7.A. Round table: Multilateral Partnerships to achieve the SDG5: Gender Equality, and to combat COVID-19

Organised by: SDG5 WG EUPHA, EUPHA-HWR, EUPHA-INJ, WHO/Europe
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Gender Equality is vital for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world for all individuals. Care- and help-seeking behaviour is strongly associated with health status, but, also gender, with women’s health strongly correlating to that of the whole family and directly linked to the wellbeing of all members in our communities, and the resilience and sustainability of health systems. Health and social care delivery has been lacking a gender-centred approach, with a two-prong effect, on professionals/workforce (hierarchies and leadership imbalance) and on users/recipients/care seekers (lack of gender-sensitive care provision). The COVID-19 pandemic is a global health threat and societal challenge that has already exacerbated pre-existing structural gender inequalities. It is, therefore, imperative to rebuild a better, gender-equal society for the future. This crisis has highlighted the roles of women in the health workforce, incl. as informal carers for vulnerable adults and children. The increase in gender-based violence has also come to the spotlight, due to lockdown measures, implemented to combat COVID-19, resulting in serious physical and mental harm, as well as socioeconomic damages. Furthermore, sexual and reproductive health rights have been particularly affected due to pre-existing barriers across Member-States placing additional strain on individuals and systems. All these compounding factors also result in further limiting access to leadership positions for women. This roundtable aims to capture the perspective of our interdisciplinary panelists from leading European and global institutions to comprehensively map the needs, priorities, and key action areas of public health, in order to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls across the globe.

Objectives:
1. Assess the roles of women in the health workforce, to highlight gender inequalities, and to discuss regional differences across the European Region;
2. Present and discuss the new Gender Equality Index 2021 (to be released end of Oct 2021), which will focus on health in relation to gender equality, covering mental health, sexual and reproductive health and pandemics of communicable diseases, and in particular of COVID-19;
3. Combine the perspective of academia, multilateral bodies, practitioners and NGOs, for concerted action to combat the increase in sexual and domestic violence, and to
4. Bridge disparities and overcome barriers to gender-sensitive health and social care services for all women, incl., migrant and refugee populations.

The roundtable brings together for the first time EUPHA, WHO, UN Women, and of the European Institute for Gender...
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assess indirect health effects of the pandemic (i.e., morbidity
across continents and country income. Future research should
chronic diseases during the pandemic, with certain disparities
We observed decreased service utilization in people with
getting care (OR = 1.64; 95% CI = 1.50-1.79).
Finally, individuals from LMICs reported higher difficulties in
access (in America and Europe, respectively).
America, and Asia. Older age was associated with fewer
difficulties getting non-COVID related care,
diseases had difficulties getting non-COVID-19 related care,
country (LMIC) (31%). Overall, 30% of people with chronic
The study included 28,340 individuals from 33 countries
Results:
Stratified analysis was conducted for three continents
difficulties and presence of
Logistic regressions were used to test association between
COVID-19 impacted health service utilization in individuals
worldwide. This cross-sectional study aims to explore how
COVID-19 containment measures, such as stay-at-home
Background:
3Department of Psychology, University of Quebec at Montreal, Montreal,
2Montreal Behavioural Medicine Centre, CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’Île-de-
1Department of Health, Kinesiology, and Applied Physiology, Concordia
J Stojanovic1,2, F Deslauriers2,3, KL Lavoie2,3, SL Bacon1,2, iCARE study
Health services use in people with chronic diseases

Equality, in a joint effort for European and global public
health, to support our workforce and safeguard the future.
Mindful of the role women in health and social care, we also
include panelists from the International Confederation of
Midwives and from NGOs working in the field of combating
violence against women.
Speakers/Panelists:
Carlien Scheele
European Institute for Gender Equality, Vilnius, Lithuania
Alia El Yassir
UN Women, Istanbul, Turkey
Victoria Vivilaki
International Confederation of Midwives, Den Haag, Netherlands
Iveta Nagyova

Pille Tsopp-Pagan
Women against Violence Europe Network, Vienna, Austria
Key messages:
• We need to join forces to fight sexual and domestic violence,
as major public health threats globally, considering their
worsening during the COVID-19 pandemic.
• Women account for the majority of caregivers and
healthcare workers, especially nurses, explore the untapped
potential of midwives, and step up efforts to strengthen
protection and support.