

Granada, 9th August 2023

Dear section members,

According to the EUPHA Section Rules, a new president needs to be elected and appointed in 2023. Although I would be very pleased if some of you apply for the position, I also communicate my will to be reelected based in the following achievements in past years, and future challenges.

Background HIA experience as a professional

Since 2004 until now, I have been involved as a partner leader in several national and EU research projects related to HIA for delivering new, reliable and actionable information and tools on the health impacts of several environmental stressors (e.g. air pollution; hazardous substances). The intention has been always to provide transparent science-based evidence for facilitating decision-makers in the design and implementation of more effective local and European policies, to health professionals in advising vulnerable groups, and individuals in adopting healthier informed decisions. HIA represents as well a core on my normal training activities conducted at the Andalusian School of Public Health (EASP, in Spanish), member of ASPHER, and a reference institution for the continuous training of public health professionals both in Spain and internationally. For further details, visit my ORCID profile at: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3343-9760>

Internationally, I have acted since 2012 as a collaborative scientist for WHO in the preparation of several HIA reports as the recently published related to the description of implementation level of HIA across Europe (see ORCID report). Nationally, I am member of the scientific advisory group of the Spanish Ministry of Health for HIA, contributing actively in preparing the Spanish National Act on Public Health ("Ley 33/2011") which addressed for the first time HIA as a relevant tool for characterizing the health impacts of any national or regional public policy prior implementation. At the regional level, I coordinated the development in 2016 of an online Platform that facilitates the collaborative work in HIA of public health professionals involved in the evaluation of HIA reports according to the Andalusian HIA regulation. Currently I coordinate the update and improvement of that Platform.

Contribution for promoting a broader HIA implementation from EUPHA

As result of my research and training interest, I have been attending all EPH conference organized by EUPHA since 2008, contributing to the HIA section first as

a member by sharing my experience through oral presentations and workshops, since 2014 as vice-president of the section, and from 2020 up to now as a president. During these years of being involved in the section coordination, the number of professionals who have joined the section has raised considerably, as well as the activities proposed for successive European Public Health (EPH) conferences. I particularly want to emphasize and acknowledge the collaboration of Odile Mekel, vice-president of the section, in making HIA section more visible within EUPHA and outside. To this respect, it is also important to highlight the bridges and cooperation created with other EUPHA sections such as environment and health, epidemiology, health technology assessment, public health monitoring and reporting, public health policy and politics, health workforce research, public health foresight or public health economics.

More precisely in my almost 4 years as president of EUPHA-HIA section, I have promoted together with members of the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA) the publication of a reference document entitled "*Addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. As per EU Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU*" (2021). Another important publication recently released is the WHO report entitled "*Implementation of health impact assessment and health in environmental assessment across the WHO European Region*". Other activities carried out in this period comprise the promotion and/or coordination of 14 workshops and seminars and a preconference, where I have tried to promote a broader and multisectoral participation, inviting experts from widely recognized organizations in the domains of public health and HIA. To this respect is important to highlight the contributions made from: EC-JRC of Ispra (Italy), UNICEF, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO-European Region, IAIA, University of New South Wales (Australia), University of Haifa (Israel), Austrian National Public Health Institute (Austria), Public Health Wales (UK), Public Health Scotland (UK), Public Health Ireland, or the Andalusian Ministry of Health (Spain).

At the EPH conference that takes place in Dublin in November 2023, I have proposed to hold a pre-conference seminar with the aim of extracting learning insights on competencies, attitudes and values needed to carry out a fit-for-purpose HIA. It is expected that this analysis will help in defining a Europe-wide HIA training curriculum for public health professionals to be more actively engaged in HIA. The results of the seminar that will include interactive contribution of participants and speakers will be published as a EUPHA article. Experts in the HIA practice will provide the base for the debate.

Some ideas for the future

In case I will be reelected as EUPHA-HIA section's president, I invite all of you to present proposals that reinforce and keep promoting the relevance of HIA as a tool for the development of healthier policies, and for raising awareness of the need for

many sectors outside health to involve public health experts in developing their projects, programs or policies. I also encourage you to become active reviewers and supporting the organization of workshops at EPH and other webinars and activities throughout the year. From my side, I will reinforce efforts in improving the HIA networking and enhancing strong alliance with all type of public health organizations that can support of expanding a better HIA training and practice in Europe and worldwide.

We can realistically presume that in coming years we will have to confront great challenges as those pose by climate change, which will demand more experts in health impacts characterization. I am confident that joining efforts we can positively contribute to face those challenges and therefore, participate in improving public health across Europe.

Thanks you very much for your time, and support.

Kind regards

Piedad Martín-Olmedo



President of EUPHA-HIA section

Senior Lecturer at Escuela Andaluza de Salud Pública

Campus Universitario de Cartuja

Cuesta del Observatorio 4

Granada 18.111. SPAIN

E-mail: piedad.martin.easp@juntadeandalucia.es