

Annual report 2022

EUPHA Law and public health section (EUPHA-LAW)

Goals for 2022

The core aims for EUPHA-LAW this year were as follows.

- To continue defining the Section identity more clearly. EUPHA-LAW focuses on public health law and policy rather than healthcare law only, with a particular (though not exclusive) emphasis on Europe.
- To increase Section membership. EUPHA-LAW is seeking to increase its membership through general and targeted messages. To this effect, we launched a members' survey at the end of September to help shape activities over the next year.
- To increase collaborations. To develop effective regulatory responses to complex public health challenges, EUPHA-LAW works with a variety of sub-disciplines in law and public health to help build greater legal capacity. We also acknowledge the imperative for both multi-disciplinary and multi-level responses, and have continued to develop collaborations with other EUPHA sections and external partners to increase the impact of our work.
- To continue focusing on two key themes of wide appeal. EUPHA-LAW has decided to continue developing the work it has started on two key themes: (1) strategic litigation, human rights and public health; and (2) trade and public health. These themes remain priority areas for lawyers interested in public health, whilst they also have a sufficiently broad remit to give coherence to our portfolios of activities without however preventing individual initiatives.

Collaboration with other sections

- Collaborations have been identified, initiated and/or strengthened with the Ethics, Food and Nutrition, Health Impact Assessment, and Environment sections (see below).

Activities at the EPH2022 conference

- Led a workshop on the session on European rhetoric on food labelling and marketing with EUPHA-FN and WHO Europe, which has led to a EUPHA working group on food labelling.
- Led a workshop on "Climate crisis and public health: public health practitioners are key to successful litigation" with EUPHA-ENV.
- Co-organised a workshop on "Health in all Policies: key driver for better health still awaiting of greater governing stewardship" with EUPHA -HIA, -PHPP and -ECO. This has led to a article the sections are working on together.
- Organised an informal evening networking event with colleagues who are new to the work of the Section, including colleagues from other Sections and colleagues from ASPHER.
- More than 30 members joined the Section following the Join the Network (JTN) meeting.

Other activities

- Supported an initiative with other organisations on the EU food marketing directive.
- Responded to the European Commission's proposal for labelling rules on food and alcoholic beverages and held a meeting with the staff of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety at the European Commission. This follows EUPHA's responses to the EU's consultations earlier this year.
- Responded to the Commission on Irish alcohol labelling law proposals.
- Issued a statement on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- Continued to develop plans for forthcoming events, including on anti-microbial resistance, a potential plenary session at EPH conference 2023 on strategic litigation, a toolkit for public health practitioners on climate change litigation with the Faculty of Public Health, etc.
- Co-hosted a webinar on 'Climate Change Litigation at the European Court of Human Rights'.
- Continued to develop a major conference on strategic litigation and public health which will take place in 2023. The dates for the conference have now been set for 15 and 16 June. The venue will be the University of Liverpool.
- Meeting of the Steering Committee in The Hague in June 2022 for a two-day retreat to discuss progress of the Section and further develop future plans.
- Leading a collaboration with EUPHA-FN and external partners on front-of-pack nutrition labelling, which will include drafting a EUPHA position paper.
- Initiated plans to ensure the Section's participation in law-related events at the World Congress on Public Health in Rome in May 2023.
- Supported the EAHL Interest Group on Supranational Biolaw Joint Statement on 'Health as a fundamental value. Towards an inclusive and equitable pharmaceutical strategy for the European Union'

General communications with section members

- EUPHA-LAW has used the EUPHA monthly Newsletters to communicate with its members and other EUPHA members as needed.
- EUPHA-LAW has developed an open, online database (Google Sheets) to have a better overview of member and to encourage more engagement. More than 50 members have uploaded their data.
- A communications plan has also been developed, including the launch of a new Twitter account: @EUPHA_LAW.

International participation in events on behalf of EUPHA

- All of our events are international and include speakers and delegates from across the world.