

Annual report of the activities of the EUPHA section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting (PHMR)

2015

Contents:

1. Publications by the section
 2. Activities of the section Steering Committee
 3. Workshops during the EPH conference 2015 in Milan
 4. Annual meeting
 5. Communication
- Addendum: Section structure

1. Publications by the section

Eurohealth 2015 - Public Health Monitoring and Reporting: Maintaining and Improving the evidence-base

In the aftermath of the EPHC 2014 in Glasgow the section was asked to summarize the conference discussion on health information matters in a special Eurohealth issue on “Reducing inequalities in health and health care”.

The abstract of the paper:

It is undisputed that reliable and comprehensive health information is needed to support evidence-informed policy-making. This article gives an overview of the drivers and actions that aim to improve the health information infrastructure in Europe. In addition to outlining the status quo of international infrastructure development, this article highlights existing gaps in monitoring health inequalities and in data sources for monitoring morbidity. A sustainable health information infrastructure in Europe, a feasible legal framework, as well as opportunities for good-practice exchange, would help to overcome information gaps and improve the possibilities for evidence-informed decision-making.

Full reference: Rosenkötter N, van Bon-Martens M. Public Health Monitoring and Reporting: Maintaining and Improving the evidence-base. Eurohealth. 2015 21(1):17-20.

Health Assessments: status and perspectives

The EUPHA PHMR section is involved in the preparation of a joint publication on the various health assessment approaches. The paper is coordinated by Rainer Fehr supported by the EUPHA sections Public Health Epidemiology, Public Health Monitoring & Reporting, Health Impact Assessment, Health Services Research, Health Technology Assessment, Public Health Practice and Policy, and Public Health Economics.

The paper aims to:

- present a systematic overview of the current situation including basic and advanced assessment approaches;
- to explore cross-cutting issues including commonalities and differences of assessment types;
- to discuss potential perspectives.

2. Activities of the section Steering Committee

- The section was supported by Steering Group members regarding the exchange of information on the status and the negotiations of the EU General Data Protection Regulation
 - Steering Group members recommended the section to inform the EUPHA office about the possibility to sign the joint statement of patient, academic and non-commercial research organisations prepared by the Wellcome Trust (<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Personal-information/Data-protection-legislation/index.htm>). The information was forwarded by the section President to the EUPHA office.
 - Steering Group members and the Vice-President of the section forwarded background material for the preparation of a response to the WMA Draft Declaration on Ethical Considerations regarding Health Databases and Biobanks. The information was forwarded by the section President to the EUPHA office.
- The Steering Committee provided feedback on the meeting materials for the EUPHA Section Council meeting in March 2015, which was attended by the Vice-President.
- The Steering Committee provided input for the publications of the section.
- The Steering Committee provided input for the 2nd PHMR section newsletter published in July 2015.
- A teleconference for the preparation of the annual PHMR section meeting at the EPHC 2015 took place on 24 September 2015 (10:30-12:00).

Agenda

1. Annual section meeting during EPHC 2015
2. Section workshops during EPHC 2015 (state of affairs, organisational matters)
3. Annual activity report
4. WHO European Health Information Initiative
5. Section Newsletter (content newsletter autumn 2015)
6. Health assessments (state of affairs)
7. Any other relevant health information developments

Minutes

Telephone conference, 24 September 2015

Attendees: Nicole Rosenkötter (chair), Hans van Oers, Neil Riley, Claudia Stein, Marieke Verschuuren, Marja van Bon-Martens

1. **Annual section meeting during EPHC 2015**

The proposed agenda for the annual section meeting - now called 'Join the network meeting' - was discussed and agreed on (see point 4 of this Annual Report). The proposal of Peter Groenewegen (president of the research pillar) to discuss the work programme 2016-2017 of Horizon 2020 (e-mail 22.9.2015) was accepted.

2. **Section workshops during EPHC 2015 (state of affairs)**

Nicole Rosenkötter (NR) reported about the state of affairs of the workshops co-organized by the section. Tasks like note taking during the workshops were disseminated.

3. **Annual activity report (attached)**

The draft annual report 2015 was discussed and agreed. The final report will be completed and sent to the Steering Group first before being forwarded to the EUPHA office.

4. **WHO European Health Information Initiative (EHII)**

The work of the EHII and potential membership of EUPHA was discussed. The Steering Group was positive and endorsed membership of EUPHA in the EHII. It was agreed that NR will ask EUPHA officials about the procedure to discuss EUPHA membership at EHII.

5. **Section Newsletter (content newsletter autumn 2015)**

The content of the next section newsletter was discussed.

6. **Health assessments (state of affairs)**

NR informed the Steering Group that the section is involved in the preparation of a joint publication on the various health assessment approaches, coordinated by Rainer Fehr (see also point 1 of this Annual Report). The paper is linked to an EPHC 2015 workshop which is also co-organized by the PHMR section. .

7. **Any other relevant health information developments**

- The composition of the Steering Group was discussed (initiated by Marieke Verschuuren). With Marleen Desmedt a representative of the European Commission – DG ESTAT (= Eurostat) is in the Steering Group, but a representative of DG SANTÉ is missing. It was decided to ask DG SANTÉ (represented by Mr Schreck) to become member of the Steering Group. NR was asked to invite Mr Schreck by e-mail before the EPHC 2015 (NOTE: Mail was sent on 3 October 2015. Result of the invitation: Membership was declined by DG SANTÉ).
- The development of a simple tool with tips and tricks for PHMR was discussed. The Steering Group will keep this topic on the agenda.

3. **Workshops during the EPH conference 2015 in Milan**

Observe the gap: Possibilities and approaches for routine monitoring of social health inequalities

Joint workshop by the EUPHA section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting and the EUPHA section Public Health Economics

The workshop was held successfully. A summary of the workshop can be found in the 3rd PHMR section newsletter.

Health assessments: Status and perspectives of basic and advanced approaches

Joint workshop by the EUPHA section Public Health Policy and Practice, the EUPHA section Public Health Epidemiology, the EUPHA section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting, the EUPHA section Health Impact Assessment and the EUPHA section Health Technology Assessment

The workshop was held successfully. A summary of the workshop can be found in the 3rd PHMR section newsletter.

Quality health information systems in small European countries and regions

Joint workshop by the University of Malta, WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, and the EUPHA section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting,

The workshop was held successfully. A summary of the workshop can be found in the 3rd PHMR section newsletter.

4. Annual meeting

An invitation to the annual meeting as well as preparatory material was forwarded to the PHMR section members via the Mailman System on 3 October 2015.

The agenda for the section's annual meeting (Join the Network Meeting) on 16 October 2015 in Milan:

1. Administrative update:
 - a. Activity report of the section 2015.
2. Information on section workshops during EPHC 2015.
3. WHO European Health Information Initiative.
4. News on the EU Data Protection Regulation.
5. Section Newsletter
6. Draft working programme of Horizon 2020 in the area of health, demographic change and well-being
7. Discussion of next section activities, including ideas for workshops and pre-conferences etc. for the 2016 conference.
8. General health information issues

Main agreements and points discussed during the Join the Network Meeting:

1. Administrative update: 2015 activity report of the section

NR has forwarded the draft of 2015 annual activity report to the section members prior to this meeting. The report includes publications, communication activities, activities of the Steering Group and section activities during 2015. NR informed that the draft will be complemented with the minutes of the annual meeting before it will be published on the EUPHA website.

2. Information on section workshops during EPHC 2015

NR announced the section activities and workshops at EPHC 2015 as well as PHMR related sessions (plenary session on the new EU health information and workshop of Bridge Health on Health information in Europe).

3. WHO European Health Information Initiative (EHII)

The EHII and its activities were introduced to the section members and potential EUPHA membership was discussed. The PHMR members supported the involvement of EUPHA in the EHII and asked NR to forward this request to the EUPHA office, e.g. during the EUPHA Board Meeting.

4. News on the EU Data Protection Regulation

NR updated the members of the current state of affairs of the negotiations on the GDPR. Activities of the Wellcome Trust were introduced and the open petition of the European Health in Research Data Alliance that highlights concerns on the regulation of the health research community was promoted. It was agreed to forward information on the trilogue process and the petition to all PHMR section members (NOTE: Mail to all PHMR section members was sent on 22.10.2015).

Gaetan Lafortune announced an OECD report and a related policy brief on “Health Data Governance. Privacy, Monitoring, Research”. Information on this report will be disseminated among all members with the next EUPHA PHMR section newsletter.

5. Section Newsletter

NR invited the section members to contribute to the newsletter. The newsletter should be used as a platform to disseminate information: not only European, also national, regional or local information that is of interest for a PHMR audience. The members are invited to contact NR if they want to disseminate PHMR news, good practice examples or information on PHMR concepts, strategies and tools via the newsletter.

It was discussed that the newsletter is difficult to find on the EUPHA PHMR section website. NR and Marja van Bon-Martens (MvB) will take this concern up and try to re-arrange the section website.

6. Draft working programme of Horizon 2020 in the area of health, demographic change and well-being

NR forwarded the draft working programme in advance to all section PHMR members. The attendees of the PHMR section meeting stated that PHMR issues are not well represented in the Horizon 2020 calls. The question is raised whether EUPHA and/or national associations can lobby in this regard. It was decided to discuss this issue within the EHII and to forward this feedback to the research pillar of EUPHA.

Data visualisation, big data, and personalization of data (e.g. internet of things, quantified-self) were raised as potential PHMR relevant topics for the Horizon 2020. More possibilities for research on PHMR issues would be appreciated.

7. Discussion of upcoming section activities

- NR informed the section members that the section is involved together with some other EUPHA sections in a publication on various health assessment approaches (see also point 1 of this Annual Report).
- NR announced that the section aims to prepare a preconference on data visualisation for the next EPHC in Vienna. Members were asked for ideas and potential contributions to this topic. The subsequent discussion raised aspects like
 - Visualization quality is directly linked to data quality
 - Public authorities might have difficulties to follow complex data visualization approaches due to budget constraints
 - Where is the trade-off in data visualization between simplicity and being simplistic?
 - The target audience must be clear: professionals, policymakers, researchers

- Data visualization allows to make the data sing and to visualize complex matters
- Relevant to emphasise the metadata to clarify what the data are telling us. Presentation tools alone are not sufficient.
- Several members announced their interest to contribute to a pre-conference on data visualization.

5. Communication

Newsletter

Up to October 2013, five European Community/Core Health Indicators (ECHI) newsletters were produced by the ECHI Transition Network, which were also disseminated within the section PHMR. As decided in the section annual meeting 2013, this newsletter will carry on under the broader umbrella of the EUPHA PHMR section, to inform the European PHMR community about recent developments in the field of health information. In July 2015 the [second issue of the PHMR newsletter](#) was

- published on the section specific web pages of the EUPHA website
- forwarded to the PHMR members via the Mailman system
- uploaded at the LinkedIn group of the section
- twittered via the sections Twitter account

Website

The section's annual activity report 2014 was placed at the [section specific web pages of the EUPHA website](#), as were the minutes of the 5th annual EUPHA PHMR section meeting in Glasgow 2015 and the second issue of the PHMR section newsletter (see above).

Twitter account



The section has a Twitter account (@PHMRsection). The section President is managing this account. On 15 February 2016 the Twitter account had 100 followers, and 402 tweets had been sent.

LinkedIn Group

The LinkedIn group allows members to start discussions and share new publications or job offers. The section President and Vice-President are managing the account. On 15 February 2016 the LinkedIn Group had 38 members and started 11 discussions.

Mailman system

The section used the mailman system on several occasions to inform the section members on issues such as section related matters (e.g. section news and updates, the section workshops in Milan, agenda and background materials for the annual meeting, and the section Newsletter).

ADDENDUM

Section structure

Members

978 members (19 February 2016)

Steering Committee

Marleen Desmedt	Eurostat, Luxembourg
Gaetan Lafortune	OECD, France
Neil Riley	NHS England, United Kingdom
Claudia Stein	WHO-EUR, Denmark
Magnus Stenbeck	Karolinska Institute, Sweden
Hans van Oers	RIVM, The Netherlands
Marieke Verschuuren	RIVM, The Netherlands

Vice-President

Marja van Bon-Martens Trimbos Institute, The Netherlands

President

Nicole Rosenkötter NRW Centre for Health (LZG.NRW), Germany