



empower health

people | politics | possibilities

12 September 2023

Brussels

epri european
public health
alliance

#EPHA30

Share your best wishes and thoughts with us!



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YOU'RE INVITED TO EMPOWER HEALTH!

Welcome to Empower Health, the European Public Health Alliance's 30th anniversary celebration!

This exceptional event commemorates the lasting impact of three decades of work by the European Public Health Alliance and sets the stage for a more promising and inclusive future.

Empower Health is not just a conference, but an opportunity for a collective commitment to building a more equitable future for everyone. Participating in Empower Health means joining an engaged, forward-thinking community where, together, we will discover new perspectives, foster lasting connections, and collaborate on ideas that can truly change the public health world.

Empower Health program is designed to inspire, challenge, and equip you with the latest insights and groundbreaking ideas in public health, where we will delve into cutting-edge themes that address pressing health inequalities, and explore ways to effect transformative change.

Now, it's time to fully immerse yourself in the event and embrace this opportunity to enjoy, learn, engage, and connect with a diverse range of professionals whose visionary actions are shaping a world where everyone has the right to good health!

Enjoy the event!



08:45-09:15

REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

09:15-09:30

WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY

- Milka Sokolović — Director General, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
[@milkasklvc](#) [@EPHA_EU](#)
 - Hans Kluge — WHO Regional Director for Europe
[@hans_kluge](#) [@WHO_Europe](#)
-

09:30-10:15

ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Moderated by Tamsin Rose — Facilitator and storyteller for positive change, previous EPHA Secretary General

- Martin McKee — Professor of European Public Health at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
[@martinmckee](#) [@LSHTM](#) [@OBSHealth](#)
 - Nicoline Tamsma — Co-ordinating Adviser at National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), EPHA Policy Advisor
[@NicolineTamsma](#) [@rivm](#)
 - Joséfine Declaye — Critical care nurse and President of SIZ Nursing
[@dc_jo](#) [@seznursing](#)
 - Caroline Costongs — Director of EuroHealthNet
[@CaroCostongs](#) [@EuroHealthNet](#)
-

10:15-11:00

PEOPLE AND CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE CORE: FROM SLOGANS TO ACTION

Moderated by Claudia Marinetti — EPHA Treasurer

- Natasha Azzopard-Muscat — Director of the Division of Country Health Policies and Systems, WHO
[@natasha_azzmus](#) [@WHO_Europe](#)
- Maya Matthews — Head of Unit at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission
[@mayacmat](#) [@EU_Health](#)
- Denis Onyango — Programmes Director, Africa Advocacy Foundation, EPHA Board Member
[@ondeni](#) [@africadvocacy](#)
- Nicola Bedlington — Special Advisor, European Patients' Forum
[@NABedlington](#) [@eupatientsforum](#)
- Rebecca Barlow-Noone — Communications Officer, EPHA
[@r_bnoone](#) [@EPHA_EU](#)

11:00-11:30

COFFEE BREAK

11:30-12:15

HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICS AND POPULISM

Moderated by Batool Alwahdani — Board Member of the International Youth Health Organisation (YHO)

- Peggy Maguire — Director General, European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH), previous EPHA President
[@EIWH](#)
 - Michele LeVoy — Director, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)
[@Michele_LeVoy](#) [@PICUM_post](#)
 - Jonathan Kennedy - Reader in Politics and Global Health in the Centre for Public Health and Policy, Queen Mary University of London
[@j_j_kennedy](#) [@QMUL](#)
 - Noemi Ricci - Communications Trainee, EPHA
[@noemiricci_sbt](#) [@EPHA_EU](#)
-

12:15-13:15

LUNCH

13:15-14:00

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - ARE WE DETERMINED ENOUGH?

Moderated by Monika Kosinska — Global Head of Economic and Commercial Determinants for the World Health Organization, previous EPHA Secretary General

- Florence Berteletti — Secretary General, European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare), EPHA Board Member
[@FBEurocare](#) [@EUROCAREBRUSSEL](#)
- Michael Marmot — Professor of Epidemiology at University College London, Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity
[@MichaelMarmot](#) [@ucl](#) [@marmotihe](#)
- Génon K. Jensen – Founder and Executive Director, Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), previous EPHA General Secretary
[@GenonHEAL](#) [@HealthandEnv](#)

14:00-14:45

FROM EVIDENCE TO ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

Moderated by Charlotte Marchandise — Independent, former deputy Mayor of Rennes

- Nick Sheron — Head of Population Hepatology, University of Southampton, EPHA Scientific Advisor
[@unisouthampton](#)
- Freek Spinnewijn — Director, European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), EPHA Vice-President
[@FreekSpinnewijn1](#) [@FEANTSA](#)
- Sheila Gilheany — Chief Executive Officer, Alcohol Action Ireland
[@SheilaGilheany](#) [@AlcoholIreland](#)

14:45-15:15

COFFEE BREAK

15:15-15:55

FUTURE VISION - AUDIENCE DEBATE ON EMPOWER HEALTH LESSONS

- Stella Kyriakides — European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
[@SKyriakidesEU](#) [@EU_Health](#)

15:55-16:00

CLOSING REMARKS

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus — WHO Director-General
[@DrTedros](#) [@WHO](#)
- Alice Chapman-Hatchett — President, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
[@AliceCH19](#) [@EPHA_EU](#)

16:00-18:00

RECEPTION

- Oxana Domenti —WHO Representative to the European Union
[@OxanaDomenti](#) [@WHO_Europe](#)

OPENING



Milka Sokolović

Director General of the European Public Health Alliance

[@milkasklvc](#) [@EPHA_EU](#)

Milka Sokolović is the Director General of EPHA, with over 25 years of experience in health and science, communication, and strategic partnerships. Her passion for promoting equitable solutions to European Public Health challenges has driven her to forge partnerships and advocate tirelessly for civil society.

Supported by a talented team, EPHA's Management Board, and broad membership, Milka's visionary leadership has been instrumental in achieving EPHA's mission of achieving societal change.



Hans Kluge

Regional Director at the WHO Regional Office for Europe

[@hans_kluge](#) [@WHO_Europe](#)

Hans Henri P. Kluge is the WHO Regional Director for Europe. With an extraordinary 25-year journey encompassing global medical practice and public health, Hans has unparalleled expertise in emergency response, tuberculosis control, and health system development.

From his early days as a dedicated family doctor to his pivotal role in combating tuberculosis through Médecins Sans Frontières and the WHO, he has tirelessly championed health systems, universal coverage, and transformative partnerships.

ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

Thirty years of EPHA and public health has seen significant progress and some missteps – what have these been, and how can they inform further progress?



Tamsin Rose

Facilitator and storyteller for positive change, previous EPHA Secretary General

An independent consultant, Tamsin Rose works with NGOs, institutions and philanthropic foundations on advocacy and organisational development. Tamsin is a sought-after moderator and experienced speaker. With a background in radio journalism and communications, she brings a unique blend of expertise to her engaging panel discussions. As an independent consultant, she collaborates with NGOs and institutions, applying fresh thinking to tackle developmental challenges. Her dynamic presence and inspiring insights leave a lasting impact. She is also an EPHA Alumni having served as EPHA Secretary General.



Joséfine Declaye

Critical care nurse and President of SIZ Nursing

[@dc_jo](#) [@seznursing](#)

Joséfine Declaye is a critical care nurse in the intensive care unit and works as an assistant at the Simulation Centre of the University of Liège. She is deeply committed to representing the nursing profession, actively participating in SIZ Nursing for several years and now serving as its president. Furthermore, she has the role of Junior Policy Officer at the European Specialist Nurses Organisation (ESNO), where she advocates for the recognition and representation of specialised nurses throughout Europe.





Martin McKee

Professor of European Public Health at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, U. of London

@martinmckee @LSHTM @OBSHealth

Martin McKee is a distinguished public health expert and academic, renowned for his transformative contributions to improving global health. As the Professor of European Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the founding director of the European Centre on Health of Societies in Transition (a WHO Collaborating Centre), he has shaped public health policies and practices worldwide. Advising governments and international organisations, his research on health systems, policies, and social determinants of health has had a profound impact, inspiring future leaders in the field.



Nicoline Tamsma

Co-ordinating Adviser at National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), EPHA Policy Advisor

@NicolineTamsma @rivm

Nicoline Tamsma is a highly experienced senior health policy and research professional, specialising in mental health strategy, EU health and social policy and health systems. Based at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in the Netherlands, she has made significant contributions to the European health community as an EPHA special advisor. She also has a strong background in WHO Europe initiatives and EU-funded projects related to mental health policies and health equity.



Caroline Costongs

Director of EuroHealthNet

@CaroCostongs @EuroHealthNet

Caroline Costongs is Director of EuroHealthNet, the European Partnership for improving health, social equity and wellbeing. With a strong international background in public health and health promotion spanning 30 years, she leads a multidisciplinary team working on EU and national policy, research, and capacity building to address health inequalities and social determinants of health. She plays an active role in various EU and WHO forums, serves on advisory boards for European projects, and is a member of key expert groups.

PEOPLE AND CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE CORE: FROM SLOGANS TO ACTION

How do we ensure “nothing about us without us” is more than a slogan or a tick box exercise.



Claudia Marinetti

EPHA Treasurer

@MarinettiC

Claudia Marinetti is a Member of the Management Board of EPHA, serving as its Treasurer. Her place on the board is due to her Director role with EPHA Member Mental Health Europe (MHE), leading efforts to promote positive mental health, prevent distress, improve care, and advocate for social inclusion and the rights of mental health service users. With a PhD in Social and Applied



Psychology and expertise in management, policy, advocacy, and research, she drives human rights-based approaches, access to quality services, Health in All Policies (HiAP), and social inclusion in mental health.



Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat

Medical doctor and Director of Country Health Policies & Systems at WHO Europe

@natasha_azzmus @WHO_Europe

Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat is a medical doctor, public health specialist, and author. With extensive experience in the health sector, including maternal and child health, mental health, and primary care, she has held senior positions in the Ministry of Health in Malta. Natasha has also served as the President of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), actively advocating for health at the European level. Currently, she is a resident academic at the University of Malta, in the department of health services management and public health.



Maya Matthews

Head of Unit at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

@mayacmat @EU_Health

Maya Matthews has 20 years of experience in public health. She currently heads the Performance of Health Systems Unit at the European Commission's Health and Food Safety Directorate-General. Previously, she worked at the European Union's delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, focusing on health issues and relations with the World Health Organization.



Denis Onyango

**Programmes Director at Africa Advocacy Foundation,
EPHA Board Member**

@ondeni @africadvocacy

Denis Onyango is the Programmes Director at Africa Advocacy Foundation (AAF), leading sexual and reproductive health initiatives in Europe and campaigning against violence towards women and girls, including Female Genital Mutilation. With 19 years of grassroots community health promotion experience, Denis is actively involved in healthcare policy at national and international levels, serving on advisory boards such as the WHO Regional Coordinating Committee on HIV, Hepatitis, and tuberculosis.



Rebecca Barlow-Noone

Communications Officer at EPHA

@r_bnoone @EPHA_EU

Rebecca Barlow-Noone is a Communications Officer at EPHA and a patient advocate. She holds an MSc in Population Health from UCL, where she researched inclusion health and barriers and facilitators to healthcare access. Her interest in health equity stems from her own experiences of healthcare in England and seeing the injustice of privilege and disadvantage on patients' experiences and outcomes. She has experience as an advocate and patient expert in research, and for national and international diabetes organisations.





Nicola Bedlington

Special Advisor at the European Patients' Forum (EPF)

@NABedlington @eupatientsforum

Nicola Bedlington, a founding partner of Millwater Partners, specialises in sustainability consulting and leads initiatives related to health, social policy, and multi-stakeholder engagement. Nicola has two decades of experience across disability and patient advocacy movements - in policy, fundraising, advocacy and campaigns. She advises prominent global health bodies and serves as a special advisor to the European Patients' Forum (EPF).

HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICS AND POPULISM

The commodification of health and a rapid growth of populism are significant threats to public health. What are the scale of such threats, and how can they be countered to secure our rights (to health)?



Batool Alwahdani

Board Member of the International Youth Health Organisation (YHO)

@BatoolWahdani @YHOint

Batool Al-Wahdani is a Specialty Trainee Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She was president of the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations 2018/2019, and led the advocacy work of medical students on Universal Health Coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals. She represented youth and medical students at the United Nations General Assemblies and World Health Assemblies. With the World Health Organization she has addressed the shortfall of health workers, youth engagement, and communication training for engaging with non-State actors.



Peggy Maguire

Director General for the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH), previous EPHA President

@EIWH

Peggy Maguire is a Political Scientist who brings extensive experience in health policy development, advocacy, and strategic planning at a European level. She actively contributes to gender-focused initiatives as the Director General for the European Institute of Women's Health and co-chair of the Department of Health (Ireland) Task force on Women's Health. With a past presidency at the European Public Health Alliance, she continues her work as board member and chair of the patient and community engagement working group of the WHO Academy Quality Committee.



Michele LeVoy

Director of the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)

@Michele_LeVoy @PICUM_post

Michele LeVoy is the longstanding Director of PICUM, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants. In her role, she strategically develops and manages all areas of PICUM's work, while also serving as the main spokesperson and external representative. With close to two decades of leadership, Michele has been at the forefront of advocating for the human rights of undocumented migrants at European and global levels.





Jonathan Kennedy

Reader in Politics and Global Health in the Centre for Public Health and Policy at Queen Mary University of London

@j_j_kennedy @QMUL

Jonathan Kennedy is a Reader in Politics and Global Health in the Centre for Public Health and Policy at Queen Mary University of London. He is also co-Deputy Director of the Centre for Public Health & Policy and obtained his PhD in sociology from the University of Cambridge (2013). His research uses insights from sociology, political economy, anthropology and international relations to analyse important public health problems. For example, exploring the link between populist politics and vaccine hesitancy in Europe.



Noemi Ricci

Communications Trainee at EPHA

@noemiricci_sbt @EPHA_EU

Noemi Ricci is the Communication Trainee at EPHA. She has a background as a social justice activist with a focus on sexual and reproductive health rights, gender equality, and intergenerational justice. Having studied applied ethics with a particular focus on Menstruation and Structural Injustices, she has advocated for comprehensive and inclusive reproductive healthcare and education. Noemi has worked as a Policy Trainee at the European Commission and as an advocate at Laiga194, a pro-choice association of gynaecologists in Italy, before joining EPHA as a communications trainee.

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH - ARE WE DETERMINED ENOUGH?

Is the Public Health community being sufficiently assertive or confrontational to challenge the structures of the Determinants of Health?



Monika Kosinska

Global Head of Economic and Commercial Determinants for the World Health Organization, previous EPHA Secretary General

@mikakosinska @WHO

Monika Kosinska is the global Head of Economic and Commercial Determinants for the World Health Organization, leading WHO's approach to this new field of work. Previously, she served as the Programme Manager for Governance for Health at the WHO's Regional Office for Europe, and as Secretary General of EPHA. Her unwavering commitment to improving health outcomes for all is also demonstrated by her role as advisor for the European Commission on the public health impacts of EU law revisions and on EU-US trade talks.



Florence Berteletti

Secretary General of the European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare), EPHA Board Member

@FBEurocare @EUROCAREBRUSSEL

Florence Berteletti is the Secretary General of Eurocare (European Alcohol Policy Alliance) and a board member of the European Public Health Alliance. With over 20 years of international policy and advocacy experience, she has played a key role in diverse fields including fiscal policies for health, tobacco control, alcohol-related harm, and culture policy. Berteletti's leadership has been recognized through prestigious awards, such as the WHO World No Tobacco Day award.



Michael Marmot

**Professor of Epidemiology at University College London,
Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity**

@MichaelMarmot @ucl @marmotihe

Michael Marmot is a renowned Professor of Epidemiology at University College London and an advisor to the WHO Director-General on social determinants of health. He has led research on health inequalities for 50 years and chaired influential commissions and reviews on equity and social determinants of health. Marmot has received numerous awards and honors for his contributions to epidemiology and understanding health inequalities. He is actively involved in various medical and public health organizations, serving as President of the British Lung Foundation, and holding prestigious fellowships.



Génon K. Jensen

**Founder and Executive Director of Health and
Environment Alliance (HEAL), previous EPHA General
Secretary**

@GenonHEAL @HealthandEnv

Génon K. Jensen is the Founder and Executive Director of HEAL, with extensive experience in environmental health issues. She has been an official member of the World Health Organization's European Environment and Health governance since 2000, contributing to various working groups. Jensen is actively involved in IPEN and serves on the Steering Committee. She advocates for health-protective policies on endocrine disrupting chemicals and contributes to numerous publications on environmental health policy.

FROM EVIDENCE TO ADVOCACY AND POLICY CHANGE

How best can all those engaged in policy harness the tools of evidence and science, as well as engage advocates, civil society, and people in partnerships in support of this?



Charlotte Marchandise

Independent former deputy Mayor of Rennes

@MarCharlott

Charlotte Marchandise is a passionate advocate for public health issues, and her work as an activist and consultant has been driven by her commitment to democracy and transparency. As a former deputy in the city of Rennes, she became convinced of the need for democratic radicalism. In 2017, she won laPrimaire.org for a collaborative programme and undertook her first candidacy for the presidential elections. Now defends an Open Democracy campaign «Make Democracy Win» seeking to reform the political system.



Nick Sheron

Head of Population Hepatology, University of Southampton, Visiting Professor at King's College London, EPHA Scientific Advisor

@unisouthampton

Nick Sheron is Professor and a leading expert in Hepatology, currently serving as Head of Population Hepatology at University of Southampton and Visiting Professor at King's College London. He has dedicated his career to researching the effects of alcohol on the liver and has extensive experience in translating this knowledge into evidence-based policies. He has been a scientific advisor for the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) for over a decade.





Freek Spinnewijn

Director of the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANTSA), EPHA Vice-President

@FreekSpinnewij1 @FEANTSA

Freek Spinnewijn is a highly distinguished figure in the public health sector and has established himself as a prominent voice in addressing issues related to homelessness and health. As the Vice-President of EPHA and Director of FEANTSA, a leading European organisation representing people experiencing homelessness, he has worked on influencing and impacting policies that aim to improve health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and other marginalised groups. He has also worked for the UN in Geneva and the EU in Brussels. He currently sits on the board of Social Services Europe and the European Anti-Poverty Network.



Sheila Gilheany

Chief Executive Officer at Alcohol Action Ireland (AAI)

@SheilaGilheany @AlcoholIreland

Sheila Gilheany is the Chief Executive Officer of Alcohol Action Ireland, a member of EPHA. She has a background in physics and has extensive experience in policy development and advocacy. She has led a range of not-for-profit organisations in science, education, public engagement and social enterprise. Most recently she was the national manager for the Institute of Physics in Ireland where she developed strong policy positions on issues around research funding, facilities, gender and access to physics at all levels. Previously she was Director of the Irish Centre for Talented Youth at Dublin City University for 11 years, bringing courses and services for young people with exceptional academic ability right across Ireland. She is also Chair of the Board of Directors of Specialisterne Ireland, an organisation which supports the employment of people with autism.

FUTURE VISION - AUDIENCE DEBATE ON EMPOWER HEALTH LESSONS

Facilitated by the session chairs, we will conduct an audience debate on lessons learned from the 'Empower Health' conference, beginning with a Future Vision by Stella Kyriakides.



Stella Kyriakides

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

@SKyriakidesEU @EU_Health

Stella Kyriakides is a health advocate and politician, currently serving as the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. She held numerous leadership roles, including serving in the Parliament of Cyprus, where she was the Chair of the Committee on Health Affairs. Kyriakides is a committed advocate for patients' rights and healthcare access, working to reduce health inequalities, combat chronic diseases, and improve mental health services. She was a founder of the first breast cancer advocacy organisation in Cyprus, and previously worked as a clinical psychologist. Her extensive experience and dedication to the healthcare field make her a vital leader in shaping the future of health policy in Europe.

CLOSURE



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General of the World Health Organization

@DrTedros @WHO

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organization, is a prominent advocate for universal health coverage and improving health systems globally. With a strong background in public health, his leadership in Ethiopia led to innovative health financing mechanisms, expanded health infrastructure, and a primary healthcare extension programme that reduced child and maternal mortality rates. Prior to his current role, he held numerous leadership positions in global health and played a critical role in negotiating the financial commitments necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



Alice Chapman-Hatchett

Director of the Health and Europe Centre,

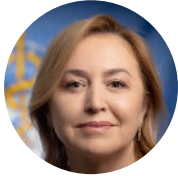
EPHA President

@AliceCH19 @healthandeuropa

Alice Chapman-Hatchett is a respected leader in public health as the current President of EPHA. Through her work as Director of the Health and Europe Centre, she brings European learning, practice and policy to the local health community, improving patient outcomes and focusing on health inequalities and social determinants of health. Her portfolio of projects, worth over €70m, serves as a testament to her innovative and practical approach to improving patient care.

RECEPTION

Our reception will be opened by both Alice Chapman-Hatchett and Oxana Domenti.



Oxana Domenti

WHO Representative to the European Union

@OxanaDomenti @WHO_Europe

Oxana Domenti is an accomplished public health expert who serves as the WHO Representative to the European Union. Her extensive experience in health financing, tobacco control, and healthcare policies has been instrumental in the development of social and health policies at both national and regional levels. She has been a key contributor in areas such as tuberculosis, primary healthcare, and access to medicines.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

We want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to the individuals who made it all possible. This event, celebrating our 30th anniversary, would not have been the resounding success without the dedication, passion, and hard work of the EPHA team, its board, advisors and members, and esteemed speakers.

This event, marking three decades of our journey, is a testament to what can be achieved when a dedicated team comes together with a shared vision. As we stand at this milestone, we can't predict what the next 30 years will hold, but we can seize this moment as an opportunity to be inspired, to innovate, and to continue our pursuit of excellence.

As we leave here today, let's carry the lessons learned, connections made, and inspiration received into our respective journeys. We hope to see you all again in the future, as we continue to strive for excellence and growth together.

Thank you once again for being a part of this remarkable journey!





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