



**Minutes from the annual Join the Network meeting at EPHC Dublin 2023  
10 November, 14:00h-15:00h GMT**

**EUPHA Section Health Literacy (EUPHA-HL)**

Chaired by Orkan Okan (OO) and Cath Jenkins (CJ)

**Agenda**

- Aims and goals
- Section governance
- Steering group
- Work plan 2023 (based on the annual report)
- How to become a member: call to action
- Journey of becoming a section
- Website and social media
- Key facts and accomplishments
- Pre-conferences and sessions for EPHC Dublin 2023
- Work plan 2024
- Launch of members' survey
- Interactive Q&A
- Invited speakers: EUPHANxt and IHLA Health Literacy Explorers
- Closing remarks and group photo

**Introductions**

OO delivered the slide presentation, which opened with a memorial to influential researchers in the field who had passed away since the last JtN meeting: Andrew Pleasant and Jürgen M. Pelikan. 59 attendees were present. Steering group members were introduced, and their terms outlined.

**Steering Group**

- Kristine Sørensen, Global Health Literacy Academy, Denmark
- Tina D. Purnat, World Health Organization, Infodemic Unit, Switzerland
- Stephan Van Den Broucke, University of Louvain, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Belgium
- Christina Dietscher, Federal Ministry of Austria for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria
- Rosario, University of Minho, Nursing School, Portugal
- Diane Levin-Zamir, University of Haifa, School of Public Health & Clalit Health Services, Dept. of Health Education and Promotion, Israel
- Emily Marchant, Swansea University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Wales
- Bonaccorsi Guglielmo, University of Florence, Health Sciences Department, Italy
- Ilona Kickbush, Careum, Switzerland (Advisor)
- Don Nutbeam, University of Sydney, Australia (Advisor)

Of the 10 members (inclusive of two advisors), 4 were present (SvdB, RR, EM, GB) and invited to stand and identify themselves to the other attendees.

### **Section administration**

The structure of the new Section was explained, and the annual report was reviewed. In-progress items including developing a position statement. Attracting new members is a standing item.

OO presented a walk-through of how to sign up to become a member on the EUPHA website, and shared the Twitter handle.

- **ACTION:** OO/CJ to set up a Bluesky account (upon receiving a system generated “invitation code”) and migrate content and followers over to it when new account codes become available.
- **ACTION:** OO/CJ to schedule an online meeting of the Section in December/January. It was also discussed that the meeting could be organized after the Section Council meeting in February 2024.

### **Health literacy updates**

OO presented the second edition of the IUHPE position paper on health literacy, additional resources, and a calendar of health literacy events.

### **Work plan 2024**

A members’ survey was launched by CJ. The survey will remain open until at least the end of the year and will inform the work plan. The survey is shareable via a link:

<https://lsbucomms.typeform.com/EUPHA-HL> and QR code.

- **ACTION:** OO/CJ to share the survey in newsletters and on social media.

The survey asks the following:

1. What should the Section be doing?
2. Does the Section need a position statement, or other guiding document?
3. How would members like to contribute?
4. How can member participation be enabled?
5. How can we support members to develop abstracts for EPHC 2024?
6. Any suggestions for topics to be considered for abstracts?
7. A call for ideas for European Public Health Week 2024.

Ahead of the survey results, current plans include:

- Collaborate on events for European Public Health Week
- Submit a pre-conference and workshops to EPHC 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal
- Engage in Health Literacy Month (October 2024)
- Engage in the IHLA Global Health Literacy Summit
- Record members’ publications

### **Open discussion**

CJ opened the floor for an interactive Q&A.

Topics raised included:

- The term ‘health literacy’ in translation. There is an established term in Swedish. In other countries, e.g., Scotland, it may be called other things. Recommended reading: Sørensen, K. and Brand, H. (2014) Health literacy lost in translations? Introducing the European Health Literacy Glossary, *Health Promotion International*, 29 (4), pp. 634–644. DOI:10.1093/heapro/dat013.
- Policy: related to the above point, it can be difficult to get health literacy on the policy agenda. Success can be due to a single champion (who may then move on). An overview of health literacy alliances by country would be helpful, perhaps including an update of country-specific chapters in: Okan, O., Bauer, U., Levin-Zamir, D., Pinheiro, P. and Sørensen, K. (2019) *International handbook of health literacy: research, practice and policy across the lifespan*. Bristol: Policy Press. Available from: <https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/international-handbook-of-health-literacy>.
- Organisational health literacy in the context of M-POHL. New website coming soon: <https://m-pohl.net/>.

#### **Invited speakers**

Monica-Georgiana Brînzac presented on EUPHANxt, and how the two Sections could collaborate to advance intergenerational partnerships.

Samantha Belfrage presented on IHLA Health Literacy Explorers, including a call to fill currently vacant positions on the council. Two events are coming soon: a Journal Club (14 November 2023) and a discussion with Rosie Nash about her Churchill Fellowship report on health literacy (6 December 2023).

#### **Group photo**

