



NEWSLETTER

International Federation of Environmental Health

April 2012 Edition

IFEH Newsletter – April 2012

Welcome to the April 2012 edition of the IFEH Newsletter. This is the last Newsletter before the next World Congress on Environmental Health which is due to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania.



The Congress is being organised by the Lithuanian Union of Hygienists and Epidemiologists (LUHE). The organisation was founded in 1885, when a sanitary section was established in the Vilnius Medical Society.

The main organisational goals of the LUHE are hygiene, epidemiology, public health care science, analysis of practical activities, publications, training, raising qualification standards, licensing physicians - public health specialists and epidemiologists of Lithuania.

The LUHE has over 300 members who are practitioners and researchers from the State Public Health Service and Regional Public Health Centres, Centre for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Centre of Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, Radiation Protection Centre, National Public Health Care Laboratory, Institute of Hygiene, Ministry of Health, State Food and Veterinary Service, State Environmental Protection Inspection, Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University, Public Health Faculty of Kaunas University of Medicine.

The activities of the LUHE are organised by a national board and managed by the chairperson, currently Viktorija Montviliene, the deputy chairman is Professor Rimantas Stukas. In order to improve coordination and dissemination of information to members the organization has five regional centres in the country - Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Siauliai and Panevezys – each with a local board and chairperson.

The LUHE has been a member of the International Federation of Environmental Health since 2000 and won the right to host the 12th World Congress at the IFEH Council meeting held in Dublin in June 2006. The chairperson of the congress committee is also Viktorija Montviliene

The Congress will take place in Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Konstitucijos pr. 20, Vilnius. The hotel is situated on the bank of River Neris in the centre of Vilnius, only a 10 minute walk to the Old Town. The meetings of the IFEH Council and the Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd May 2012 within the Congress hotel. Agendas for these meetings have been sent out to member organisations by the IFEH Secretary, Rod House. Further information can be found on the IFEH website. The Council of the Federation wish to encourage all members and those interested in environment and health to join with us in Lithuania at the end of May. The organising committee have been working hard over the last few years in anticipation of a good attendance at this year's congress. Vilnius is a beautiful city and I am sure attendees will not be disappointed when they visit. The congress programme for the week is as follows:-

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

MONDAY (21 Monday 2012)

IFEH Council Meeting

TUESDAY (22 May 2012)

Registration
IFEH Council Meeting
Annual General Meeting
IFEH Regional Groups meetings
International Faculty Forum
Exhibition Opening
Welcome Reception

WEDNESDAY (23 May 2012)

Registration
Opening Ceremony
Plenary Session
Scientific Sessions
Civic Reception



THURSDAY (24 May 2012)

Registration
Plenary Session
Scientific Sessions
Congress Party

FRIDAY (25 May 2012)

Registration
Technical Visits
Workshops
USA Night (hosted by the National Environmental Health Association of USA, site of the 13th IFEH World Congress 2014)

SATURDAY (26 May 2012)

Registration
Plenary Session
Scientific Sessions
Gala Dinner

SUNDAY (27 May 2012)

Closing Session

You can demonstrate your commitment to science by becoming a Sponsor for the 12th World Congress on Environmental Health.

Benefits of Exhibiting/Sponsoring at the Congress:

- Be recognised as a serious player in the environmental health field
- an ideal way to raise your company profile in this competitive market sector
- Reach a new global audience with attendees from more than 30 countries
- Unique opportunity to reach the key decision-makers with targeted promotion to the most relevant contacts
- New partnerships and alliances
- Complimentary entrance to the Congress

There will be many opportunities and prime exhibition space available. The exhibition area will be located adjacent to the Congress facilities and will also serve as lounges for coffee and other refreshments. There are still a few places available. Please contact Congress Secretariat (jurga@aimbaltic.lt) for more information about exhibition/ sponsorship.

Environmental Health Officers Association (EHOA) contribution to World Environmental Health Day 2011

As a member organisation of the IFEH the EHOA decided to celebrate the first World Environmental Health Day by focusing on Children and Environmental Health as a topic of particular importance. It was essential to the EHOA that emphasise would be placed on promoting and developing environmental health education within the general community.

The EHOA launched a national schools poster competition entitled:

KIDS - CREATING A NEW CLIMATE FOR ACTION

This competition was open to all national school children in 5th and 6th classes in the Republic of Ireland. The goal of the poster competition was to encourage and inform children that they can influence environmental factors which affect their own health. It was important that children at a young age realise that everyone can make choices that affect their lifestyle and health.

Launching the competition Shane Keane Chairperson of the EHOA, said that “children are exposed to environmental threats in their homes, schools, streets, play areas, and the homes of their extended families. For generations children have suffered risks from unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, indoor air pollution, insufficient food hygiene, poor housing, and inadequate waste disposal. Increasingly, they face newer threats from the unsafe use of dangerous chemicals; accidents and injuries; the consequences of global climate change and ozone depletion; and exposure to emerging diseases. These risks are aggravated by urban population growth, widespread poverty, consumption of natural resources, and the effects of globalization”.



He concluded by saying that “... children should be aware that they can influence their own environment that surrounds them and affects their own health everyday”.

The flyer which was available to download on the EHOA website www.ehoa.ie and distributed via our members provided lots of information for children in a friendly and informative way.

Illustrations and suggestions were provided on the flyer to get children thinking about how they can make important choices which affect their health. Examples included

- Childhood Obesity – Don't be a Couch Potato
- Sun Safety – Block the Sun not the Fun
- Hand Washing - Wash those Hands
- Smoking - be Smart don't Start
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The response to the competition was overwhelming with hundreds of posters coming in to headquarters from all over the country. A selection of these can be found on <http://www.ehoa.ie/news/and-the-winner-is-.827.html>

The winning poster completed by student Evin Magee from Rathmore National School, Naas, Co. Kildare had a memorable slogan with art work which conveyed several elements in one clear image. It clearly demonstrated that everyone including children can make easy, simple choices that affect their lifestyle and health on their own.

The winning poster will be displayed in the EHOA's annual yearbook in 2012. Rathmore National School received €1,000 to be spent in a fun manner and the winning student received a €250 voucher.

Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS)

REHIS is holding its Twenty- Ninth Annual Conference in The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th April 2012. The full programme is available at www.rehis.com and the theme is 'Protecting the Public in the Environments in which they Live, Work and Travel'.

The Conference will provide an ideal opportunity to hear the latest developments in public health and afford delegates the opportunity catch up with fellow professionals. Attendance can be for the whole Conference or specific sessions. To register please contact Helen Black by e-mail at contact@rehis.com.

All Island Environmental Health Forum 2012

The Environmental Health Officers' Association and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Northern Ireland region are holding their annual seminar – Environmental Health, Healthy People, Healthy Places in the Radisson Blu Farnham Hotel, Cavan on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th May 2012. Further details from Deirdre Fitzsimons on Deirdre@ehoa.ie



WHO reports into Social inequalities in environment and health.

Socioeconomic inequalities related to, e.g., income, employment, education, as well as demographic differences, such as age or gender, are associated with unequal exposure to environmental risk factors. They contribute to health inequities and most often put disadvantaged groups at significantly higher risk for environmental health effects. For example, in the European Union (EU) alone there are about 80 million people living in relative poverty. Many of these people live in damp homes, with insufficient heating and inadequate sanitary equipment. A WHO assessment shows that inequalities in environmental exposure exist in all countries across the region and can reach extreme levels, with disadvantaged populations groups often being at least five times more exposed than advantaged groups. The report describes the magnitude of environmental health inequalities in the European Region for selected environmental health risks (e.g., exposure to second hand smoke, housing conditions, injuries, noise, sanitation), and identifies country-specific priorities for national action. In the Declaration of the 2010 Parma Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health, countries committed to act on socioeconomic and gender inequalities in the human environment and health as one of the key environment and health challenges of our time. The WHO assessment supports this commitment and provides evidence on the current status of environmental health inequalities.

Publications

Environmental health inequalities in Europe.

Assessment report

WHO/Europe, 2012

Towards environmental health inequality reporting

WHO expert meeting in Bonn, Germany,

25-26 October 2010

Social and gender inequalities in environment and health

WHO/Europe, 2010

Series of articles on environmental inequalities

European Journal of Public Health, 2010

Environment and health risks: a review of the influence and effects of social inequalities

WHO/Europe, 2010

WHO/HBSC Forum 2009. Socio-environmentally determined health inequities among children and adolescents. Summary of outcomes, background papers and country case studies

WHO/Europe, 2011

Environment and health risks: the influence and effects of social inequalities

WHO expert meeting in Bonn, Germany,

9-10 September 2009

Social inequalities and their influence on housing risk factors and health

WHO/Europe, 2009

Full information is available on the WHO website.

Sad news

The Council of the IFEH send sincere condolences to Steve Cooper, IFEH Hon Treasurer, whose wife, Barbara, tragically passed away recently. Barbara attended many Congresses and meetings with Steve and is known to many members around the World. Our thoughts and prayers are with Steve, Matthew, Emma, and Chris at this sad time.

Finally the next edition of the Newsletter is due be published in July 2012. If you have any news for the Newsletter from your organisation please send this to me by the first week in June. My thanks go to Andrius Kavaliunas, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Andrew Forteach and Henning Hansen who have assisted in the production of this issue.

If you wish to feature any news from your organisation in the next IFEH Newsletter, please contact: Bernard Forteach, Honorary Public Relations Officer, Email:pro@ifeh.org