

PROGRAM

Workshop

Digital Public Health

Conceptual Architecture, Workforce Preparation, and
Systems Transformation

9-10 July 2026, Lugano

Expected participants

Emiliano Albanese, Rebecca Amati, Anne-Linda Camerini, Maddalena Fiordelli, Silvia Santini – Università della Svizzera italiana

Viktor von Wyl - University of Zurich

Alessandro Ceschi – Ente Ospedaliero Cantonale

Gayo Diallo – University of Bordeaux

Louise Holly – Digital Transformations for Health Lab

Rok Hrzic – Maastricht University

Onicio Batista Leal Neto – University of Arizona

Anna Odone, Chiara Barbatì – Università degli Studi di Pavia

Laura Rosella – University of Toronto

Robert Stewart – King's College London

Hajo Zeeb – University of Bremen & Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology

Rationale and Workshop Objective

Digital Public Health (DiPH) is conceptually fragmented as a scholarly and practice-oriented field. Can we find a consensus on the following questions in this workshop:

- What is the **essence** of DiPH – also vis à vis traditional PH?
- What are foundational DiPH concepts/**building blocks**?
- What are essential DiPH **competences** that should be fostered – and how?

In other words, we will reflect on **the core DNA of DiPH**, which may help to unify the field, create a sense of community, and harmonize teaching approaches.

Workshop Roadmap

1. Identify conceptual and operational building blocks of Digital Public Health.
2. Gain an overview of existing research, governance, and educational initiatives.
3. Reflect on opportunities and needs for DiPH as a scholarly field and its role in preparing the public health workforce (including researchers).
4. Develop a proposal for essential concepts and competencies to enable the public health workforce to co-shape the digital transformation.
5. Co-produce a structured outline for a high-impact scholarly publication.



A. Public Health vs. Clinical Digital Workflow Contrast Framework (Group Exercise)

Participants will conduct a group exercise, inspired by a introductory DiPH held at the University of Zurich. This onboarding exercise intends to draw attention to some fundamental challenges in DiPH teaching and to lay foundations for subsequent discussions on the “DiPH DNA”.

B. Foundational Building Block Matrix for Digital Public Health

Gaining a clearer understanding of the differences between traditional Public Health (TPH) and DiPH. A collection of foundational principles and concepts that participants deem essential to DiPH (and hence should be included in introductory teaching). Discussion results will be summarized in a structured matrix of principles and concepts specific to DiPH and/or overlapping with TPH. Moreover, the matrix aims to explicitly connect those principles to the Essential Public Health Functions, identify needs for multidisciplinary integration in teaching (informatics, data science, AI, digital technologies), and offers first insights into what competencies future (digital) public health researcher and professionals will require.

C. Curated Synthesis of ongoing DiPH Initiatives and teaching experiences (Timed Contributions)

This output consists of a synthesis of the presented initiatives, experiences, and questions, The synthesis document should facilitate the identification of convergences, gaps, and complementarities across contributions. The discussion will also inform subsequent SWOT analysis, competency discussions, pedagogical design, and manuscript development.

D. Systems-Level SWOT Analysis of Digital Transformation for Public Health

A consolidated SWOT analysis examining digital transformation at societal level, and health systems level, and with explicit implications for Digital Public Health research and practice.

E. Defining Essential Digital Public Health Concepts and Competencies

Also informed by other initiatives (e.g. ASPHER Digital Public Health taskforce work) identifying essential digital public health concepts and building blocks, as well as their integration into emerging DiPH and “classical” TPH competency frameworks.

E. Generative AI in Research and Teaching (Group Exercise)

The exercise intends to showcase an example for group-based, experiential learning to examine the capabilities and limitations of generative AI for pre-specified tasks.

G. Pedagogical Framework for integrating essential DiPH concepts and responsible AI use skills in teaching

Building on experiences from group exercises A and E, develop a structured proposal of pedagogical concepts/topics for introductory DiPH classes that address public health workforce needs and balance theoretical and practical/technical skills. Each concept/topic will explicitly mapped to the Bloom taxonomy to clarifying expected depth of mastery.

H. Structured Manuscript Blueprint and Writing Plan

A consolidated outline for a peer-reviewed publication touching, for example, on the “DiPH DNA” and its conceptual positioning, systems-level implications, workforce and pedagogical dimensions, assigned writing responsibilities and timeline.

Social Activity
Wednesday 8 July 2026

[Pane e Pomodoro – Quartiere Maghetti, Lugano](#)

18:30	Apericena
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Thursday, 9 July 2026
East Campus Lugano, Sector D – D1.13

08:30–09:00	Welcome to Lugano
09:00–09:30	Opening and Framing: Objectives, Scope, and Expected Outputs
09:30–10:30	(A) Onboarding Exercise: Designing Population-Level Digital Public Health Workflow
10:30–11:00	Coffee Break & Networking
11:00–12:30	(B) Conceptual Boundaries and foundational principles: Positioning Digital Public Health viz-a-viz “traditional” Public Health and Digital (Clinical) Medicine (with prepared inputs by participants)
12:30–13:30	Lunch – East Campus Lugano – Sector C – Ground floor – Mensa
13:30–14:45	(C) Open round: Experience-sharing and Spotlight on Ongoing Initiatives (participants are invited to share information and views for max. 5 minutes)
14:45–15:15	Coffee Break
15:15–16:30	(D) Reflect on opportunities and needs for DiPH as a distinct discipline: Systems-Level SWOT Analysis
16:30–17:00	Reflection and Synthesis

Social Activity
Thursday 9 July 2026
[Forno Popolare – Quartiere Maghetti, Lugano](#)

19:30	Social dinner
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Friday, 10 July 2026
East Campus Lugano, Sector D – D1.13

09:00–09:15	Synthesis of Day 1 and Orientation
09:15–10:45	(E) Essential Digital Public Health Competencies: What could they be (and how can we overcome the current fragmentation)?
10:45–11:15	Coffee Break
11:15–12:30	(F) Practical AI-Exercise: Experiential Session and Critical Reflection
12:30–13:30	Lunch – East Campus Lugano – Sector C – Mensa – Ground Floor
13:30–14:30	(G) Formalizing a proposal for essential concepts and competencies, as well as teaching designs / pedagogy
14:30–15:00	Coffee Break
15:00–16:30	(H) Initiating a Community-Based Manuscript Co-Production
16:30–17:00	Consolidation, Writing Assignments, and Timeline Definition