

## **Annual report 2020**

### **EUPHA section on Ethics in Public Health (EUPHA-ETH)**

#### **Achievements in 2019/20**

We conducted a survey among EUPHA members, in cooperation with the UK Public Health Faculty (who is leading on the survey and its analysis). The Survey is on education and challenges of education of public health ethics. It shall help to better understand current activities, views and perspectives on the issue. This understanding will assist in considering options for further development of education and training in public health ethics. Results will be presented at the 2020 conference in October and shall be published in a journal article. The results will help to further form the activities of EUPHA-ETH and make the section a helpful resource for EUPHA and particularly section members. The survey is complementary to a survey among ASPHER institutions that was conducted by the same group (thus with EUPHA-ETH support).

At the EPH conference in Marseille 2019 the section was involved in several activities. Only one workshop was accepted, though, which was a successful event with Els Maeckelberghe being involved as Panelist: “Liberté, égalité and fraternité in public health - A Human rights approach to Public (Mental) Health”; a collaboration with EUPHA, EUPHA MEN, & EUPHA ETH.

In 2020, the section, in collaboration with UK Faculty of Public Health, also organised a workshop on “Ethical and legal dimensions of vaccine hesitancy: Ethics, values and vaccination hesitancy – information, choice and public’s health” at Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, in March 2020, which was postponed due to the pandemic.

Section members also collaborated in a Special issue of the *Journal of Public Health* on “Public Health Ethics and Science of Social Justice” (<https://academic.oup.com/jpubhealth/pages/public-health-ethics-and-the-science-of-social-justice>).

#### **Collaboration with section members**

Section members were encouraged to collaborate submitting proposals for the EPH2020 conference and to communicate with help of the section among each other to initiate projects on public health ethics.

## Conference 2020

In a collaborative effort with section members and partners, several proposals for workshops were submitted and have been *accepted*:

- Workshop: “Teaching Ethics in Public Health and Medicine – International Experiences, Concepts, Challenges.”
- Round table: “Public Health Codes of Ethical Professional Conduct for Effective Practice.”
- Skills building seminar: “There is never a dull moment in science: Designing engaging Responsible Conduct in Research course” to be conducted by Els Maeckelberghe.
- A World Leadership Dialogue session on “The moral mandate of public health, organized efforts of society and implication for practice” organized by UK Faculty in collaboration with other partners, incl. the section.

## Other activities

Els Maeckelberghe and Peter Schröder-Bäck, as VP and president, accepted the invitation along with a leading co-author to contribute to the special issue of the *EJPH* initiated and edited by EUPHA on Digital Public Health. The special issue will be launched during the EPH conference. (Brall, C., Schroeder-Baeck, P., & Maeckelberghe, E. (2019). Ethical aspects of digital health from a justice point of view. *European Journal of Public Health*, 29(suppl. 3), 1822. <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckz167>).

A new viewpoint – lead author Els Maeckelberghe – was invited by EUPHA and will be published in the *EJPH* along with other viewpoints from EUPHA sections. The title is: “Covid-19 – a test for our humanity”.

The president and VP endorsed the statement “Public health for the future of humanity: One planet, One people, One health” which has been set up by the UK Faculty of Public Health, EUPHA, SItI and the World Federation of Public Health Association that was initiated by section steering group member Farhang Tahzib.

The collaboration with the UK Public Health Faculty is important for EUPHA-ETH. Among the activities are the survey (see above) and also the support of the FPH in building regional Public Health Ethics working groups. The section president supported a working group meeting in Glasgow with a presentation and consultation.

The “Public health ethics, law and human rights for the future of humanity” free webinar series is initiated by EUPHA and in collaboration with the UK PHF and EUPHA ETH. The first session, on “Justice, solidarity and public’s health” will take place on 23rd September 2020, 2:00-3:30 pm BST (London).

The VP continued activities as chair of the Good EUPHA Practices Committee and gave an advice on conflict of interest in collaboration.

## **Annual meeting**

The JTN during the EPH conference discussed the planning of proposals for the 2020 conference and announcing the President / VP elections of 2020.

## **General communications with section members**

Cooperation for the 2020 conference working groups was offered during the JTN and several emails to the section. There were very few responses this year (unlike last year).

The elections of the ETH Section president was announced and initiated in emails to the section.

*Peter Schröder-Bäck & Els Maeckelberghe, 8.2020*