



## MINUTES

### **JTN: Ethics Section Meeting 2019**

23.11.2019 (12:50-13:40), Marseille, Room Mounine

Attendees: Sylvia Agbih, Andrea Buron, Audrey Ceschia, Ansgar Gerhardus, Ilona Koupil, Kai Michelsen, Talal Mohammad, Elisabeth Nöhammer, Peter Schröder-Bäck (chair), William Sherlaw, Maryse Simonet Camara, Juliane Solf, Marek Szilvási, Farhang Tahzib.

#### **Welcome & ROI**

Peter opens the meeting, welcomes everyone, introduces the agenda, and reminds of the Annual report 2019 that was sent to the section's email list. Peter also sends greetings from VP Els Maeckelberghe who had to leave before the section's meeting for a meeting at the ministry in Den Hague to report about their research.

#### **Activities at the conference 2019**

At the 2019 EPH conference, only one workshop, "Liberté, égalité and fraternité in public health - A Human rights approach to Public (Mental) Health", was co-organised by the section. This workshop was well attended and included some intensive debates. All other proposals for workshops / Roundtables were not accepted. Andrea reports from the reviewing board (= ISC) that there were relatively more workshops than spaces than in the years before, thus, competition was much higher. The section discusses that we have to prepare for higher competitiveness for the 2020 conference in Rome.

A "Law Section" is initiated at the conference. This is welcome by the ethics section. Peter strives at close collaboration with the section.

#### **Other activities 2019**

The other activities of 2019 are reported (see report 2019 for details). Among them collaboration with the UK Public Health Faculty, a publication in the EJPH, advising EUPHA regarding conflicts of interest.

The surveys of the UK Public Health Faculty (Farhang Tahzib, Frances Butcher) in collaboration with the section are pronounced and everyone who did not fill the survey in is kindly invited to do so.

## **Planning 2020: deadline 1.3.2020**

Some ideas for workshops / roundtable the section steering group puts forward are: public trust; education in public health ethics (presenting the two surveys); a skills buildings workshop on research integrity.

The mission of the section to bring ethics to the public health practice and to help understanding of ethics for practitioners is re-emphasised in the discussion.

Also, from a political science perspective, the idea of “economic thinking / investment / economisation of public health thinking” and how this relates to ethics is discussed. A special focus could be on the question what “public” means and how this relates to discussions of populations and “populism” and what role “public participation” can play here.

Ideas of how to “flag ethics” in other workshops is raised and can be discussed with the conference office. As are ideas of a “space” at the conference where one can – in an open manner – discuss topics of other workshops from an ethical perspective maybe with an ethical expert, e.g. at the end of the days.

The role of vulnerable people (e.g. Roma) in public health research and practice could be a theme for a workshop. Also, the role of “autonomy” and freedom (not only “freedom from” something but also “freedom to something”, as the capabilities approach of justice would frame it) could play a role.

Commercial determinants of health, vaccination and Artificial Intelligence are also important themes of interest.

## **AOB & Closing**

It was announced that at the 2020 conference, there will be elections for president and VP of the section. An official invitation of applications will follow via the email distribution list.

Could the section be more helpful in offering resources (case studies to be collected, frameworks, papers)? This will be discussed with EUPHA, e.g. if the website of the section can become more of a resource centre.

An e-collection within the EJPH (of already published EJPH journal articles) from the section is possible. Peter invites for proposals.

Peter informs of the next steps: Minutes will be drafted and circulated among the attendees, after feedback the minutes will be sent to the whole section. Attendees will be asked to get back to Peter when they want to take a lead in putting together a workshop / roundtable. Then, all participants are informed of upcoming ideas for the EPH2020 conference and can opt into the planning and learn, once more, about the upcoming elections. Peter concludes the meeting, thanks everyone for attending the meeting.

*Peter Schröder-Bäck, 27.11.2019*