

JTN ‘Ethics in Public Health’ meeting, Dublin / online, 11.11.2021, 12:40-13:40

Participants: Atanas Anov, Hary Mpalougias, Ilaria Tocco Tussardi (Steering Group), Silviya Aleksandrova (Steering Group), Farhang Tahzib (Vice President), Judy Makhoul, Lou Cantarero, Maria Francesca Manca, MD Menezes, Sara Schiavone, Miguel Angel Royo, Ines Cunha, Sandro Limaj, Boubacar Traore, Peter Schröder-Bäck (Vice President, minutes, meeting chair), Solveig Hansen, Thuy I. Nguyen-Thi, Steven Bow, B. Traore

1. Welcome & Round of introduction

The Vice Presidents and members of the Steering Group welcomed everyone and sent greetings from President Els Maeckelberghe who unfortunately cannot join today.

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:

- An article on Covid-19 in the November 2021 EJPB Supplement
- A podcast on public health ethics and law (for EUPHA podcasts, see: <https://eupha.org/multimedia>)
- A report on public health ethics, law and politics
- A presentation on **Covid -19: Opportunities for public health ethics** by the President of the “EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section” at the Royal College Physicians of Edinburgh symposium on 14 April 2021, subsequently published in the special supplement of JRCPE on covid: <https://www.rcpe.ac.uk/college/journal/covid-19-opportunities-public-health-ethics>

The “EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section” has continued to collaborate with the UK Faculty of Public Health (FPH), and the law and the “EUPHA Public Health and Law Section” around a range of activities, for example:

- FPH in collaboration with “EUPHA ethics in public health” and the “public health and law” sections, and other partners have been organising international webinar series on **public health ethics, law and human rights for the future of humanity**. There has been wide interest and support for the webinars with over 900 people registering for the first webinar and over 500 for all the subsequent webinars. This has included sessions on:
 - **Justice, solidarity and public’s health** Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9f5ZaMKP_w&t=4667s
 - **Legal Epidemiology and the path to better health and policy** Recording available: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x586L4uzJBo>
 - **Unleashing the power of law to promote better health for all** Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3VI78nFlil>

- **Climate change, public health and strategic Litigation on 7th October 2021**, organised by the FPH in collaboration with the Global Health Law Groningen Research Centre, EUPHA law, ethics and environment sections, Greenpeace, Client Earth with other partners. **Recording:** <https://youtu.be/18h8wOtpJZg>
- The FPH, in collaboration with the “EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section” and various ethico-legal academics, practitioners and researchers on education and training in public health ethics highlighted the importance and relevance of the topic of public health ethics. Moreover, they stressed the continuing demand and need to develop and support wider public health ethics and law (PHEL) capacity among the public health health workforce through the provision of PHEL education, training, guidance, and mentoring. As an example read the article.¹

In light of the evidence, the “EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section” in collaboration with FPH have been working to devise various strategies to address the issue:

- FPH in collaboration with ASPHER and EUPHA carried out survey among schools of public health and public health workforce in Europe and has established a joint working group on public health ethics and law and due to:
 - o publish report on variability of education and training in public health workforce in Europe in December 2021
 - o develop a joint high level policy paper on education and training in public health ethics and law
 - o consider implications for public health curricula and develop a competency framework in public health ethics and law
- Code of ethics and public health – The WHO /ASPHER European competencies framework for public health workforce highlighted public health ethics and law as a core issue. Scotland has been highlighted as a pilot site to explore development of **code of professional conduct and ethical practice**. The “EUPHA Ethics in Public Health Section” has been working with FPH and the Scottish public health ethics forum, consulting on this issue at its various public health ethics forum gatherings prior to the covid-19 pandemic. There are plans to re-establish a working group to take forward this issue in 2022.
- The FPH ethics committee is collaborating with researchers at LSE and University of Durham in a project on '[Paternalism, Health, and Public Policy](#)' funded by the Wellcome Trust. There was a two day on-line workshop on 'Paternalism and Public Health' held on 14th and 15th September 2021, including a round table on the Faculty report on '[The Nanny State Debate](#)'. <https://paternalismhealthpublicpolicy.org/workshop-1-paternalism-and-public-health/>

3. Review of activities at EPH 2021 conference

The “Ethics in public health section” has organised and participated in of the following workshops at the 2021 EUPHA conference:

- **Round table: COVID-19, ethics, and the many publics in public health policy and practice;**
- **Workshop: Intersex human rights and wellbeing;**
- **Workshop on Moral distress and injury in public health workforce**
- **Workshop on Health Impact assessment**

¹ Viens AM, Vass C, McGowan CR, Tahzib F. Education, training, and experience in public health ethics and law within the UK public health workforce. J Public Health (Oxf). 2020 Feb 28;42(1):208-215. doi: 10.1093/pubmed/fdz008. PMID: 31595298.

4. Planning Berlin 2022

Topics that are discussed for Berlin 2022 and people who would be interested and taking the lead in putting workshop and or roundtable proposals together are the following:

- Teaching / training ethics (Farhang, Lourdes, Solveig, Judy, Peter)
- Tobacco control: empirical data and ethical analysis (Sara).
- Conflict of interests, nutrition, lobbying and omission of health actions (Miguel Angel).
- Moral distress and injury (Steven, Farhang, Lourdes and Peter)

5. Any other business

- It is suggested to make a newsletter for the section (Lou Cantarero would volunteer to this).
- The section could be prepared a statement to improve the review process of ethics abstracts (that they are e.g. reviewed by ethics experts, based on a list of independent reviewers).

The Steering Group shall discuss both topics.