

**Annual report of the EUPHA Section
Child and Adolescent Public Health
(CAPH) / 2016**

Prepared by

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The previous year (Nov 2015 – Nov 2016)

Section Join the Network meeting

The announcement and agenda for the annual meeting is included as [attachment A](#). There were approximately 40 people present.

Activities EUPHA conference:

- EUPHA Vienna: Organizing the **workshop**: *'4.H. - Workshop: To be or not to be vulnerable: ethical challenges in taking children and young people seriously'* on Fri 11th, 8:30-9:30, Room 1.86. This preconference was organized in cooperation with the section Ethics in Public Health. Click [here](#) for abstract.
- EUPHA Vienna: Organizing the **workshop**: *'Cost-effectiveness studies in primary prevention interventions targeting children'*. This workshop was organized on Fri 11th, 15:10-16:10, Room 1.86, in cooperation with the section Public Health Economics. Click [here](#) for abstract.
- EUPHA Vienna: Organizing the **workshop**: *'Health of minority children in Europe'* Sat 12th, 11:10-12:40, Room M1, in cooperation with the section Migrant and ethnic minority health. Click [here](#) for abstract.
- Update of the results of the EUPHA-CAPH working group *'Cost-effectiveness in child and adolescent public health'*. Diana Sonntag, Division Head in Health Economics, Mannheim Institute of Public Health, Social Medicine and Prevention, Mannheim and Program Director of the Master of Science in Health Economics, Mannheim Institute of Public Health, Social Prevention and Medicine started the working group *'Cost-effectiveness in child and adolescent public health'* within this EUPHA section. It is a collaboration with the EUPHA section Public Health Economics. Aim of this working group is to put this theme more prominent on the agenda of CAPH.

The Coming Year (2016-2017)

Plans for the coming year

1. Organizing the Join the network meeting Child and Adolescent Public Health;
2. Starting a new working group: Measurement and indicators of how systems are organized (Prof Anthony Staines), among others with respect to primary care for children (Prof Michael Rigby);
3. Preparation workshop(s) and/or pre-conference in 2016 on the following topics:
 - a. cost-effectiveness (in cooperation with the EUPHA section Public Health Economics);
 - b. migrant children (in cooperation with Migrant and ethnic minority health);
 - c. child abuse/child neglect (prevalence, incidence) / suicide among adolescents (Dr Ulugbek Nurmatov).

Agenda Join the network meeting EUPHA CAPH

Friday 11 November: 12.45-13.15, location: Room L1

- 1. 12.45 – 12.50 Welcome and opening**
Welcome and opening of the meeting by Danielle Jansen
 - Workshops/pre-conferences on CAPH in Vienna
 - Update of CAPH activities in 2016
- 2. 12.50 – 12.55 Results inventory of working group ‘Cost-effectiveness in child and adolescent public health’**
- 3. 12.55 – 13.05 Election of president and vice-president**
- 4. 13.05 – 13.10 Ideas for working groups within CAPH, collaboration and joint proposal writing, ideas for workshops for the coming year**
- 5. 13.10 – 13.15 Any other business and closing**

Attachment B

Abstract of Workshop *'To be or not to be vulnerable: ethical challenges in taking children and young people seriously'*

Background

There is a general acceptance that children and young adults (YA) should be heard about their health needs. Internationally codes and guidelines have been drafted encouraging the development of autonomy of children/YA and protecting them in their vulnerabilities. However, many policies and discussions about health decisions and health management struggle granting children and YA their proper place. De Vries¹ for example identifies three pervasive dogmas: 1. Children/YA are a vulnerable population; 2. Children/YA are not able to give true consent; 3. Children/YA are genuinely heard and their opinions are taken into account. She argues we are still insufficiently clear about what children and YA can and cannot do.

Purpose

In this workshop we will explore the ethical challenges set to us. We need to address an agenda that includes the following issues: developing autonomy and its relation to dependency and vulnerability; development of life skills and assertiveness, as protective factors for health; involvement of young people in health programmes; dependency of disabled children on helpers, carers, but of course on their parents too.

Methods

We (a mother of an adolescent from the autistic spectrum and MA in psychology, the Head of Training for French school physicians, public health researchers and ethicists) will address the questions about vulnerability, dependency and autonomy of children and YA from a variety of areas: collaboration between children, families, educationalists and health professionals; participation of children/YA in trials; the necessity of statutory regulations for protection of children from food advertising. All presentations will critically address the so-called pervasive dogmas about the place and position of children and young adults.

Results

At the end of this workshop, a clearer understanding and framework for addressing ethical challenges regarding children and YA in (public) health will be presented.

Key messages:

- Public health researchers and professionals need to focus on a better understanding of childrens' and young adults' autonomy
- A serious collaboration between children/YA, families, researchers, and other professionals will provide an enriched notion of autonomy

Abstract of Workshop ‘Cost-effectiveness studies in primary prevention interventions targeting children’

Objectives

Cross-sectional representative surveys and school entrance examinations in different European countries have shown that an increasing proportion of pre-schoolers exhibit health-related issues with potential long-term negative consequences. These health problems (e.g. obesity, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, social-emotional problems) affect health and quality of life in adulthood. In addition to effects on future health, these issues may have broader implications that impact both future health care costs and economic productivity.

Efforts to prevent these problems in children have increasingly been implemented in childhood everyday settings such as schools and neighborhoods. In addition, more and more interventions envision promoting children’s health at even earlier points in development including pregnancy. Early childhood might be ideal for interventions to be cost-effective as health behaviors are yet to be firmly established.

However, most of the interventions are only evaluated regarding their health-related effects and not their costs. To enable effective political decision-making, cost-effectiveness estimates will be valuable in strengthening the case for early preventive efforts. Therefore, this workshop focuses on cost-effectiveness analyses that evaluate short and long-term economic consequences of early prevention programs. We will also discuss how economic parameterization and evaluation could be used to advance the field of early prevention.

Lay-out of the workshop

Starting with a systematic literature review (presentation 1) demonstrating that economic evaluations of childhood interventions are rarely performed, the workshop focuses on studies analyzing the cost-effectiveness of exclusive early prevention programs in Europe. In detail, costs and benefits of an obesity prevention program in Portugal to increase healthy eating and active life as one representative European country will be presented (presentation 2). Afterwards, the workshop broadens the time horizon by focusing on short as well as longer-term costs and benefits of primary obesity prevention in Sweden (presentation 3). Since the use of conventional cost-effectiveness analyses cannot address the complexity of childhood interventions, the workshop discusses alternative approaches in the field of childhood interventions (presentation 4).

Key messages:

- Increasing the awareness of health care and policy organizations on health economic aspects of childhood interventions and consequences on the design of early prevention programs
- Translation into effective and sustainable public child programs in order to cut the rising costs of health care and advance health promotion of children in future

Abstract of workshop: ‘Health of minority children in Europe’

Objectives:

We live in an era of unprecedented human migration recorded in history, with the total number of international migrants currently estimated at 244 million in 2015, up from 173 million in 2000. High-income countries host more than two thirds of all international migrants. In Europe, according to Eurostat, there were 53.1 million foreign-born residents in the European Union (EU), about 10% of the total population in 2014. EU Member States are faced with a pressing need to address the resulting public health consequences of migration.

Migrant children are a particularly vulnerable both in terms of psychological well-being and physical health. Many of these children have suffered multiple traumas such as the horrors of war, violence and bereavement. The risk of poverty is also much higher among migrant children than among nationals. Eurostat 2014 estimates, for example, show that while the at-risk-of-poverty rate for children of EU nationals was 19.0 % in 2014, the corresponding rate for children with migratory background stood at 36.4 %. Evidence suggests that a stable family environment contributes to healthy development among children. Migration can disrupt family environment with an adverse effect on the health migrant children.

Addressing the health needs of vulnerable groups of children is highly relevant as inaction will have a long-term negative effect on their health and contribution to society as a whole. So far, the attention on health care needs of ethnic minority and migrant children in Europe is mostly fragmented. In an effort to address this pertinent issue, EUPHA section on Child and Adolescent Public Health (CAPH) and the section on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health have joined forces.

The main aim of this workshop is to discuss the current health burden and challenges among ethnic minority and migrant children in Europe; and the policy response to addressing the health needs of vulnerable migrant children in Europe.

The themes of workshop include the health situation of current Syrian migrant children in Europe, birth outcomes of migrant children, overweight and obesity and approaches to improved nutrition practices among ethnic minority and migrant children.

The titles of the four papers to be discussed in the workshop are:

1. *A refugee camp in the center of Europe: clinical characteristics of asylum seekers in Brussels in September 2015;*
2. *Are all immigrant mothers really at risk of low birth weight and perinatal mortality? The crucial role of socio-economic status;*
3. *A participatory approach to improved infant nutrition and complimentary feeding practices in British Bangladeshi families.*
4. *Overweight and obesity among Kurdish and Somali origin adolescents in Finland;*

The last part of the workshop will be focused on panel discussion of *policy response to health needs of ethnic minority and migrant children* in Europe. The panelists include high ranking policy experts from WHO-Europe (Dr Santino Severoni), Doctors of the World International Network (Dr Nathalie Simonnot) and International Organization of Migration (Dr Roumyana Petrova-Benedict) and academia (Prof. Raj Bhopal, Prof. Karien Stronks & Dr. Marie Norredam,).

Main messages:

- Current health burden and challenges among ethnic minority and migrant children in Europe will be highlighted.
- Policy response and gaps in addressing the health needs of the vulnerable minority children in Europe will be identified.