

Preconference WCPH2020

Helping people to help themselves to better health - From theory to practice

Monday 12 October 2020 from 14:00 – 16:00 CET

Chair

- Pr. Didier Jourdan, WHO Collaborating center & UNESCO Chair Global Health & Education
- Pr. Eric Breton, EHESP School of Public Health, France

Presentations of case studies on participatory community based interventions

- Dr. Nina Bartelink, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- Pr. Kenneth Yongabi Anchang, Imo State University, Nigeria
- Pr. Marco Akerman, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Panel

- Dr. Orkan Okan, Vice-President of the EUPHA Health Promotion section, Interdisciplinary Centre for Health Literacy Research, Bielefeld University, Germany,
- Pr. Louise Potvin, School of Public Health, Université de Montréal, Canada
- Dr. David Houéto, President of REFIPS, School of Public Health, Parakou University, Benin

WHO perspective

- Dr. Faten Ben Abdelaziz, Coordinator of Health Promotion, WHO

Introduction

The 2020 World Congress on Public Health offers an opportunity to reflect on the contribution of the public health community (people, institutions, knowledge, approaches, methods...) to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Public health brings an original perspective based on almost two centuries of research, policies and practices on population health and living conditions far beyond health care.

Public health offers a strategic approach that aims to orient and support social change in order to improve living conditions for all and reduce health inequities. Such an approach based on coordinated intersectoral policies and actions should be built with people, not against them. Good knowledge of health determinants, social practices, cultures and the active involvement of the people themselves are key factors of effectiveness and sustainability. In order to be prepared for the future large-scale implementation, policies and practices are needed that target both people's ecosystems and agencies.

However, when looking at public health conferences such as organised by EUPHA or WFPHA, one still regularly comes across presentations that do not mention the role of the upstream determinants and the existence of a social gradient characterizing the distribution of behaviour-related risk factors. They hardly ever report on the inequitable distribution of resources and the overemphasis on individual behaviour that leads to blaming the victims.

How can we ensure policies and programmes take into account what is known from environmental determinants and health inequities in a participative manner? How can we realise concrete actions

that are more than wishful thinking? Two promising answers that public health could offer are the implementation of the principles of health promotion and the recommendations of the WHO Commission on the social determinants of health (SDH).

Building on the fruitful discussion we had on intersectoral approaches during the 2019 European Public Health Conference in Marseille, we will continue our discussions by engaging and expanding our network of participants on the ethical and operational aspects of these answers.

Objectives

The preconference will result in a statement with the main conditions for large-scale implementation of policies and practices that leave no one behind, by reviewing the evidence and learning from innovations in the field.

More specifically, our objectives are to describe and reflect on:

1. available evidence on the mechanisms underpinning participation, non-participation and victim-blaming;
2. factors explaining the over-investment in interventions targeting individual determinants of health at the expense of actions on the SDH;
3. innovations in participatory community-based interventions that improve daily living conditions and indicators of health and well-being;
4. enablers and barriers to scaling-up health promotion and community-based approaches.

Next to these objectives, we wish to create a space that supports international networking among professionals and researchers interested in advancing participatory community-based public health interventions. This is at the core of the activities of the UNESCO Chair Global Health & Education and of the EUPHA Health Promotion Section.

Programme

Time	Programme	Speaker
14:00	Opening	Pr. Didier Jourdan
14:05	Introduction	Pr. Eric Breton
14:10	Harnessing the power of participatory approaches: Experiences from the field	Moderator: Goof Buijs Presenters: - Dr. Nina Bartelink - Pr. Kenneth Yongabi - Pr. Marco Akerman
14:55	5-minute break	
15:00	Round table including feedback from the participants	Chair: Pr. Didier Jourdan Panel: - Dr. Orkan Okan - Pr. Louise Potvin, - Dr. David Houéto
15:45	WHO perspective	Dr. Faten Ben Abdelaziz
15:55	Conclusion	Pr. Didier Jourdan Pr. Eric Breton
16:00	Closure	

