JTN 'Ethics in Public Health' Section meeting, Berlin, 11.11.2022, 12:45-13:45

Participants: **Atsuyoshi Ishizumi, Niolyne Bomolo, Andrie Panayiotou, Danaja Fabcic, Susan Elizabeth Mechan, Kerrie Stevenson, Nikhil Gokani, Ilaria Tocco Tussardi (Steering Group), Silviya Aleksandrova (Steering Group), Farhang Tahzib (Vice President). Atsuyoshi Ishizumi; Niolyne Bomolo;Andrie Panayiotou; Danaja Fabcic; Kerrie Stevenson; Paulina Nyamekye; Elman Okrah.**

1. Welcome & Round of introduction

The Vice-President Farhang Tahzib and Steering Group members welcome everyone and send greetings from President Els Maeckelberghe and Vice-President Peter Schröder-Bäck who unfortunately cannot join today.

The Vice-President Farhang Tahzib gave a presentation about the Section, starting with a general introduction about ethics and importance of ethics into daily actions and then focusing on public health ethics and activities for 2023 (see appendix)

2. Activities in the last year

The EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section organised, supported and participated in a number of activities and initiatives. This included for example:

- Building ethical competence and capacity of public health workforce and systems: "Variability in education and training in public health ethics in Europe"
- FPH Moral Distress and Injury survey
- Professionalization of the Public Health Workforce: Ethical and professional code of conduct

3. Review of activities at EPH 2022 conference

The Ethics in Public Health Section has been involved in a number of workshops and round tables at the EPH conference 2022:

Sat 12th ; 11:40-12:40
Round table: Is public health just science?
UK Faculty of Public Health, EUPHA-ETH, EUPHA-PHPP
John Coggon - United Kingdom; Martin McKee - United Kingdom; Marleen Bekker - EUPHA (PHPP); Farhang Tahzib - EUPHA (ETH)
………………………………………………………………………………………………
Thu 10th; 10:30-11:30

Workshop: Commercial determinants and global capture of public health- cases spanning the world

Governance, Ethics and Conflict of Interest in Public Health Network, UK Faculty of Public Health

Adam Bertscher - United Kingdom; Jihad Makhoul - Lebanon; Hernando Salcedo Fidalgo - Colombia;

Miguel Ángel Royo Bordonada - Spain; Jenn Lacy-Nichols - Australia

……………………………………………….

Thu 10th; 15:00-16:00

Workshop: Quality of COVID-19 science: meta-research and the ethical implications for public health

EUPHA-EPI, EUPHA Research Pillar, EUPHA-ETH, EUPHA-PHG, EUPHA-HTA, UK Faculty of Public Health

Lazaros Belbasis - United Kingdom; Tracey Weissgerber - Germany; Angelo Maria Pezzullo - EUPHA (EPI);

John Coggon - United Kingdom

………………………………………………….

Fri 11th; 16:40-17:40

Workshop: Climate crisis and public health: public health practitioners are key to successful litigation

EUPHA-LAW, EUPHA-ENV, Faculty of Public Health (UK), Groningen Centre for Health Law (Netherlands)

David Patterson - Netherlands; Farhang Tahzib - EUPHA (ETH); Anniek de Ruijter - Netherlands; Scott Burris - United States; Rosemary James

4. Planning Dublin 2023

Plans for the next EPH conference Dublin 2023 are discussed in general terms and people who would be interested and taking the lead in putting workshop and or roundtable proposals together are warmly invited to contact the Vice-Presidents and/or any of the Steering Group members.

5. Some activities for 2023

– Building competence and capacity for good public health practice, through education and training

– Moral Distress and Injury of public health workforce project

– Code of conduct and ethical professional practice

– Paternalism and public health

– Ethical and legal dimensions of Commercial determinants of health

– Perspectives on data sharing and security from law enforcement and public health

– International conference on ethical preparedness, competence and resilience for good public health practice, in line with the moral mandate for good public health practice, in line with the moral mandate of public health and implications for policy and practice in the Spring

Minutes by Ilaria Tocco Tussardi

Ethics for good public health practice and policy making

EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section
Join the Network Meeting
Berlin, 11th November 2022

- Welcome. Introduction. Purpose of meeting
- Activities report 2021 -2022
- Reflection, consultation and activities
- Preparing for EPH 2023
- Any other business
- Close

EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section

- **2340 members**
- The steering group:
  - **Dr Els Maeckelberghe** , University Medical Center Groningen;
  - **Professor Peter Schröder-Bäck**, University of Applied Sciences for Police and Public Administration in North Rhine -Westphalia, Campus, Germany
  - **Dr Farhang Tahzib** , Chair, Public Health Ethics committee, Faculty of Public Health, UK
  - **Dr Ilaria Tocco Tussardi** , University of Verona, Section of Hygiene and Preventive, Environmental and Occupational Medicine, Department of Diagnostics and Public Health, Italy
  - **Prof Silviya Yankulovska** , MU-Pleven, Faculty of Public Health, Bulgaria

The professional discipline of public health is **driven by its values**

" Values define us as a group of public health professionals, **values drew many of us into public health.**"

"Fundamental ethical and basic scientific **values support mission and purpose of the profession** ."

(Coughlin.S.S– Epidemiologic review, 2000; 22:1675)

- Ethics is recognised as a **core professional competence** for public health professionals
- This competence includes:
  - Ethical management of self, others, and resources
  - Knowledge of the principles of ethical and professional practice

Public health ethics

Moral failures of Public Health

Reflection, consultation and courageous action

"**There was a time** when public health in …… was driven by passionately **articulated values** and compelling research, a time when **its leaders were concerned** about social reform and political change. […] Public health is the science of **social justice, overcoming the forces** that undermine the future security of **families, communities and peoples**. Public health leadership in ….. is failing. **It is time for those leaders to discover courage and purpose.**
Richard Horton, Lancet, 2011:1060

Collaboration and support around various policy areas

- Ethics is a **cross cutting issues** and all policy areas have ethical dimensions
- The section President made **presentation on *Covid-19*: *opportunities for public health ethics? At symposium at* Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh on*The Public's Health after Covid: science and social justice* .
- The section was represented in the **COVID-19 Response and Preparedness and Response** Series – eg Ethical reflections on *TRIPS Waiver, Knowledge Transfer and Vaccine Distribution*
- The section wrote a contribution for EJPH supplement on the aftermath of Covid-19 on **Ethical Implications of Covid-19**: Vulnerabilities in a Global Perspective .
- The Section **collaborated with EUPHA Law and Public Health section, Faculty of Public Health, University of Groningen and other partners** in a number of significant webinars on themes related public health for the future of humanity

Public health ethics, law and human rights for the future of humanity

Session 1:
Justice, solidarity and public's health
23 September 2020

#PHethicsseries

Building ethical competence and capacity of public health workforce and systems

Variability in education and training in public health ethics in Europehttps://www.fph.org.uk/media/3633/fph_ethics_report_08_221.pdf
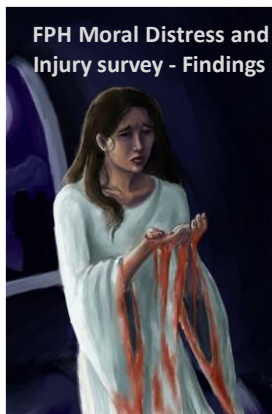
Key messages
- Ethics is an optional extra for some schools of public health
- There is an ethics training gap in continuing professional development
- Public health ethics education is a poorly defined field
- There is lack of expertise and support
- Public health professionals perceive they have a good understanding of, and response to ethical dilemmas in their professional lives

Building ethical competence and capacity of public health workforce and systems

Variability in education and training in public health ethics in Europe
https://www.fph.org.uk/media/3633/fph_ethics_report_08_-221.pdf

- Evidence of **inadequacies in education and training** in public health ethics
- Joint **EUPHA/ASPHER/FPH** group on education and training Public health ethics and law
- Advocacy around the importance and the need
- Development of practical support and resources

FPH Moral Distress and Injury survey - Findings

Situations in which moral distress arises:

1. Developing/implementing national policy, guidance and law.
2. Giving public health advice.
3. Workplace relationships and environments.

Moral judgement that led to distress:

1. Causing injury to others.
   a) Pursuit of public health goals at the expense of other goods.
   b) Doing harm through blind obedience to guidance.
2. Inaction/inability to do good.
3. (Dis)honesty in public health messaging.
4. Unjust prioritisation decisions.
   a) Advising without sufficient resources.

47% said they had to do something they thought was **morally wrong...**

44% said they did something they thought was **morally right...**

30% said they **were not sure** what the morally right thing to do was...

33% said their **colleagues or organisation did something** that they thought was morally wrong...

...and **experienced distress** because of it

Proposed ways to address moral distress:

1. Better decision making.
   a) Better national policy and guidance.
   b) Decentralisation of decision making.
   c) Flexibility in national guidance
2. Communication and participation.
3. Practitioner moral development & support.
4. Pandemic planning, resourcing etc.
5. Freedom to voice concerns and conscientious objection.
6. Acceptance/no mitigation possible.

World Health Organization REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Imperial College London WHO Collaborating Centre Public Health Education & Training

ASPHER The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region

Expert Meeting on Professionalization of the Public Health Workforce
19 June 2018, London, UK

Pillar III. Ethical and professional code of conduct

Dr. habil. Peter Schröder-Bäck, HonMPHF
peter.schroder@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Also on behalf of:
Dr. Els Maeckelberghe, Dr. Farhang Tahzib, Prof. Ulrich Laaser

---

Some activities for 2023

- Building **competence** and **capacity** for good public health practice, through education and training
- **Moral Distress and Injury** of public health workforce project
- **Code of Conduct and ethical professional practice**
- **Paternalism** and public health
- Ethical and legal dimensions of **Commercial determinants of health**
- Perspectives on **data sharing and security** from law enforcement and public health
- International conference on **ethical preparedness, competence and resilience for good public health practice,** in line with the moral mandate of public health and implications for policy and practice in the Spring

---

Ethics for good public health practice and policy making

EUPHA ETHICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section
Join the Network Meeting
Berlin, 11th November 2022

Appendix: Presentation at the JTN meeting