

## 7.D. Workshop: Toward a definition of Good Practices in Public Health: state of the art and different experiences

*Chairs: Silvio Brusaferrero, Italy, Iveta Nagyova, Slovakia*

*Organised by: EUPHA (PR) (CHR) (HTA) (IDC)*

Contact: pierfrancesco.tricarico@gmail.com

Reasons for the workshop:

Although "good/best practices" (GBPs) are increasingly used and implemented in Public Health (PH), we lack a shared definition. This is due to the difficulty of reconciling effectiveness and operational feasibility with the traditional hierarchy of scientific evidence and the existing differences in practice implementation which characterize different fields of PH; this situation often undermines the possibilities for classifying and spreading successful experiences that can be considered GBPs, hindering the harmonization of approaches toward different problems.

Nevertheless, there are some institutional attempts at European level to define a GBP and collect practical experiences proven effective on particular PH areas; this method, somehow unavoidable given the vastness and the variability of health problems in population, partly limits experiences dissemination and prevents the systemic approach needed in PH.

European Public Health Conference (EPHC) represents the ideal framework for bringing experts from different PH fields together to further advance on the topic.

At the same time an increasing role has been attributed to "the community of practices" as a place and a moment where to share, find and discuss about experiences started in the last year. The main objectives of this workshop are:

- to stimulate a discussion among experts engaged in different PH fields towards an agreement on common characteristics of Public Health GBP in Europe;
- to share experiences and expertise in promotion and implementation of GBPs in different PH areas;
- to engage experts and professionals from different PH areas in discussing differences, commonalities and peculiarities of their point of view on this topic.

The added value of organising a workshop is the possibility to involve representatives from different EUPHA Sections in an active process aimed at promoting a mutual sharing of expertise and at defining common areas for actions.

The format of the workshop is a regular workshop made of an individual presentation that will introduce pros and cons of adopting a GBP definition starting from a PH field (Patient Safety) followed by a Roundtable discussion between 4 other panellists about the impact of using and promoting GBPs through the different perspective of EUPHA sections. This format will allow to define the state of the art of GBP definition, recognition and implementation in different PH areas and to engage other professionals attending the session in the discussion. Panellists and chairpersons will discuss around three main questions:

- (a) What is the definition and/or the main characteristics of GBPs in the PH topics you/your section are interested in?
- (b) Are there experiences of use of GBPs in the PH topics you/your section are interested in?
- (c) Is there room for promoting the use of Public Health GBPs in Europe? What are the critical issues and the strengths to support a larger use of them?

**Key messages:**

- The definition of good/best PH practice should be the result of a professional consensus including different PH topics.
- The workshop aims to stimulate professional engagement and awareness on the topic and to share expertise among EUPHA Sections.

**Developing and sharing good/best practices in Public Health services: lessons from Patient Safety experience**

**Pierfrancesco Tricarico**

*P Tricarico*

University of Udine, Udine, Italy

Contact: pierfrancesco.tricarico@gmail.com

**Background**

Good/best practices (GBPs) are gaining popularity in Public Health (PH) services as a possible tool to gain knowledge and evidence on what works in a particular context and can be adopted elsewhere. At the same time, Europe is making efforts to standardize policies and programs, promoting transnational and interregional cooperation. An interesting

approach to GBP definition, collection and dissemination is the European Network for Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ).

#### **Methods**

We made a systematic literature review on GBP experiences (intervention/strategy/program/practice), frameworks (tools) and evaluation (appraisal/assessment) in Public Health fields, identifying the most recurrent concepts and problems. We also analyzed in depth the existing experience of PaSQ reviewing its framework and database (2012-2016) for GBP definition, evaluation and classification criteria.

#### **Results**

PaSQ database included 668 GBPs in 2016 while 192 papers were included for the systematic review. The latter found that most recurring concepts were effectiveness, transferability, relevance, patient involvement, ethics, efficiency and sustainability while PaSQ core characteristics for Patient Safety GBPs were effectiveness, transferability, patient involvement, implementation and costs.

Despite a large number of papers being focused on implementation and evaluation, major barriers for GBPs adoption were the difficulty to demonstrate their effectiveness according to currently accepted scientific criteria and potential transferability, being context variability the most critical issue.

#### **Conclusions**

Examples exist in Europe of PH GBPs based on a common core of concepts and definitions. PaSQ represents a successful example of sharing knowledge and experiences in a European network. Nevertheless, effectiveness and transferability remain major obstacles for a widespread GBP adoption. Using GBPs in different PH fields could provide better knowledge and improvement of these tools.

#### **Panel:**

- Anja Koornstra, Netherlands
- Carlo Favaretti, Italy
- Ellen Kuhlmann, Sweden
- Aura Timen, Netherlands