

5th Annual meeting of the EUPHA Section on Public Health Monitoring and Reporting, Glasgow, Scotland, 2014

Agenda:

1. Administrative and governance update:
 - a. Presidency: vote for new President and vice-President,
 - b. Composition of the Steering Group,
 - c. Activity report of the section 2014.
2. Short report of main outcomes of the workshops on morbidity statistics and on the effect of austerity measures on health information systems, and discussing potential concrete follow-up activities.
3. New EU Data Protection Regulation: identification of possible actions by (members of the section and/or EUPHA).
4. State of play regarding the development of a single Health Information System for Europe.
5. Dealing with the consequences of the Eurostat Revision of the European Standard Population: sharing experiences and good practices.
6. Section Newsletter.
7. Gathering ideas for section activities, including ideas for workshops etc. for the 2015 conference.

Minutes:

The meeting was chaired by Marieke Verschuuren and Neil Riley.

Main agreements and points discussed:

Ad 1a) Nicole Rosenkötter and Marja van Bon were elected as the new President and Vice-president, respectively.

Ad 1b) Pieter Kramers has left the Steering Group. New Steering Group members: Marleen Desmedt, Eurostat, and Gaetan Lafortune, OECD. Marieke Verschuuren and Neil Riley, former President and Vice-President, will also remain members of the Steering Group.

Ad 1c) The draft activity report for 2014 was distributed to the section as a background document for the annual meeting. The report will be finalized after the conference, after which it will be sent to the EUPHA office and to the section members for information.

Ad 2) The section has been invited to write some conference proceedings from the viewpoint of the section for a special issue of Eurohealth. This will give us an opportunity to highlight the main issues that were addressed during the workshops. Nicole Rosenkötter will take the lead in writing this paper.

Ad 3) There is a new momentum for informing the (new) European Parliament, as the new MEPs are poorly informed on this dossier. The section President will bring this up during the section council meeting the next day, as the section agreed that it would be preferable if EUPHA would engage in advocacy and action on this topic rather than just the section. A meeting in Brussels on the Data Protection Regulation was mentioned by one of the participants on December 4th; it would be useful if somebody from the section/EUPHA could participate. It was also discussed that sending the factsheet that the section produced after last year's annual meeting to the section once more, and ask the section members for further advocacy, would be a good idea. Nicole Rosenkötter will look into some more detailed materials produced by a consortium of German institutions and organizations on the problems related to the EP amendments to the Regulation, to see whether these could be added to the mail to the section (these materials are partly available in English).

Ad 4) During last year's annual meeting it was decided that the section would write a standard letter on the need for a single European health information system, which section members could use for advocacy with their national representatives in the governing bodies of WHO Regional Office for Europe, the European Commission, and the OECD. The Presidency had not yet followed up on this action. It was now discussed that one standard letter would be difficult to draft, given the cultural differences in Europe and the fact that the addressees might differ to great extents in terms of (technical) background, familiarity with the issue and hierarchy. Therefore it was decided to write a neutral factsheet instead. The section was informed about the European Health Information Initiative, an initiative that is linked to the development of the single European health information system. This network of countries, institutions, NGOs and international organizations will be instrumental for the development of this system through, among other things, better and more centralized dissemination of (knowledge and expertise on) health information, indicator development and harmonization, and capacity building in the field of health information. The Initiative has been working on an ad hoc basis since 2012. The first Steering Committee meeting is planned for March 2015. During this meeting the Initiative will be formalized (Terms of Reference established), and a strategic vision and work plan will be discussed.

Ad 5) The consequences of this methodological change are considerable, and it is hard to explain to lay people why certain statistics have changed because of this. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) in the UK has produced several papers on the change and its consequences, which can be found at the ONS website. It was discussed that it would be good to share more experiences of how experts are dealing with these changes and communicating with lay people about this. Neil Riley will follow up on this topic and send a call to the section members to share experiences.

Ad 6) Nicole Rosenkötter explained that the aim of the newsletter is not only to inform the section members about relevant European developments, but also to share

examples of and experiences with public health monitoring and reporting at the national and regional level. The section members therefore are invited to send their examples and experiences as input for the newsletter. Nicole shared during the meeting a factsheet she had made on a paper (currently under review) about an expert opinion study on essential elements for an EU health information system.

Ad 7) Ideas for workshops:

- Public health reporting and data visualisation
- PHMR good practice on how to monitor and report about health inequalities (linking with social determinants, regional comparisons)?
- The need for health information during the European semester process (opportunities for health care reforms; together with section on Public Health Policy & Practice)
- Data linkage from a political, societal and technical point of view
- PHMR: The relevance and potential of the quantified-self movement (self-tracking of biological, physical, behavioural, etc. information) and big data