



2nd EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE  
Human Ecology and Public Health  
25-28 November 2009, Łódź, Poland

Technical implementation report Lodz 2009  
Reference: 2009 43 03



**SECOND JOINT EUROPEAN PUBLIC  
HEALTH CONFERENCE:  
Human ecology and public health**

**25-28 November 2009, Lodz, Poland**

**LODZ 2009**

**TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT**

**Reference number: 2009 43 03**



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@ EUPHA, May 2010

In collaboration with the Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, the Polish Association of Public Health and the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER).



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## SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS

The two main objectives of Lodz 2009 were:

1. To focus on building the capacity of public health experts by actively organising the European (and international) exchange of knowledge and best practice; and
2. To organise a successful European public health conference.

Lodz 2009 was attended by 838 participants from 50 countries and from a varied professional background.

Lodz 2009 had a filled plenary programme with 5 plenary sessions and a large and diverse parallel programme which consisted of a total of 70 parallel sessions and 13 poster sessions of 90 minutes each. The parallel and poster programme was based on the 516 single abstracts and 48 workshops from 53 countries which were submitted by 1 May 2009.

The programme included 6 invitational workshops, 32 workshops and 32 parallel sessions (6 presentations per session). Around 250 posters were presented in 13 moderated poster sessions.

Lodz 2009 included a large number of pre-conference and satellite activities, in which 311 participants (= 33,8%) participated. Using the conference as a meeting point for internal meetings of projects (e.g. management meeting) and partners (executive council meetings) increased the capacity building and networking function of the conference.

All deliverables planned for Lodz 2009 were delivered as planned. Several marketing activities were organised by all the partners.

The organisation of the conference was successful due to the conference manual and open communication between partners.

Both EUPHA and ASPHER plan to continue the joining of their conferences in the near future.



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**List of abbreviations:**

ASPHER	Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region
CEE	Central and Eastern European
ECDC	European Centre for diseases control
EEA	European Environmental Alliance
EPHA	European Public Health Alliance
EU	European Union
EUPHA	European Public Health Association
HEAL	Health and Environment Alliance
ISC	International scientific committee
Lisbon 2008	1 <sup>st</sup> Joint European Public Health Conference
LOC	Local organising committee
Lodz 2009	2 <sup>nd</sup> Joint European Public Health Conference
MEHO	Migrant and Ethnic Health Observatory project
NGO	Non-governmental organization
STEPS	Strengthening Engagement in Public health Research project
UEMS	Union of European medical specialists
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO/EURO	World Health Organization – Regional office for Europe



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## 1. Purpose of Lodz 2009

The main purpose of the 2009 joint conference was to build the capacity of public health experts by actively organising European (and international) exchange of knowledge and best practice. The main theme of the conference underlined scientific consensus on global environmental changes which have significant impact on human health and well-being. The second joint European public health conference contributed substantially to the issues of strategic importance of the 2009 Work Plan and the objectives set out in the 2008-13 Health Programme. The Lodz conference aimed mostly at the third objective of generating and disseminating health information and knowledge.

By organising a completely joint programme this year, the two associations (EUPHA and ASPHER) enabled public health experts to participate in both formerly separate events, thereby ensuring a wider platform for networking and exchanging knowledge and scientific outcomes and best practices and enabling an even wider dissemination of EU policies and strategies.

## 2. Objectives of Lodz 2009

The two main objectives of Lodz 2009 were to:

1. To focus on building the capacity of public health experts by actively organising the European (and international) exchange of knowledge and best practice; and
2. To organise a successful European public health conference.

### Capacity building:

More particularly, the joint European Public Health Conference 2009 aimed to:

- Have a wide and varied **participation** of public health experts from over 50 countries to share public health knowledge (research, policy, practice and training)
- Provide a **plenary programme** that substantially contributes to capacity building in the area of human ecology and health and that furthers the discussion and research on the impact of global environmental change on the health of populations.
- Provide a **parallel programme** that substantially contributed to capacity building in the area of European public health, which includes a programme
  - that shares, disseminates and discusses state-of-the-art research, practice, training and policy results
  - that contributes to the main priority areas of the 2009 Work Plan
  - that covers specific sub-priorities through organised workshops and pre-conferences (e.g. child health, mental health, communicable diseases)
  - that contributes to shaping the future public health agenda in Europe
  - that increases the interaction between different pillars of public health.
- Provide a wide and varied **pre conference programme** to create, support and promote close and active collaboration links among European research and training professionals, the local and European community.
- Offer the possibility of (internal) **extra meetings** for EU project partners and partner organisations
- Produce **deliverables** to further disseminate the results of the conference and to produce new knowledge to arrive at a healthier and wealthier society, to improve and protect human health.
- Increase **visibility** by encouraging local media coverage, mobilise public and official bodies in the organising country and increase the visibility for public health issues in Europe.

### Organising a successful conference:



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More particularly, Lodz 2009 aimed to:

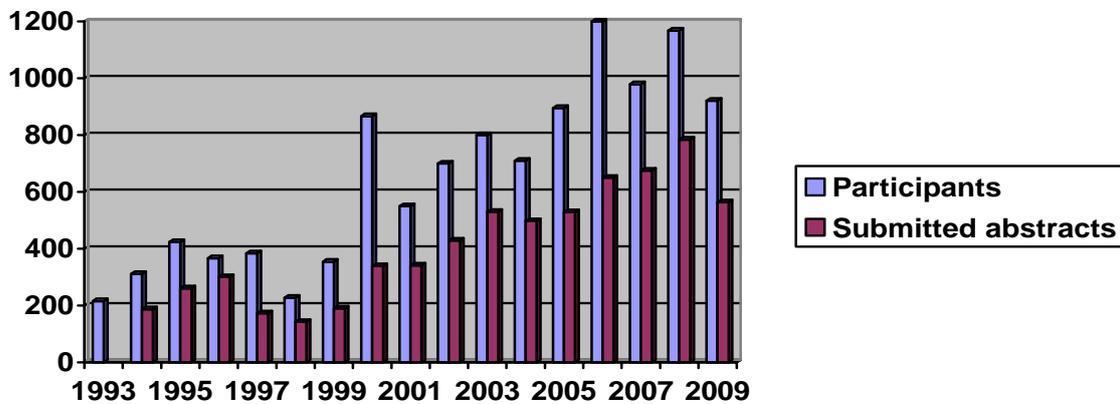
- Organise a successful conference in view of **logistics** and **management**, partner **collaboration**;
- Collaborate more closely with **European public health NGOs**; and international organisations (WHO, EEA)

### 3. Objective 1: Building the capacity of public health experts

#### 3.1. Participation

Lodz 2009 was attended by 838 participants from 50 countries: 81.5% came from 24 EU Member States. 14 neighbouring countries attended the conference and 13 overseas countries. The professional background of the 2009 participants included: university (49,2%), authorities (21,5%), practice (9,3%), NGOs (10,7%). We observed an increase in international organisations and NGOs actively participating in the conference.

Graphic 1: Overview of conference attendance and abstract submissions 1997-2009





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**Table 1: Number of participants per country Lodz 2009**

<b>Europe</b>	<b>no. of participants</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>no. of participants</b>
Albania	3	Australia	2
Armenia	3	Brazil	1
Austria	15	Canada	6
Azerbaijan	2	Egypt	2
Belgium	25	European Union	14
Bulgaria	5	India	1
Croatia	5	Japan	2
Czech Republic	3	Korea (South)	3
Denmark	34	Kuwait	1
Estonia	3	Nepal	3
Finland	28	NGOs	10
France	26	Pakistan	1
Germany	42	Taiwan	2
Hungary	18	Unites States	9
Iceland	1	WHO related	11
Ireland	7	<b>Total other</b>	<b>68</b>
Israel	10		
Italy	62		
Kazakhstan	1		
Latvia	4		
Lithuania	10		
Macedonia	6		
Malta	3		
Netherlands	130		
Norway	25		
Poland	79		
Portugal	15		
Romania	11		
Russia	8		
Serbia	3		
Slovakia	14		
Slovenia	6		
Spain	24		
Sweden	57		
Switzerland	13		
Turkey	4		
United Kingdom	64		
Uzbekistan	1		
<b>Total Europe</b>	<b>770</b>		

**Table 2: Work background Lodz 2009 (compared with Lisbon 2008)**



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<b>Work background</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
National level (e.g. ministry, national institute of health)	215	181
Regional level (e.g. state council, regional council, health services)	129	63
Local level (e.g. community health council, practitioners)	18	8
University-based	398	412
Hospital-based	27	6
Health insurance related	3	
NGO (national and international foundations, associations of public health)	69	90
Companies (private companies working in the field of public health)	16	20
Industry (pharmaceutical)	41	22
International (WHO/EURO, European Commission, ECDC, EEA, etc)	24	36

Special emphasis on participation from low income countries

Special attention was given to public health experts from low income countries, particularly from CEE countries. With the help of 2 sponsors, we managed to co-fund the participation of 56 CEE experts.

- The Public Health Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences offered participation fees for five participants from Central Eastern Europe.
- The OSI grant number 20026024 included part-funding for 51 participants from CEE countries. These participants came from 19 CEE countries (Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Estonia; Hungary; Kazakhstan; Latvia; Lithuania; Macedonia; Poland; Romania; Russia; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; and Uzbekistan). The average funding per participant was 533 Euro.
- The conference fee for Polish participants was lowered to 200 Euro for the full conference in order to increase Polish participation. This was enhanced by the organisation of two pre-conference activities in Polish.

Special emphasis on participation from young researchers and students

Lodz 2009 also paid special attention to the participation of students and young researchers. A special registration fee for students and young professionals (200 Euro) was set up. Proof of student status was checked by the conference secretariat. We had 60 students/young researchers from 23 countries (17 European countries).

**Table 3: Overview of student/young researcher registration Lodz 2009**

<b>Students/young researchers</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Students/young researchers</b>	<b>No.</b>
Brazil	1	Korea (South)	1
Canada	1	Lithuania	1
Croatia	1	Netherlands	9
Denmark	2	Portugal	2
Egypt	1	Russia	1
Finland	4	Slovenia	1
Germany	5	Spain	1



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Students/young researchers	No.	Students/young researchers	No.
Hungary	2	Sweden	2
India	1	Turkey	1
Ireland	2	United Kingdom	3
Israel	2	United States	1
Italy	15	<b>total</b>	<b>60</b>

### Special emphasis on participation from deans and directors

Thanks to the collaboration of the two associations (EUPHA and ASPHER), we placed a special emphasis on the participation of deans and directors from the 81 schools of public health from 38 countries that are members of ASPHER. This added another dimension to networking and collaboration possibilities. Of these, 48 deans and directors from 29 countries participated.

**Table 4: Overview Schools of public health Lodz 2009**

Schools origin	No. of schools participating	Schools origin	No. of schools participating
Albania	1	Latvia	0
Armenia	1	Lithuania	1
Austria	1	Macedonia	1
Belgium	0	Moldova	0
Bulgaria	2	Netherlands	3
Croatia	1	Norway	1
Czech Republic	0	Poland	2
Denmark	2	Portugal	2
Estonia	1	Romania	1
Finland	2	Russia	1
France	1	Serbia	1
Germany	6	Slovakia	0
Greece	0	Slovenia	0
Hungary	1	Spain	2
Iceland	1	Sweden	2
Ireland	1	Switzerland	1
Israel	1	Turkey	0
Italy	3	United Kingdom	4
Kazakhstan	1	Ukraine	0
		<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>

### 3.2. Plenary programme

The Lodz 2009 programme was set up with plenary sessions on selected public health issues and 70 parallel sessions. See annex 1: conference programme booklet



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**Table 5: Overview of the plenary sessions Lodz 2009**

Day/time	No.	Theme	speakers
Thursday 26 November  12:15-13:00		Opening ceremony	Stanislaw Tarkowski, Poland Ilmo Keskimäki, EUPHA Stojgniew Jacek Sitko, ASPHER Ewa Kopacz, Poland Jerzy Kropiwnicki, Poland Andrzej Rys, European Commission Marc Danzon, WHO/EURO Pawl Gorski, Poland
Thursday 26 November  13:00-14:00	1	Population health in an era of global environmental change: reframing our ideas and methods  From the understanding of infectious disease to their control: what we know and what we do not know!	Anthony McMichael, Australia  Jean-Francois Guégan, France
Thursday 26 November  17:40-18:40	2	20 Years of the European Charter on Environment and Health  Twenty years of the Environment and Health process in Europe  Environment and Health in the European Union: challenges and achievements  Twenty years of the Environment and Health process in Europe – the European Environment Agency perspective  A reaction from the Health and Environment Alliance – HEAL	Marc Danzon, WHO/EURO  Andrzej Rys, European Commission  David Stanners, EEA  Monika Kosinska, HEAL
Friday 27 November  09:00-10:00	3	Global environmental change and health inequalities  Basic occupational health services for all – a global movement for underserved workers	Johan Mackenbach, The Netherlands  Jorma Rantanen, Finland
Friday 27 November  09:00-10:00	4	Ethics and public health  Violence and the short, medium and long term health impact	Zbigniew Szwariski, Poland  Jutta Lindert, Germany
Saturday 28 November	5	United Europe and public health problems: common policies and common responsibility?	Cezary Wlodarczyk, Poland



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Day/time	No.	Theme	speakers
09:00-10:00		From "Public Health in Europe" to "European Public Health"  Future of WHO and public health in Europe – views of the newly elected Regional Director of WHO for Europe	Helmut Brand, The Netherlands  Zsuzsana Jakab, WHO/EURO
Saturday 28 November  14:45-15:45		Closing ceremony	Stanislaw Tarkowski, Poland Stojgniew Jacek Sitko, ASPHER Dineke Zeegers Paget, EUPHA

### 3.3. Parallel programme

Lodz 2009 had a large and diverse parallel programme which consisted of a total of 70 parallel sessions and 13 poster sessions of 90 minutes each. The conference was open to presentations and discussions on all current and emerging issues in public health. The organisers had a special focus on topics related to the main theme of the conference taking into account also the political priorities of the EC. These included:

- 1) Health and disease – an ecological approach
- 2) Global environmental change and populations' health security
- 3) Social and environmental determinants of health
- 4) Health inequalities – reduction needs and approaches
- 5) Health promotion and disease prevention
- 6) Migration and cross-boarder health care
- 7) Health at work – prevention of occupational health risks and diseases
- 8) Nutrition for health and development
- 9) Strengthening the knowledge and information base for public health
- 10) Intercultural and interdisciplinary education and training.

The parallel programme was mainly built on the abstracts submitted to the conference. There are three sorts of abstracts:

- single presentation: if accepted this abstract entitles to a 10 minutes oral presentation or a poster presentation at the conference (depending on the score or specific preference);
- workshop: if accepted this abstract, which consists of more presentations, entitles to one slot (90 minutes) in the conference programme; and
- invitational workshop: for the first time, EUPHA used this tool. Four invitational workshops were organised by: European Commission, WHO/EURO, Centers for Diseases Control (US), and the Commission on social determinants of health

#### Submission process:

Abstracts could be submitted online from 1 February to 1 May 2009. Four different types of abstracts could be submitted:

- research abstract



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- policy abstract
- practice abstract
- training and education abstract.

For each type, different instructions and lay-outs were available. The submitter could opt for a single presentation or a workshop, as well as opt for a poster or oral presentation (preference). In 2009, 516 single abstracts and 48 workshops from 53 countries were submitted by 1 May 2009.

**Table 6: Abstract submission overview and comparison from 2007 to Lodz 2009**

	Helsinki 2007	Lisbon 2008	Lodz 2009
Total number of abstracts	675	741	564
Single presentations	618	697	516
- research abstracts	537	534	415
- policy abstracts*	81	40	37
- practice abstracts		86	44
- training abstracts		42	20
- oral presentation preferred	464	507	414
- specific poster presentation	154	84	102
Workshops	57	39	48

Abstract submitters had the possibility to select a EUPHA section that best fitted their abstract. 483 submitters used this possibility. The results are presented in the table below.

**Table 7: Overview of submitted abstracts per topic Lodz 2009 (compared to Lisbon 2008)**

Topic	2008	2009	accepted oral	accepted poster	rejected
Child and adolescent public health	68	37	12	18	7
Chronic diseases	28	22	4	12	6
Environment related diseases	30	18	5	9	4
Ethics in public health		2	0	2	0
Food and nutrition	17	14	3	8	3
Health promotion	58	51	12	27	12
Health services research	86	52	21	27	4
Infectious diseases control	34	14	6	7	1
Injury prevention and safety promotion	14	8	2	5	1
Migrant health	37	35	15	20	0
Public health economics	13	9	4	3	2
Public health epidemiology	101	68	24	37	7
Public health genomics	2	2	1	0	1
Public health practice and policy	56	55	28	20	7
Public mental health	25	24	8	14	2
Social security and health	24	31	18	12	1
Utilisation of medicines	12	9	4	4	1
Training and education	33	19	4	8	7



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Topic	2008	2009	accepted oral	accepted poster	rejected
Urban health (initiative for a section)		13	6	7	0
<b>total</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>66</b>

53 countries submitted single presentation abstracts.

**Table 8: Overview of countries submitting abstracts for Lodz 2009**

Country	Abstracts	Country	abstracts
Albania	1	Kazakhstan	1
Armenia	6	Korea (South)	3
Australia	1	Kosova	3
Austria	9	Latvia	1
Bangladesh	1	Lithuania	7
Belgium	9	Macedonia	5
Brazil	4	Malaysia	3
Bulgaria	5	Nepal	2
Canada	4	Netherlands	43
China	1	Norway	18
Croatia	6	Poland	46
Czech Republic	2	Portugal	19
Denmark	12	Romania	15
Ecuador	1	Russia	4
Finland	19	Serbia	7
France	10	Singapore	1
Georgia	1	Slovakia	17
Germany	30	Slovenia	4
Greece	2	Spain	14
Hungary	7	Sweden	40
Iceland	1	Switzerland	4
India	4	Taiwan	3
Indonesia	2	Turkey	3
Israel	3	Ukraine	1
Italy	63	United Kingdom	37
Japan	3	United States	7
		Uzbekistan	1

Selection process:

The selection of the abstracts is based on an analysis of each abstract by our International Scientific Committee (ISC). This year, the ISC was assisted by 3 ASPHER experts (for the training and education abstracts) as well as by the presidents of the 16 EUPHA sections.



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**Table 9: Overview of members of the International Scientific Committee Lodz 2009**

Country	First name	Last Name	Member status
Albania	Genc	Burazeri	regular member
Austria	Horst	Noack	regular member
Belgium	Antoon	De Schryver	regular member
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Izet	Masic	regular member
Croatia	Luka	Kovacic	regular member
Czech Republic	Ilona	Koupilova	regular member
Denmark	Finn	Diderichsen	regular member
Finland	Elina	Hemminki	EUPHA section
Finland	Jaakko	Kaprio	regular member
Finland	Enni	Mertanen	EUPHA section
France	Antoine	FLAHAULT	ASPHER member
France	Thierry	Lang	regular member
Germany	Wilhelm	Kirch	regular member
Germany	Jutta	Lindert	EUPHA section
Hungary	Péter	Józan	regular member
Iceland	Lilja	Jónsdóttir	regular member
Italy	Pietro	Folino-Gallo	EUPHA section
Italy	Roberto	Gasparini	regular member
Italy	Giuseppe	La Torre	EUPHA section
Latvia	Girts	Brigis	regular member
Lithuania	Ramune	Kalediene	regular member
Macedonia	Doncho	Donev	regular member
Malta	Natasha	Azzopardi Muscat	EUPHA section
Malta	Julian	Mamo	regular member
Netherlands	Helmut	Brand	ASPHER member
Netherlands	Diana	Delnoij	EUPHA member
Netherlands	Walter	Devillé	EUPHA section
Netherlands	Niek	Klazinga	chair 2010
Netherlands	Andre	Meijer	ASPHER member
Netherlands	Maarten	Postma	EUPHA section
Netherlands	Peter	van den Hazel	EUPHA section
Netherlands	Auke	Wiegersma	EUPHA section
Norway	Dag	Bruusgaard	regular member
Norway	Johan	Lund	EUPHA section
Poland	Krzysztof	Krajewski-Siuda	local member
Poland	Konrad	Rydzynski	local member
Poland	Stanislaw	Tarkowski	regular member
Poland	Cezary	Wlodarczyk	local member
Poland	Mirosław	Wysocki	local member
Poland	Jan	Zeida	Chair
Portugal	Carlos	Matias Dias	regular member
Romania	Silvia	Florescu	regular member
Serbia and Montenegro	Snezana	Ukropina	regular member
Slovakia	Iveta	Rajnicova Nagyova	regular member
Slovenia	Tit	Albreht	regular member
Spain	Maria Luisa	Vázquez-Navarrete	regular member
Sweden	Kristina	Alexanderson	EUPHA section



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Country	First name	Last Name	Member status
Sweden	Urban	Janlert	regular member
Switzerland	Thomas	Abel	EUPHA section
Switzerland	Nicole	Probst-Hensch	regular member
United Kingdom	Ruth	Gelletlie	EUPHA section
United Kingdom	Ellen	Nolte	regular member

The International Scientific Committee scored each individual abstract. Each abstract was scored by a minimum of 3 committee members. The selection criteria included looking at questions like:

- Is it an internationally comparative study;
- Is the design of the study appropriate;
- Have the data been collected and processed;
- Are there (preliminary) results;
- Does the study provide new insights in the field of the study;
- Is the practice/policy innovative;
- Is the design of the practice appropriate;
- Can the practice be used in other countries/settings;
- Are there lessons to be learned?

Of the 53 members of the International Scientific Committee, 34 scored abstracts. The members of the scientific committee used a rating scale ranging from 1 to 5 for the final judgement. The overall average of all judges and all (single) abstracts was: 3.441. The average judgement per abstract varied from 5.000 (highest score) to 1.000 (lowest score). The overall average of all judges for the workshops was: 3.423. The average judgement per workshop varied from 4.500 (highest score) to 1.750 (lowest score).

The International Scientific Committee, together with the EUPHA and ASPHER representatives and the Local Organising Committee 2009 made the following decisions:

Workshops:

Six invitational workshops will be organised.

Break-off point for submitted workshops: score < 3.600. This means that 32 workshops were accepted.

Oral presentations 2009:

32 slots are filled with single presentations = 192 abstracts. Break-off point for oral presentation is > 3.667.

Poster presentations 2009:

We have room for around 250 posters, we will accept posters up to the mean score of 2.667.

**Table 10: Overview of the scoring results of the different types of abstracts**

	submitted	accepted oral	%	accepted poster	%	rejected	%
Research	418	147	35.17	205	49.04	66	15.79
Policy	37	24	64.86	11	29.73	2	5.41
Practice	44	18	40.91	22	50.00	4	9.09
Training and education	21	3	14.29	12	57.14	6	28.57
<b>total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>36.92</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>48.08</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>15.00</b>



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Parallel programme set-up:

After the selection of the abstracts, the oral and poster programmes were set up. There are two options to fill one time slot:

*Sessions*

These are constituted of a variety of public health themes relating to the main themes of the conference. Each parallel session consists of six presentations on a common theme chaired by two experts. The presentations are made up of submitted abstracts selected and grouped by the ISC.

*Workshops*

In contrast to parallel sessions, which are grouped by the ISC, workshops are organised by EUPHA sections and key partners (European Commission, WHO, Open Society Institute). The workshop organisers select their own speakers with the specification to select speakers from different countries, portraying their country's policy or practice or project. EC projects, like for example the MEHO (Migrant and Ethnic Health Observatory) project, are main organisers of workshops.

The programme offers 7 times slots of 90 minutes for the parallel programme. The conference venue had 10 rooms available for the parallel programme. The 70 available slots were filled with 6 invitational workshops, 32 parallel sessions and 32 workshops.

The Lodz 2009 programme was set up in tracks, making it easier for participants to follow a specific subject. The division in tracks was based on two factors:

- the priorities in the EU health programme 2008-2013; and
- the themes of the abstracts accepted for oral presentation.

The parallel programme was set up in 10 tracks:

**Table 11: Overview of the 10 tracks at Lodz 2009**

No.	Track	No. of Parallel sessions	No. of workshops
1	Human ecology and public health	2	5
2	European policy and research	0	7
3	Health services	4	3
4	Health promotion and injury prevention	5	2
5	Mental health and chronic diseases	3	4
6	Occupational health	6	1
7	Child and adolescent public health and Migrant health	3	4
8	Public health workforce: capacity building	1	6
9	Surveillance, monitoring and performance	3	4
10	International health	5	2

Of these tracks, half were based on the priorities of the EU work plan.



**Table 12: Attendance in the different oral sessions**

	Track	Timeslot						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Human ecology and public health	30-50	10-30	50-100	30-50	10-30	10-30	10-30
2	European policy and research	50-100	>100	30-50	10-30		10-30	Up to 10
3	Health services						10-30	
4	Health promotion and injury prevention	30-50	30-50	10-30	30-50	30-50		10-30
5	Mental health and chronic diseases						30-50	10-30
6	Occupational health			55	30-50	30-50	30-50	
7	Child and adolescent public health and Migrant health		10-30	10-30			30-50	
8	Public health workforce: capacity building		10-30					
9	Surveillance, monitoring and performance					30-50	30-50	10-30
10	International health				10-30	10-30	10-30	12

Poster programme

Out of all submitted abstracts, 250 abstracts were accepted for poster presentation at the conference. Of these, 249 were displayed at the conference and discussed in 13 moderated poster sessions parallel to the oral programme. At the same time, a slide show of about 250 of these posters (that were sent to EUPHA office before the start of the conference) was regularly shown at the EUPHA stand.

**Table 13: Overview of the Poster sessions during Lodz 2009**

No.	Track	No. of posters	No. of attendants
1	Health care and health systems	15	
2	Pregnancy, perinatal care and infant health	19	10-30
3	Health systems and health policy	11	10-30
4	Nutrition, obesity and diabetes	18	10-30
5	Health promotion	17	10-30
6	Inequalities and migrant health	23	
7	Mental health and chronic diseases	20	10-30
8	Occupational health	23	10-30
9	Infectious diseases	13	
10	Child and adolescent public health	24	10-30
11	Elderly and women	22	10-30
12	Environmental health	28	Up to ten
13	Training and education	16	10-30



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### Abstract prizes:

Every year, the conference organisers award abstract prizes in three different categories. The first prize, which consists of a waiver of conference fees for the year after, is for the highest scoring abstract. For Lodz 2009, there were 3 highest scoring abstracts (all perfect 5.000):

1. Niels Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark for his abstract entitled: Use of medicines, illness and perceived economic problems. Results from a cross-national comparative survey
2. Dennis Lenaway, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States for his abstract entitled: System Performance and Community Impacts: Using the National PH Performance Standards.
3. Johan Van der Heyden, Scientific Institute of Public Health, Belgium for his abstract entitled: Physician density at municipal level and ambulatory health care consumption: a multi-level analysis

The second prize is the Ferenc Bojan memorial prize, which is awarded to the highest scoring abstract from a Central or Eastern European country. In 2009, this prize went to Ágnes Molnár, University of Debrecen, Hungary for her abstract entitled: Health impact assessment of Roma housing policies in Central and Eastern Europe

The third prize is for the highest scoring poster presentation. The members of the International Scientific Committee, the General Assembly of ASPHER and the Governing Council of EUPHA are invited to select up to 3 posters for this prize. In 2009, the best poster prize went to Gabriele Messina, University of Siena, Italy for his poster entitled: How many bacteria live on the keyboard of your computer?

### **3.4. Pre-conference programme**

Several pre-conference and satellite activities were organised around the official programme of Lodz 2009:

**Table 14: Overview of pre-conferences Lodz 2009:**

No.	Pre-conference	Organiser	Date	Reg fee	No. of registered participants
1	Pre-conference day of the EUPHA section on public mental health	EUPHA	25-11-2009	110	37
2	7th pre-conference of the EUPHA section on social security and health: theories and methods in research on gender aspects of sickness absence	EUPHA	25-11-2009	80	60
3	Pre-conference training seminar in environmental public health	EUPHA	25-11-2009	50	7
4	EPHA policy workshop: Tackling wider determinants of health: effective policy change	EPHA	25-11-2009	50	15



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No.	Pre-conference	Organiser	Date	Reg fee	No. of registered participants
5	Pre-conference - Alcohol, accidents and injuries - risk factor and prevention	EUPHA	25-11-2009	50	21
6	ASPHER: young researchers forum	ASPHER	25-11-2009	0	62
7	Technical meeting: Setting research strategies in the field of migrant and ethnic health (open for section members)	EUPHA	25-11-2009	0	35
8	ASPHER pre-conference: Development of the European public health core competencies for public health education: principles, coordination and administration	ASPHER	26-11-2009	50	36
9	EPHA policy workshop: The Future of Public Health Advocacy in Poland (in Polish language)	EPHA	26-11-2009	50	3
10	Closing the health gap in the European Union	Polish partner	26-11-2009	0	103
11	Pre-conference of the EUPHA section on public health economics: Health and economic growth in Europe with infertility case studies	EUPHA	26-11-2009	50	cancelled
12	Round table: Immunisation of adults and elderly: how to make life course vaccination a successful public health strategy	EUPHA	26-11-2009	0	51
13	Pre-conference of DG Research: Future research priorities	DG research	26-11-2009	0	1
14	National Conference: Education and Employment Needs for Public Health (in Polish)	Polish association of public health, in cooperation with ASPHER and the European Commission	26-11-2009	0	

311 participants (= 33,8%) also registered for at least one pre-conference activity.



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### 3.5. Extra meetings

A large number of extra meetings were planned during the conference programme. Two plenary activities were planned over lunch on Friday and Saturday. On Friday 27 November, ASPHER awarded the Andreija Stampar award during the plenary lunch. This distinction was awarded to the recently deceased Prof. Gudjon Magnusson from Iceland. On Saturday 28 November, EUPHA presented its plans for 2010 and beyond. Prof. Walter Ricciardi, newly elected president-elect, presented the new strategy and work plan of EUPHA for 2010-2014.

All of EUPHA and ASPHER's governing and executive bodies met before and during Lodz 2009. Meetings included:

- EUPHA executive council
- ASPHER executive board
- EUPHA governing council
- ASPHER general assembly

Other meetings included meetings of the EJPH editorial board, EJPH council, International Conference Council, International Scientific Committee, annual meetings of 18 EUPHA sections and 8 ASPHER working groups and local organising meetings for future conferences.

The extra meeting rooms are also offered to international projects and partners. Over the years, we see a slow increase in the use of this offer. At Lodz 2009, the following projects and partners used this offer:

- EPHA – executive board meeting (partner)
- UEMS section for public health (partner)
- MEHO project meeting (project)
- Meeting of the Nordic Public Health Association (partner)
- Meeting of the Norwegian Public Health Association (member)
- WHO-WFPHA-EUPHA-ASPHER: collaboration meeting (partners)
- STEPS management committee meeting (project)
- STEPS project partners meeting (project)

### 3.6. Lodz 2009: deliverables

The following deliverables were delivered as planned.

#### Abstract supplement to the European Journal of Public Health (annex 2)

EUPHA publishes a refereed bi-monthly journal, the European Journal of Public Health, with an impact factor of 2.176. The accepted abstracts for each European Public Health Conference are published as a supplement to this journal. The hard copies are distributed at the conference; the electronic version is accessible to all EJPH subscribers (over 6000 worldwide).

#### Conference programme booklet (annex 1)

The Lodz programme booklet was inserted into the conference bag for each participant and is available on the conference website: [www.eupha.org](http://www.eupha.org).

#### Participants' evaluation report (annex 4)



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The participants of Lodz 2009 were invited to evaluate the conference on two occasions. An evaluation form was included in the conference bag to be filled out and returned to the EUPHA - ASPHER stand. In January, a reminder was sent to all participants using an online questionnaire to evaluate the conference. The results of this evaluation were made available on the conference website in February 2010.

#### Final technical and financial report

The final technical and financial report was due by 31 March, but was delayed by 2 months due to delays in receiving and analysing all necessary information. It will be made available to a larger audience on the conference website as of July 2010.

#### Internal evaluation report

Every annual conference is internally evaluated. The aim of these internal evaluations is to see whether the organisation can be improved and whether the capacity building of that specific conference has been successful. The objectives were evaluated using a multi-layered method of 10 tools. The internal evaluation report is sent to the organisers, future organisers and EC officials with the aim to improve the organisation of future conferences.

#### Lodz 2009 summary (in Polish) (annex 9)

A summary of Lodz 2009 was published in Polish language in April 2010. The summary is entitled: EKOLOGIA CZŁOWIEKA I ZDROWIE PUBLICZNE. 2 EUROPEJSKA KONFERENCJA ZDROWIA PUBLICZNEGO, Łódź, 25-28 listopada 2009 r. and was published by the Polskie Towarzystwo Zdrowia Publicznego. This summary has been disseminated among public health scientists, practitioners and students.

### **3.7. Lodz 2009: visibility**

In order to attract more participants and enhance the visibility of the event and the organising associations, information and regular updates on the conference are distributed via different channels:

#### Conference announcements (annexes 5 and 6)

The first announcement of Lodz 2009 was distributed at the 2008 joint European Public Health EUPHA conference in Lisbon, Portugal. It was then published on the EUPHA webpage. A presentation of the theme and location of Lodz 2009 was presented in the closing session of Lisbon 2008.

A second announcement, including the ASPHER 2008 first announcement, was put on the website (July 2008) and distributed to the EUPHA members (hard copy distribution together with the European Journal of Public Health) in August 2008.

Our members were informed by email of the new upcoming conference and invited to put the first and second announcements on their websites and use their distribution systems to inform their members.

The announcement was mailed to the Polish institutions, universities and institutes connected with the public health. It was also distributed to the participants of the 12th World Congress on Public Health, April 27 - May 1, 2009, Istanbul, Turkey.

#### European Journal of Public Health columns (annex 3)

In the European Journal of Public Health, updates on Lodz 2009 were regularly published:

- 2009 issues 1, 2, 3 and 4
- 2010 issues 1 and 2



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#### Newsletter

The monthly electronic newsletter is distributed to over 5000 public health experts and includes prime information on the upcoming conference. The monthly electronic newsletter of EUPHA included an update on the conference in 13 issues (issue 2008-12 to issue 2009-12).

#### Website

The websites (EUPHA, ASPHER) were updated regularly with conference news. The EUPHA website had an average of 317.311 hits/month.

#### Conference newsletters 1 and 2 (annexes 7 and 8)

One month before the conference, two electronic conference newsletters were distributed to all registered participants. The newsletters included an update on the programme, pre-conference activities, how to find your way in and to Lodz, the hotels, weather and social activities.

## 4. Objective 2: A successful European public health conference

The outcomes of Lodz 2009 were formulated as follows. EUPHA expected to:

- Organise a successful conference in view of **logistics** and **management**, partner **collaboration**;
- Collaborate more closely with **European public health NGOs**; and international organisations (WHO, EEA)

Lodz 2009 was the second joint conference organised by EUPHA and ASPHER. Both associations have a long history of organising annual conferences, all of which have been scientifically and financially successful. Organisation and responsibilities were shared between the central offices and the local organisers in Lodz. This shared responsibility ensured the quality of a sound, state-of-the-art and interesting conference with a widely spread attendance and content of the conference.

The planning of Lodz 2009 started in 2006 with the selection of the conference theme, location and local organisation by the EUPHA governing bodies (Executive Council and Governing Council) among applicants. ASPHER agreed in 2007 to join the planning, thereby making it the 2nd joint conference.

The methodology used is based on a regularly updated conference manual in which the tasks and responsibilities, as well as the time frame for the activities are clearly described. To ensure the quality of the organisational process, the conference manual is updated regularly and supplies the local organising committee (LOC) with a concise guide for hosting an annual scientific conference with the ongoing support of the central offices.

By way of the manual, the LOC is supplied with:

- a conference format (set-up and length of sessions, plenaries, workshops, poster sessions, conference dinner, etc.)
  - the spatial demands of a conference (number and size of rooms needed, registration space, exhibition areas)
  - the conference materials needed
  - a conference schedule starting in Month 46 before, „counting down“ until the day of the conference.
- Throughout the years, the manual has proven a useful and efficient tool for the organisation of conferences of this size.



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#### 4.1. Logistics of the conference

##### Venue general

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Public Health Conference took place in the system of monumental edifices located in Ogrodowa Street, one of the most spectacular examples of the power of the Lodz industry of the 'steam-engine' era. Lodz 2009 was organised at the newly-opened Andel's hotel conference centre, located in a former textile mill on the grounds of the Manufaktura art and culture centre. The conference centre was carefully renovated under strict adherence to the guidelines of historic building. The registration desk was situated at the main entrance of the conference centre. Wireless access was provided throughout the duration of the conference throughout the entire conference centre. The modern ambience and technical equipment of the conference centre added to the overall success and participants' satisfaction.

##### Session rooms

For Lodz 2009, 11 session rooms were reserved. The plenary room had space for over 1000 participants, the 12 parallel rooms varied from 50 to 500 seats. All rooms were equipped with audio-visual facilities and manned by technicians to assist in case any problems occurred.

##### Meeting rooms and office space

Further to this, the conference venue offered two meeting rooms, specifically reserved for EUPHA and ASPHER internal meetings (see 3.1.c. extra meetings). These two rooms were intensively used by our partners and by EUPHA itself. The EUPHA – ASPHER office space was transformed into a third meeting room to be used by EUPHA and our partners.

##### Exhibition area

There were three large exhibition areas. The large bottom floor exhibition area was used for poster presentations and guided poster sessions, which turned out to be a big success. Furthermore, there was an exhibition area for commercial exhibitors in front of the plenary halls on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The associations' stands and partner stands were situated near the registration area in the lobby of the ground floor.

##### List of exhibitors:

- EUPHA - European Public Health Association;
- ASPHER - The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region;
- EU - European Union;
- NIVEL – Netherland Institute of Health Services Research;
- Oxford University Press;
- European Observatory on health Systems and Policies.

##### Catering

Coffee and tea was offered during all breaks in the programme (Wednesday, Thursday morning and afternoon, Friday morning and afternoon, Saturday morning). The coffee breaks were accompanied by different pastries. The lunch breaks were held in the hotel-owned restaurant on-site and were organised in a rather flexible manner, adjusting to the needs of the conference attendants. According to the programme, lunches were offered on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

##### Welcome reception and conference dinner

Lodz is famous for its beautifully refurbished tenements and residential structures of great factory magnates - the real gems of Art Nouveau and eclecticism - as well as museum collections and unrivalled nineteenth-century industrial architecture. The magnificent interiors of the Poznański



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Palace, including the Empire style ballroom and the baroque dining room with outstanding stucco works, hosted the welcome reception on Thursday, 26 November 2009. The Poznański Palace, built by the textile magnate Izrael Poznański, has been listed as one of the largest and greatest residence palaces of its type.

The conference dinner took place on Friday, 27 November at the Toya Studios, the most famous film studio in Poland. Transportation to and from the hotels was arranged for all participants. This is a particular address in Poland, known from productions of the greatest Polish movies. Nowadays it has changed into a modern complex of sound, film and concert studios. This place was chosen as a connection with the film production origin of Lodz and to make a reference to the beautiful palaces of factory owners. The dinner was organised in a "film set" showing Piotrkowska Street (in the first room) and a palace ballroom in the second room. The guests felt like being invited to the factory magnate's dinner thanks to the magnificent show performed by waiters. The lively music made the evening complete and allowed participants to have a wonderful time apart from the scientific programme.

### Extra activities

For those interested, city-sightseeing tours (Lodz in a nutshell) and other tourist activities were organised. Some of these activities were organised specifically for partners, as for example the whole-day tour of Cracow. Generally, these types of offers are not attended too well, simply for the reason that the actual conference programme is very intense and busy and leaves little time for such activities. Generally, tour organisers find that conference participants make most use of the Wednesday and Sunday offers.

## **4.2. Management of Lodz 2009**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> European Public Health Conference in 2009 was the first to be organised as a fully joint effort between the two European public health organisations EUPHA and ASPHER. As a further step after the "back-to-back" organisation of the 2008 conference in Lisbon, the 17<sup>th</sup> annual EUPHA conference and the 31<sup>st</sup> annual ASPHER conference were organised as one joint conference, offering one joint programme.

The initial planning of the Lodz 2009 EUPHA conference started in Graz, Austria at the 2005 conference with the selection of the conference location, theme and local organisation by the EUPHA governing bodies (Executive Council and Governing Council).

The organisational tasks and responsibilities were clearly divided between the local organisers and the EUPHA office with the support of the ASPHER office and the supervision of the governing bodies of both associations. The original framework and logistics of the EUPHA conference have developed over time and with experience. All of the previously separately organised conferences were scientifically and financially successful, yet the merging of the two diverging conference set-ups requested certain adaptations and a new flexibility. This proved to be a challenge during certain periods of the organisational process, yet in the evaluation process, the organising parties felt that the advantages of this conference merger outweighed by far the challenges and problems encountered along the way.

The management of EUPHA conferences in general and Lodz 2009 in particular is based on a regularly updated EUPHA conference manual in which the tasks and responsibilities as well as the time frame for the activities are clearly described. To ensure the quality of the organisational process, the EUPHA conference manual is updated regularly and supplies the local organising committee



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(LOC) with a concise guide for hosting an annual EUPHA conference with the ongoing support of the EUPHA central office. For this specific conference, a complete revision process of the manual has been started to adapt the manual to the changed circumstances of the conferences, while supplying important tools and specific steps needed. The governing bodies of both associations and board of past organisers have been very involved in this process.

#### EUPHA office

EUPHA office is responsible for the entire registration process, starting from the implementation of an online registration system and drawing up of an individual registration form for the conference, to handling communication and information transfer to registrants, to the payment procedure and onsite consulting and managing the registration and payments process.

Furthermore, EUPHA office is in charge of the abstract handling process from implementing an online submission system to drawing up online forms for parallel sessions and workshops, to contacting the scoring experts of the International Scientific Committee, preparing the June meeting to finalise the selection process, communicating with all submitters and informing them on acceptance or rejection, to finally preparing all contributions for the abstract supplement of the European Journal of Public Health. The final step is the drawing up of the programme of all parallel sessions according to the selection of accepted abstracts.

EUPHA office was the main partner of the local organisers. The collaboration with the local colleagues was smooth, efficient, fruitful and professional, which added to the overall pleasant atmosphere at the conference. The communication was very intense and positive and the strengths of both partners used to ensure a smooth collaboration and a successful outcome. Additionally, EUPHA office carried out negotiations with partners and sponsors and handled promotion and dissemination activities.

EUPHA office is assisted by the Executive Council, Governing Council, the International Conference Council and the International Scientific Committee.

Key staff EUPHA: Dineke Zeegers Paget: EUPHA Executive Director; Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb: EUPHA conference coordinator; and Birgit Ruess: EUPHA conference financial officer.

#### Local organisers

The local organisers chose the main theme of the conference and designed the keynote programme, choosing speakers in collaboration with the two organising associations, inviting them and negotiating their plenary talks. Furthermore, the local organisers were in charge of the on-site organisation, all printed materials and the conference logistics (negotiations and rental of the venue, catering during the conference, conference dinner, management of accommodation, transportation, etc.).

The local organisers were assisted by staff from Mazurkas, a professional congress organiser based in Warsaw.

Local key staff: Stan Tarkowski: chair of the conference, Robert Klarecki: local conference manager.

### **4.3. EUPHA-LOC collaboration**

The EUPHA – LOC collaboration was very successful. The basis for the collaboration was the conference manual which was followed in a very detailed manner by the local organisers. Thanks to the open communication, the organisation of the conference was smooth, efficient and highly



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appreciated by the participants. The collaboration with the local organising team is best described as efficient, warm and pleasant.

#### **4.4. EUPHA-ASPHER collaboration**

After the pioneering effort of a joint organisation with ASPHER 2008 in Lisbon, the 2009 European Public Health Conference took a big step forward and fully merged the programme and the organisational structures. This in turn was again a step towards a movement of synergies between public health organisations on the European level to guide the future development of public health in Europe, with the future goal of inviting all the major public health associations to join in this effort of organising one major joint European conference on public health.

Unlike the organisational set-up in Lisbon in 2008, there was no local ASPHER representative on the local organising committee. This meant that all organisational matters had to be cleared with the ASPHER office or board members directly, which often made the decision-making process rather lengthy and the workload unevenly divided. This is a lesson learned from this year's organisation, and for the 2010 conference an ASPHER representative has been actively involved on the local level from the start.

Nonetheless, the collaboration and communication between the EUPHA and ASPHER offices, which has been ongoing for many years, was good, positively open and constructive. The fact that both conference programmes were merged took a pragmatic approach from both offices with the topics of identity and tradition accompanying them throughout the process. The two associations are run in a different manner and both had to compromise and let go of certain long-known approaches and ideas in order to make this pioneer effort succeed.

The financial responsibility of both sides was not handled to the full satisfaction and is on a list of things to improve in the future. What was mainly lacking in preparation to the 2009 conference was a clear Memorandum of Understanding between the partners with finely defined task, duties and financial obligations.

#### **4.5. Joint activities and collaboration with other NGOs**

In 2008, first ideas on collaborating with other European NGOs took place with EPHA (European Public Health Alliance). Throughout the planning process for Lodz 2009, not only EPHA was involved in organising part of the conference, but other European NGOs joined as well, including:

- The European Environment Agency
- The European Society for Quality in Healthcare
- The Union of European Medical Specialists (section for public health)

We are planning to continue these joint activities and collaboration in future years.



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## 5. Evaluation of the conference

Every annual conference is internally evaluated. The aim of these internal evaluations is to see whether the organisation can be improved and whether the capacity building of that specific conference has been successful. The objectives of the conference were:

- a. To build the capacity of public health experts by actively organising the European (international) exchange of knowledge and best practice;
- b. To organise a successful European public health conference.

Following the input from EAHC on last year's evaluation, we increased the participants' evaluation possibilities by supplying an online evaluation form. The objectives will be evaluated using a multi-layered method of 10 tools:

- analysis of the list of participants
- participants' questionnaire
- EUPHA section presidents' questionnaire
- EUPHA-ASPHER core group questionnaire
- Questionnaire for the chairs of the parallel sessions
- Scoring by the international scientific committee of the abstracts submitted
- Feedback from the international scientific committee (content and organisation)
- Evaluation EUPHA and ASPHER offices
- Evaluation local organisers
- Meeting with representatives from DG Sanco and DG Research
- Analysis of deliverables.

Participants' questionnaires were made available on the EUPHA website for participants to complete after the conference. The participants' evaluation report (see annex 4) was published on both websites.

The internal evaluation report is distributed to future organisers and main partners and mainly used to discuss how to improve the objectives of the next conference(s).

## 6. Conclusions

Lodz 2009 had two objectives:

- to build the capacity of public health experts by actively organising the European (international) exchange of knowledge and best practice; and
- to organise a successful European public health conference.

Both objectives were reached.

The Lodz 2009 conference was very successful. We had just over 800 participants travelling to Lodz and participating in the 5 plenary sessions, 70 oral sessions and 13 poster sessions that were organised between 25 and 28 November. In conclusion:

- the conference is interesting to a wide audience.
- a steady number of participants can be seen.
- an increase in interest for the conference can be seen.
- an increase in policy and practice-based presentations can be seen.



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- joining EUPHA and ASPHER conferences is beneficial to both associations.
- offering the possibility of meetings and other extra activities increase the capacity building objective.
- the active combination of Lodz 2009 with existing and new EU projects was beneficial.
- The organisation of the conference was smooth, efficient and highly appreciated by the participants.
- The partnership for Lodz 2009 was positive. The collaboration with our key partner, ASPHER, was smooth and the joint stand of EUPHA and ASPHER showed that both organisations can work well together.
- Partnerships expanded, as well. The European Environment Agency, EPHA and the European Society for Quality in Healthcare were some of the collaborating partners in the programme, which is something we wish to continue in the coming years.

Both EUPHA and ASPHER plan to continue the joining of their conferences in the near future.