel on different NCD-related topics
- Mental Health: Dr Maja Rus Makovec, University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana
- Nutrition and Physical Activity: Margot Neveux, World Obesity Federation
- Alcohol: Dr Peter Rice, Eurocare: European Alcohol Policy Alliance
- Tobacco: Nikoleta Arnaudova, Smoke Free Partnership

Questions from participants

13.00  Standing Lunch Buffet
The Afternoon Session is moderated by Dr Andrej Martin Vujkovac

14.00
Overview on NCDs from International Organizations
- Nikolai Pushkarev, European Public Health Alliance
- Kristina Sperkova, IOGT International
- Dr Maaike Droogers, European Public Health Association
- Jan Peloza, International Youth Health Organization

Questions from participants

16.00
Coffee and tea break

16.30
Networking and Presentations of involved organizations

18.30
End of the program

20.30
Organized evening walk to Piran
SATURDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 2019

Content Parallel Sessions

9.00 – 11.00
1ST PARALLEL SESSION:
Mental Health in the Context of NCDs

Venue: Vasco da Gama Hall

Led by Mia Zupančič and Nina Kapelj, Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia

2ND PARALLEL SESSION:
Nutrition and Physical Activity in the Context of NCDs

Venue: Robert Scott Hall

Led by:
- Margot Neveux, World Obesity Federation
- Urška Erklavec, International Youth Health Organization

11.00
Coffee and tea break

11.30 – 13.00
3RD PARALLEL SESSION:
Mental Health in the Context of NCDs
(this session is repeated)

Venue: Vasco da Gama Hall

Led by Mia Zupančič and Nina Kapelj, Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia
4TH PARALLEL SESSION:
Substance Abuse in the Context of NCDs

Venue: Robert Scott Hall

Led by:
- Kristina Sperkova, IOGT International
- Dr Peter Rice, Eurocare – European Alcohol Policy Alliance
- Nikoleta Arnaudova, Smoke Free Partnership
- Dr Lukas Galkus, International Youth Health Organization

13.30
Standing Lunch Buffet

14.30 – 18.00
Soft Skills Parallel Sessions
(participants stay in one parallel session for the entire duration of the workshop)

1. Personal Leadership – Dr Andrej Martin Vujkovac
   Roald Amundsen Hall

2. Healthy Youth Organizations – Nina Kapelj
   Robert Scott Hall

3. Teamwork and Effective meetings – Dr Katja Čič
   Vasco da Gama Hall

4. Public Speaking – Sanja Šišović
   Fernand de Magellan Hall

16.00
Coffee and tea break

21.00
Group Activity @ Roald Amundsen Hall
**SUNDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 2019**

8.00 – 11.00

Venue: Fernand de Magellan Hall

**YHO General Assembly (only for members)**

Coffee and tea break served in the room

11.00 – 19.00

Advocacy, Research and Project Development Parallel Workshops

1. **Advocacy Workshop**
   - Vasco da Gama Hall

2. **Research Workshop**
   - Robert Scott Hall

3. **Project Development Workshop**
   - Roald Amundsen Hall

13.00

*Standing Lunch Buffet*

16.00

*Coffee and tea break*

*Free evening*
MONDAY, 9TH December 2019

7.15
Bus departure for Ljubljana
📍 Grand Hotel Portorož

CLOSING PLENARY
Towards a digital space free from unhealthy product marketing
(The closing plenary session is co-organized with European Public Health Alliance)

📍 Venue: Health insurance Institute of Slovenia, Jakopič Hall

9.00
Registration

9.30
Opening speeches
- Representative from the Slovenian Ministry of Health
- Nikolai Pushkarev, European Public Health Alliance

9.45
Youth and digital marketing: techniques, exposure, impacts
- Dr Mimi Tatlow-Golden, Co-director of the Centre for Children and Young People’s Wellbeing, The Open University
- Urska Erklavec, Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia
- Mina Vinje, PRESS - Save the Children Youth Norway
10.40
Tackling the digital marketing of unhealthy products: policy perspectives

- WHO Regional Office for Europe (TBC)
- Dr Mojca Gabrielcic, National Institute for Public Health, Slovenia
- Dr Nijolė Goštautaitė Midttun, Lithuanian Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition

Questions from participants

11.30
Coffee and tea break

12.00
Setting the agenda: the need for a bold and comprehensive European approach to tackle the exposure to unhealthy marketing

- Dr Amandine Garde, Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit, University of Liverpool

Debate:
How to get the issue of marketing high on the political agenda?

12.45
Reflection from the representatives from the Slovenian Government (TBC)

13.00
First NCD Youth Conference wrap up

- Dr Andrej Martin Vujkovac, International Youth Health Organization

13.30
Lunch

15.00
Free time in Ljubljana

17.00
Bus departure to Portorož Congress Square, Ljubljana
Dr Bente Mikkelsen  
*Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course, World Health Organization*

Dr Mikkelsen was formerly Head of Secretariat for the Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (WHO GCM/NCD) at WHO headquarters (Geneva, Switzerland) from its inception in 2014, as well as Chief Executive Officer of the Southern and Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority (70,000 employees, US$ 8 billion budget). Dr Mikkelsen is trained as a gynaecologist and obstetrician and holds a master’s degree in health administration and management from the University of Oslo. Her current focus is on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the reduction of premature deaths from noncommunicable diseases and promoting health through the life-course in the context of the WHO General Programme of Work and Health 2020, working across sectors with multiple stakeholders, within and beyond the health sector, using innovation, implementation research, health literacy and new technologies.

Dr Vesna Kerstin Petrič  
*Sector for Health Promotion and Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases, Slovenian Ministry of Health*

Dr Vesna-Kerstin Petrič is currently Head of Division for Health Promotion and Prevention of Non-communicable Diseases at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia. She graduated in Medicine at
University of Ljubljana in Slovenia and earned a Master Degree in Public Health and Clinical Aspects of Addiction at University of London, King’s College, Institute of Psychiatry. Dr Vesna-Kerstin Petrič has an extensive national and international experience in working on public health policies and a proven track record of leadership on politically demanding health issues. She has established a coalition of partners in support to tobacco control in Slovenia and since then successfully contributed as a civil servant to the adoption of restrictive tobacco control policies including ban on smoking in all closed places (2007) and plain packaging (2017). Among others, she is a member of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee for Europe and she is co-chairing the Global network of WHO national counterparts for implementing the Global strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, deputy-chair of the Board of the Agency for safety in traffic, member of the Advisory Group of the Alcohol policy network in Europe, member of the Steering Committee of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, member of the Management board of the EU Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction and is chair of the National coordinating group for the implementation of National Diabetes Plan. She is also a holder of the WHO certificate of appreciation (2009) for contribution in tobacco control.

Dr Joana Madureira  
Lima, European Office for Investment for Health and Development, World Health Organization

Joana is Portuguese, from Lisbon. She is a Medical Doctor by training (University of Barcelona/Karolinska Institute) and holds an MSc in Global Health and a PhD in Social Epidemiology both from the University of Oxford. Joana has worked extensively on social determinants of health and health equity research, policy development, advocacy and capacity issues covering areas such as unmet health needs; commercial determinants and NCDs. She started at WHO as a consultant to the Alcohol and Illicit Drugs Programme in the WHO Europe NCD Office in Moscow before joining the WHO Venice Office in 2018. At the Venice Office she focuses on technical assistance to member states who wish to explore evidence informed policy options to reduce in-
equities in health. Prior to joining WHO Joana worked for years as a Policy Officer at the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) in Brussels where she focused on advocacy to protect investments in health during the economic crisis and subsequent austerity.

Dr Andrej Martin Vujkovac  
*International Youth Health Organization*

Andrej is a recently graduated Medical Doctor from Ljubljana. He spent most of his student years working in Youth Organisations, such as the Slovenian Medical Students International Committee (SloMSIC) and International Federation of Medical Students Associations, where he served as a volunteer and later in Executive board positions. His first employment after graduation was in Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia, where he worked as a Public Health Associate. His work has included designing preventing programmes for Youth, advocating for better health policies in the field of addictions and training young activists who want to make the world a better place. In November 2019 he started working as a doctoral student at the BeChange research group, which is part of two institutes at the Università della Svizzera italiana (Lugano): the Institute of Public Communication and the Institute of Public Health. Andrej has been leading the International Youth Health Organization since his election to the position of president in December 2018.

Margot Neveux  
*World Obesity Federation*

Margot is currently working with the World Obesity Federation as a Policy & Projects Coordinator working mainly on projects at the European level, including the STOP and CO-CREATE projects. STOP aims to generate scientific and policyrelevant evidence on the factors that...
have contributed to the spread of childhood obesity across Europe. Similarly, through a more direct involvement with young people, CO-CREATE aims to prevent overweight and obesity in adolescents by providing knowledge and infrastructure on policies to support making the healthiest choices the preferred. In addition, Margot has also been working on launching the World Obesity Federation’s policy dossiers database which provide a summary of evidence and resource to help policymakers, NGOs and other when seeking to implement a policy in their country. Prior to her current role, she has worked as a research assistant in Peru on a project focused on understanding the epidemiological risk factors associated with endemic infectious diseases as well as the emergence of chronic diseases in the Madre de Dios Region of the southern Peruvian Amazon.

Dr Peter Rice
*Eurocare: European Alcohol Policy Alliance*

Peter Rice is an Addiction Psychiatrist based in Scotland. He graduated from Glasgow University and his post graduate training was in Glasgow, Perth and Dundee. He has been Chair of Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems, a project of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, since 2012. He was one of the group of doctors from the Scottish Royal Colleges who founded SHAAP in 2006 to raise awareness of the extent and diversity of alcohol related harm and promote effective policy solutions initially within Scotland and subsequently in the UK, Europe and internationally.

Nikoleta Arnaudova
*Smoke Free Partnership*

Nikoleta Arnaudova, a Bulgarian national, joined the Smoke Free Partnership as Policy and Communications Officer at the end of 2018. Prior to joining SFP, she worked for several years on women’s health policies
in Europe in Brussels-based consultancies as well as on eHealth, patient safety and infection control, education and professional qualifications as part of the secretariat of the Council of European Dentists. She has several years of focus on stakeholder engagement and alliance-building activities. Nikoleta holds a double degree in Political Science and International Relations and European Politics from the American University in Bulgaria, as well as a Master’s degree in European Politics and Administration from the College of Europe in Bruges.

Nikolai Pushkarev

European Public Health Alliance

Nikolai Pushkarev is policy coordinator at the European Public Health Alliance (Epha), Europe’s leading civil society network advocating for policies to improve public health. Nikolai coordinates EPHA’s activities on food, drink, agriculture and NCD prevention. In particular, priorities include creating healthy, sustainable food environments for all, freeing Europe’s youth from unhealthy marketing and reinventing the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy. Previous experiences include human rights, environment, energy, as well as work in the cultural and private sectors. He gained an MA in European Law from Maastricht University and a postgraduate degree in agricultural economics through the School of Oriental and African Studies (University of London).

Kristina Sperkova

IOGT International

Kristina has a master’s degree in psychology from the Comenius University in Slovakia and can count on 20 years worth of experience working in civil society in the field of health promotion, with special focus on prevention of harm caused by alcohol, working on all levels of society. Kristina started in early 2000 in a local peer program in her hometown community in Slovakia. Later on, she worked as
programme manager with NGOs in Southeast Asia, East Africa, and Balkan countries, in the field of official development assistance. She worked to build civil society capacity to tackle alcohol as obstacle to development. In 2014, she was elected International President. IOGT International is the premier global network for evidence-based policy measures and community-based interventions to prevent and reduce harm caused by alcohol and other drugs. IOGT International has 137 member organizations in 56 countries.

**Dr Maaike Droogers**  
*European Public Health Association*

Maaike started working for EUPHA in March 2017. With a background in public health, she worked for various research institutes, NGOs and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Maaike worked for several public health research projects, including studies on maternal health, eHealth, nutrition, air quality and dementia. As scientific officer Maaike supports EUPHA in enhancing its research and scientific profile and its presence in the European Institutions in Brussels. In addition, she participates in the research projects and takes active part in the tasks of the EUPHA office.

**Jan Peloza**  
*International Youth Health Organization*

Jan is the co-founder of the Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia and in the past he has been serving as a director of the Institute for Youth Participation, Health and Sustainable Development, Foundation Mobin, president of the Alcohol Policy Youth Network and an alternate board member of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health which is chaired by the World Health Organization, where he has worked as a consultant for many years on topics of Alcohol, Tobacco, Meaningful youth engagement, strategic communications and advocacy. He
holds a masters in social marketing on the topic of problematic gambling and a bachelor in computing and informatics. He was the curator of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers’ Ljubljana hub.

**Dr Mimi Tatlow-Golden**  
*Co-director of the Centre for Children and Young People’s Wellbeing, The Open University*

Mimi’s research specialises in the well-being of children and young people. Her work takes a systems and rights perspective and spans children and food, learning, self-concept, and fun. On the issue of children, rights and digital food marketing, she has a particular interest in digital media and children and young people’s engagement. She has given 34 presentations since 2014 to key government, policy and NGO audiences in 14 countries in Europe and North America (Portugal, Greece, Malta, Austria, Slovenia, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Norway, UK, Switzerland, Russia, Turkey, and Canada and the US). She consults for the World Health Organization and Unicef in Europe, East Asia and Latin America.

**Urska Erklavec**  
*Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia*

Urška Erklavec is keen activist on public health since 2008. She is the president of Slovenian NCD Alliance, vice-president at EUPHA Food and nutrition section and vice-president at No Excuse Slovenia. In her free time she researches food systems as part of her PhD studies. You may follow her on Twitter @UrskaErklavec.
Mina Vinje
*Press - Save the Children Youth Norway*

Mina Vinje is the president of Save the Children Youth in Norway. Press - Save the Children Youth is the only Norwegian youth organisation which exclusively work for children’s rights. All our political views are based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and we are working on structural causes of infringement of children’s rights. Our main focus is therefore on how we can change large systems to ensure that children’s rights are fulfilled. We have around 1000 members between the ages of 13 and 25.

Dr. Mojca Gabričelčič Blenkuš is a medical doctor and a specialist of public health. She also has a PhD in social sciences. Her fields of interest and expertise are nutrition, physical activity, and in last few years, aging and frailty. She was head of the Health promotion centre at the NIPH Slovenia from 2003 to 2010. Today, she is mostly involved in policy and programme development, and in research projects. Her main academic interest is in public policies; she holds assistant professorship at the Faculty of Health Sciences where she teaches health promotion theory and health in all policies. She participated in the national nutrition and physical activity strategic policy development, using health in all policies approach. She also participated in the assessment of the health impacts of agriculture and nutrition policies in Slovenia, with a special emphasis on assessing the impact of accession of Slovenia to EU and health equity. She coordinated the evaluation of the Slovene nutrition policy in 2010 and the working group for the preparation of the national nutrition and health enhancing physical activity strategy for 2015-25. In the period 2014 – 2016 she coordinated the background activities and stakeholders involvement in the process of preparation of the Slovene active and healthy ageing strategy.
Nijole Gostautaite Midttun is the president of the Lithuanian Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition and director of the nonprofit organization “Mental health initiative”. She is an active mental health advocate, closely involved in alcohol and tobacco control policy in Lithuania. Her work involves research and analysis, training and organization development. She has worked as a psychiatrist in various settings in Lithuania and Norway and has additional background in health psychology and health services development in Lithuania. She has more than 15 years of teaching experience: some of the current courses involve Counseling for Health, Team Work in Mental Health, Health Advocacy, Addiction counseling. Some of the recent projects involve WHO Quality rights implementation in residential psychosocial institutions, development of the brief smoking cessation intervention for schools, development of the National substance control program, developing alcohol counselor service.

Amandine Garde is Professor of Law at the University of Liverpool. Her research focuses on the role of legal instruments in the prevention of child obesity and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs). She is particularly interested in the regulation of the main commercial determinants of health (tobacco, alcohol and unhealthy diets). She is the founder and director of the Law & NCD Unit, and she regularly advises international organisations, NGOs, public health agencies and governments worldwide. She is Editor of Elgar’s Health and the Law series and a Senior Editor of the European Journal of Risk Regulation. She is also a qualified solicitor.
Mia Zupančič is a psychologist and currently finishing her master studies of relational family therapy. She has experience with youth work from being an active volunteer in the Scout Association of Slovenia from age 16, working with children, teenagers and young volunteers and finishing many youth leadership courses. She was also a volunteer with many youth organizations and youth centers in Slovenia and with programs, focused on provision of health and safety in school children and teens. During her studies she started working in the field of mental health, especially with prevention programs. At first she was a project manager with Zavod Varni internet, where she developed, implemented and evaluated prevention programs on modern world topics such as internet addiction and cyber bullying. Now she is working as an expert in broader field of promotion and prevention of mental health among adolescents and young adults in Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia and is managing different projects in health and youth sector, the biggest one being development, implementation and evaluation of professional prevention programs in primary and middle schools and training the trainers of these programs.

Sofia Ribeiro is a medical doctor specialized in Public Health. She has a Master in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and a Master in International Relations and Political Science from the Nova University in Lisbon. She has worked at the WHO Representation to
the EU in Brussels, following the portfolio of risk factors for NCDs. In addition, she has worked as a consultant for Policy Wisdom and for the British Medical Journal. Over the last few years, Sofia has held a number of positions in the boards of international organizations, including the European Medical Students Association and the Alcohol Policy Youth Network. She is serving as a member of the Monitoring Committee of YHO. Currently she is enrolled in a Master in Advanced Management at the Yale School of Management, and concluding a PhD in HIV and STI at the University of Maastricht.

Sanja Šišovič
CAZAS Montenegro

Sanja is a public health activist, advocate and works in the field of public health for more than 7 years in Montenegro. As program manager of CAZAS, she has coordinated health programs since 2012 and her work is focused also on empowerment of patient’s associations and groups and has been active in establishment and capacity building of youth organizations. She is an economist and has specialized in communications and PR what led her to be awarded a scholarship for CEPI PR high level PR school in Montenegro. She is board member at Drug policy network SEE and International Youth health organization as regional coordinator for SEE region as well as member of many national and international working groups and bodies.

Katja Čič
International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations

Katja is a medical student from Slovenia and has been active in the public and global health arena over the past 5 years. She spent several years working in youth organizations, such as Slovenian Medical
Students’ International Committee (SloMSIC) and the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA), working as a volunteer, heading the Standing Committee on Public Health and representing the voice of youth on the national and international level. Katja is currently serving as the Liaison Officer to the World Health Organization in the IFMSA, advocating for meaningful youth participation in global health and sustainable development.

Dr Lukas Galkus,
*International Youth Health Organization*

Lukas is a medical doctor and a health activist with a working background in Lithuanian Medical Students’ Association (LiMSA) and Lithuanian Tobacco and Alcohol Control Coalition. Over the last 6 years he has been active in public health sector representing youth voice both on the national and international level. Lukas is also a board member at European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare). As the Vice President for Youth Research of YHO, he works on research, representation and also training both on national and European level. Lukas is interested in research in the fields of health promotion and prevention (especially alcohol and tobacco), advocacy, digital health and youth work.
Urša Šetina

Urša has joined YHO as a Secretary General in 2016. She graduated at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana, where she studied Spanish language and literature and Comparative literature and literary theory. She developed her managerial skills already as a student, while being the president and CEO of the Academic choir Tone Tomšič of the University of Ljubljana in seasons 2008/2009 and 2011/2012. She worked as an organizer and manager of a Slovenian percussion group Slovenški tokalni projekt (SToP) and she was a member of an international chamber choir Utopia & Reality, led by Ragnar Rassmusen and Urša Lah, from its establishment in 2013 until 2019. In YHO she is responsible for managing the organization, leading the Secretariat, coordinating projects and organizing events.

Tadeja Pretnar

Tadeja Pretnar has always been a nature lover and has a Master’s degree in Ecology and Biodiversity. She is working in the area of environmental health and youth at the Institute for Youth Participation, Health and Sustainable Development.
Lucija Pečlin

Lucija is currently a sociology student at the University of Ljubljana and a vice president of public health in Youth Network No Excuse Slovenia, where she has been active for many years. This is where she first met with project planning and public health. She later developed a special interest in the field of alcohol, in which she has been more actively involved in the last couple of years, developing peer to peer workshops for youngsters in schools, conducting mystery shopping research and helping with organizing conferences and seminars. In her free time she enjoys nature and spending time with her friends playing board games.