

JTN 'Ethics in Public Health' Section meeting Dublin, 10.11.2023, 12:50-14:00

Participants: Els Maeckelberghe (President), Farhang Tahzib (Vice-President), Ilaria Tocco Tussardi (Steering Group + minutes), Simon Bacon, Kim Lavoie, Margaret Steele, Nina Stahl, Ilona Grünberger, Sujitha Subramanian, Anna Gilmore, Monica Kosinska, Ben Cave.

1. Welcome & Round of introductions

The President Els Maeckelberghe and Vice-President Farhang Tahzib welcome everyone; apologies are reported from Silviya Aleksandrova, member of the Steering Group, who unfortunately cannot be present at the meeting. The President informs the participants that Peter Schröder-Bäck has recently asked to step down from the position of Vice-President of the Section, but continues to be involved in the activities as a member of the Steering Group. The President indicates that the entire section is pleased that Peter wishes to remain engaged and recalls his great contribution to the section.

The participants briefly introduce themselves and the President gives a presentation about the Section, starting with a general introduction and then focusing on the activities and collaborations carried on by the Section.

2. Recent activities

The President and Vice-President inform the participants about the Section's collaborative activities with the UK Faculty of Public Health and the other EUPHA sections. One of the main objectives of these collaborations is to organise conjoint workshops at the annual European Public Health Conference, with the aim of enlightening the many ethical aspects in public health practice, give them relevance and attention, and raise awareness among public health professionals.

Another main activity of the Section is then illustrated, which is collaborating (for example with other EUPHA Sections) on writing conjoint statements on topic of interest/actual debate in the public health field. The last two on which the Section collaborated were "Statement on front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the European Union" and "Solidarity with the Ugandan LGBT community".

The President then concludes her speech by talking about the third main activity, namely participation in the regular meetings of Sections' presidents. She underlines the importance of these meetings to reinforce the collaboration between the Sections and also to bring up themes of interest in the public health debate; for example, one of the most recent main messages that emerged from the last meeting was that of raising awareness and action against acts of intimidation. The President was asked to give input on and review a document outlining the position of EUPHA and the installment of a confidential advisor.

The Vice-President shared about the various collaborative activities between the Faculty of Public Health, EUPHA and ASPHER. These included building ethical competence and capacity of public health workforce and systems and analysis of variability in education and training in public health ethics in Europe; developing codes of ethics and professional conducts; investigating moral distress and injuries in the public health workforce, which will have a policy paper and a dedicated webinar as

developments; development of a guide for public health professionals on how to link with commercial industries in the most proper way, a thread of activities collectively named “Dancing with the devil”; and the development of a network with arts and humanities, that will hopefully lead to the realisation of a webinar and hopefully even a change in the curricula.

3. Planning Lisbon 2024

The President asks the participants if they would have special interests and possibly proposals, to start planning for the next EPH conference Lisbon 2024 in terms of workshops and roundtables. A lively discussion among the participants opens, at the end of which four potential areas for the development of proposals are identified: 1. Behavioural science and public health; 2. Conflicts of interests; 3. Moral and political philosophy; 4. Commercial determinants in public health. All participants will be involved in post-conference contacts to facilitate exchanges and collaboration.

Some participants requested that the materials and the workshops, in which the section is involved, should be cognisant of the breadth of the public health workforce, embracing and soliciting input from across the workforce.

Finally, it is reminded that attention should be paid to the issue of local sensitivities in the topics dealt with and the contents that will be proposed.

All participants will be kept up-to-date on the activities of the Section.

The meeting ends at 14:00.