



ANNUAL MEETING

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HOSTED BY



Instituto Nacional de Saúde
Doutor Ricardo Jorge

Opening session

On April 20, 2023, the IANPHI Europe Network held the first day of its annual meeting in Lisbon, hosted by the National Health Institute Doutor Ricardo Jorge of Portugal (INSA). The overall event focused on the *new challenges and new responses in public health and wellbeing over the next ten years*.

Welcome from the Host

By Dr. Fernando Almeida, President, National Health Institute Doutor Ricardo Jorge

Dr. F. Almeida welcomed participants and opened the meeting, which brought together thirty countries, both in person and online, including five Portuguese-speaking members. The two-day meeting invited IANPHI members to reflect on the current health challenges National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) are facing, to identify solutions to be better prepared for the future. It was an opportunity to continue building stronger collaborations between NPHIs, with the support of decision-makers to create conditions enabling greater agility in the response to public health challenges.

Welcome from the Portuguese Secretary of State of Health Promotion

By Dr. Margarida Tavares, Portuguese Secretary of State of Health Promotion

IANPHI played a critical role in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic by facilitating communication and collaboration among members through information, expertise and resources sharing. The Association supported the global pandemic response namely by providing technical assistance and guidance to NPHIs in low and middle-income countries. In this respect, *Dr. M. Tavares* emphasized the 124-year background of the National Health Institute Doutor Ricardo Jorge in advancing healthcare system and public health initiatives. Acknowledging IANPHI's commitment in advocating for increased investment in public health infrastructure and preparedness, the Secretary of State also highlighted potential future threats and challenges such as climate change and its impact on public health, health promotion and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the consequences of war on societies' wellbeing, the use of good quality data, public health surveillance.

Welcome from the President of IANPHI

By Prof. Duncan Selbie, IANPHI President

Following from the Memorandum of Understanding signed by IANPHI and the World Health Organization (WHO) in October 2022, both entities have been working on an Action Plan able to tackle these aforementioned upcoming public health challenges. It is urgent to think about both communicable diseases and NCDs as a part of the broad approach to how NPHIs can secure and improve the health of people around the world. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has been an explosion of interest in the creation of NPHIs and on refreshing and

operationalizing NPHIs' core functions and attributes based on work in progress by WHO on the Essential Public Health Functions (EPHFs).

IANPHI Europe Network update

By Dr. Trygve Ottersen, Chair of the IANPHI Europe Network and Executive Director of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (FHI)

In accordance with IANPHI Europe's Work Plan for 2023, Dr. T. Ottersen provided an update about the Network's recently undertaken activities. Last year, the IANPHI Europe Network was pleased to welcome two new members, the National Public Health Organization of Greece (EODY) and the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro (IJZCG), the latter having successfully applied to organize the next 2024 Europe Network meeting. The 2023 Activity Plan consists of seven items: 1) organizing the Europe Network Annual Meeting in Lisbon; 2) scheduling four to six webinars over the year, among which two have already been conducted, respectively one focusing on how NPHIs can improve prevention, and a second on how NPHIs can improve and respond to knowledge gap regarding public health and social measures; 3) information gathering and sharing, notably with a recent survey about the strategic areas of work and pressing questions for NPHIs. The preliminary results were presented in session 6; 4) recruiting new members; 5) supporting the Ukrainian Public Health Centre (UPHC); 6) strengthening and maintaining close collaboration with key partners; and 7) monitoring emerging needs and opportunities while staying ready to respond.

Keynote: Public Health and wellbeing in the next 10 years: How do we address the new challenges and responses as a European family of institutions and organizations?

By Ms. Caroline Costongs, Director of EuroHealthNet & Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich, Acting Director of the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) and President of EuroHealthNet

EuroHealthNet is a European partnership of over 60 organizations, including NPHIs, regional health authorities, Ministries of Health (MoHs) and universities. Its goal is to combat health inequalities and influence EU policies in the sense of health equity, health promotion and disease prevention. Assistance approach is at the heart of EuroHealthNet's action since the current and future crises (as well as challenges) are interrelated. The recent pandemic, which is also a syndemic, acknowledged the fact that social determinants inequalities magnified the severity of the COVID-19 disease. Responses to a pandemic need to be both biomedical and psychosocial. The pandemic has shown that mindsets must switch from silo-based to a more systemic way of thinking. This should also apply for other crisis that public health systems are facing, for instance climate change and its correlated health impacts.

The concept of economy of well-being can be useful to deal with interrelated challenges. Developed by Finland in 2019, it links economy and wellbeing, and promotes investments in health as beneficial for the economy and not as a cost in investment. The well-being economy concept means that economy should develop and thrive while respecting social values and considering a sustainable outlook. From a public health perspective, it means moving from ego to echo: from repairing and fixing to prevention and health promotion, from fragmented budgets to joint budgeting and programming, from individual lifestyle focus to healthy and sustainable living environments, from centralized action to community action and participation, and from traditional public health skills to multidisciplinary blend of capacities. It means putting health at the heart of governance.

Three fields of action need to be emphasized: 1) health promotion; 2) health literacy; as well as 3) health data space and digitalization. The pandemic has shown a rising and strengthened attention on public health, which NPHIs should use in terms of resources and funds to better organize coordination but also to look at optimization and possible reformation of public health structures.

Few inspiring NPHIs-lead operations across Europe were mentioned, such as horizontal coordination and engagement contributing to systemic change and wellbeing. In fact, some institutes deliver insights beyond the state of the art, others provide evidence of what works, while some work towards integrated services according to the need at local level across sectors.

Written by Tristan Lardet, IANPHI Secretariat