



EUPHA-ASPHER Joint statement:

Join us in prioritising the investment in the next generation

28 September 2022

The health of Europeans and of our health systems face a seemingly never ending series of threats, both direct, such as the enduring COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing war in Europe, and indirectly, from populist movements and fake news. Yet, whatever the nature of the threat, the public health community never stops striving to improve the health of everyone. EUPHA and ASPHER thank the public health community for their dedication and unremitting efforts in the face of these threats, recalling our earlier [joint statement](#) expressing gratitude to those who tirelessly committed time and energy to combat COVID-19.

Supporting public health professionals in Europe and beyond in their crucial work is at the core of both our organisations' work. We do this through capacity building activities, by making their voices heard, and by creating opportunities. For example, the [Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce](#) that ASPHER and the WHO Regional Office for Europe developed advocates for the essential skills of public health professionals. And by organising the [European Public Health Week](#), a EUPHA initiative, we create a platform for the public health community to join forces to be heard at national and European levels.

The European Union has made 2022 the European Year of Youth, emphasising the importance of enabling the next generation to take a leading role in building a better future – greener, healthier and more inclusive. Both EUPHA and ASPHER have committed to investing in these young public health professionals, including them fully in our networks. We have made investing in the next generation a priority for both our organisations in 2022.

Our activities with and in support of the next generation include:

- Reduced fees for students to attend the **15th European Public Health conference**, taking place from 9 to 12 November 2022 in Berlin, Germany.
- ASPHER and EUPHA will co-organise the **Young Researchers Forum** on the day before the European Public Health Conference, offering a unique opportunity for young researchers to present their work to a select audience of peers and faculty mentors. There are prizes for best oral presentation and best poster with the winner of best presentation receiving a waiver for the European Public Health Conference. ASPHER also runs interim YRF sessions at select Member events.
- The EUPHA **Ferenc Bojan** young investigator award session, where the five top-scoring abstracts from young researchers are presented and judged. The winner receives a waiver for the European Public Health Conference in 2023.

- EUPHA is co-organising the **EUPHAnxt conference fellowship programme**, which waives the registration fee for six selected fellows, who will have an active role at the conference. This includes mentoring sessions and interviews with prominent public health experts.
- ASPHER and ASPHER members support ASPHER Fellows who contribute to specific aspects of ASPHER's core curriculum work and depending on the Fellow's individual career interests.
- In 2020, ASPHER established the Young Professionals Programme (YPP) which has recently completed the intake of its 3rd cohort. Students, recent graduates and junior faculty of member programmes may apply. YPPs have the opportunity to work with ASPHER members and working groups on select research projects depending on their interests often leading to publications.
- In 2019, ASPHER established a unique mentoring summer school (ASSETS) where participants have the opportunity to present their own work and career challenges and receive feedback and mentoring from established faculty mentors.
- Both EUPHA and ASPHER have the younger generation represented in their executive bodies.

This year, both associations are launching new programmes for the younger generation:

- EUPHA is launching the **mentoring programme**, which will link young professionals to mentors in public health throughout the year. Through this mentoring programme, led by EUPHAnxt¹, we will create an opportunity for young professionals to catch up on the missed networking opportunities over the past two years.
- ASPHER is establishing for the first time the **Early Career Excellence Award** recognising outstanding achievements in the field of teaching, research, or practice for up to five early career individuals.
- Both ASPHER and EUPHA provide regular internship placements. In 2022-2023, for the first time, ASPHER and EUPHA will explore opportunities for offering a **joint assignment for students interested in interning in the Brussels context**.

EUPHA and ASPHER are both dedicated to invest in the next generation of public health professionals. We call on other organisations to join us in creating opportunities for young professionals. This call to action is fully in line with the EU's decision to dedicate the year 2022 as the 'European year of youth'. Let's continue to invest in our future!

Signed:

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¹ [EUPHAnxt](#) is a unique network within EUPHA for students and young professionals, including early career researchers and policymakers, in the field of public health.

ABOUT US:



The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) is the key independent European organisation dedicated to strengthening the role of public health by improving education and training of public health professionals for both practice and research. The main functions of the Association are to support the professionalisation of the public health workforce in Europe, whilst respecting the diversity of national and regional contexts in which each school of public health operates, and thus: To sustain capacity building in public health, so that it balances with national and European population health challenges and threats, and is supported by best standards of public health education and training, scientific research, and practice.

ASPHER's 2022 workplan is available [here](#).



The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) is the umbrella organization for public health associations and institutes in Europe. EUPHA has 85 members from 47 countries. Our network brings together over 39,000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

EUPHA - European Public Health Association

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