

News

5th European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health and Healthcare

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Allan Krasnik, President of the Scientific Committee

Maria Luisa Vázquez, Deputy President of the Scientific Committee

Carlos Artundo, President of the Organizing Committee

The health of migrants and ethnic minorities has become a major issue with huge implications for international, national, regional and local policies and practice. Research in this area is therefore clearly receiving more attention at national as well as European levels as a result of the growing recognition of the need for documentation on patterns of disease, causes and effects, as well as potential interventions to take into account the increasing ethnic diversity of European populations. The Section for Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health within the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) has over 600 members and aims to promote the basis for evidence-based policy and practice within this area in different ways – not least by organizing European conferences at which researchers, policy-makers and practitioners meet, present and discuss new research, practical experiences, challenges and solutions.

The Conference paid special attention to the European economic and systemic crisis, which has many serious implications for the health of migrants and ethnic minorities. Across the 3 days, the participants discussed challenges and solutions during 5 plenary sessions with distinguished international key-note speakers and panels, as well as 12 workshops and a series of parallel oral and poster sessions (96 oral presentations and 120 poster presentations) covering a range of subjects related to the theme of the Conference. The main themes included issues relating to health and human rights, health promotion and prevention, access to health care, mental health, reproductive health, occupational health, infectious and chronic diseases and threats to health and well-being, which all have special

implications for migrants and ethnic minorities. We have received over 300 abstract and 14 workshop submissions from 29 countries, mainly within Europe, but also including participants from Canada, the United States, Turkey, Qatar and Australia.

An important effort to involve civil society organizations has been made. As a result a number of pre-conference activities took place, particularly addressing civil society's perspectives on migrants' and ethnic minorities' health and health care access in the context of the current systemic crisis; strategies to increase the communication between civil society, the academic context and policy-makers; and reflections on research practices and ethics. Furthermore, a field visit was planned, guided by Doctors of the World and professionals from the Public Healthcare System, to one of the greenhouse areas in Andalusia that is characterized by a high migrant population. An Advisory and Participatory Committee composed of civil society representatives has been constituted in order to enhance civil society participation and exchange between different stakeholders at the Conference.

The number of participants was about 300–400, representing most European countries and European centres in the field of migrant and ethnic minority health, as well as participants from other parts of the world.

More information about the Conference is available on the Conference web page (<http://www.eupha-migranthealthconference.com>).