

2013 Annual report of the Health Promotion Section

Thomas Abel, University of Bern, Switzerland

Christiane Stock, University of Southern Denmark

The annual meeting of the section took place at the conference in Brussels with 15 members. At the meeting Thomas Abel and Christiane Stock have been re-elected as president and vice-president of the section. In connection with the election the idea of forming a steering committee to support the work of the presidents was also discussed. It was decided that ideas for this should be further collected from members to be discussed at the next section meeting in Glasgow.

Furthermore, potential new topics for a section workshop have been discussed including (-) new technologies in health promotion (social media, mobile devices etc.), (-) the role of evidence in policy priority setting and (-) context factors and health promotion (as a continuation of the 2013 workshop and perhaps this time adding issues around “new technologies”). Also; there was a suggestion from the members to use our member data bank to link up among single members with common interests to exchange ideas etc. The presidents suggested to take this idea to the annual meeting of the sections and/or discuss this with Dineke.

The section was represented at the Brussels conference with a workshop “Context matters: social and cultural factors in health behaviour research”. The proposition for this workshop was that context specific social and cultural factors are likely to affect people’s health relevant behaviours. The workshop addressed the questions of what do we know about those factors and how they relate to health behaviours and how should those context factors influence the way we do health promotion research and the planning of culturally sensitive interventions. The four presentations in this workshop addressed those questions from different angles and on different intervention levels. The theme started by Kate Frohlich (Canada) offering a structure- agency theory perspective with a focus on neighborhoods as contexts for smoking behaviours. Bart de Clercq (Belgium) provided then empirical findings on the associations between smoking, social capital and neighborhoods and will therewith add but might also challenge some of the findings from the Kate’s presentation. Annika Frasha’s (Germany) presentation showed how a theoretical framework which gives context a key role, can be successfully used in comparative policy studies on physical activity promotion. Following this, Giovanni Capelli (Italy) offered lessons from a large EC project to promote physical activity particularly among groups in socio-economically disadvantaged contexts.

In addition the section contributed to the EUPHA workshop “Pampers or pamper? Should we celebrate an aging population of fear it?” with a presentation by Christiane Stock entitled “The aging population: What can early intervention offer?”

Plans for 2014

The section plans include to continue to encourage active participation by countries yet under-represented and to organize at least one workshop to be submitted to the Glasgow conference 2014 on a theme that can establish a cooperation with one of the other sections. In addition the participation of the section in one of the pre-conferences is planned. The development of a steering group shall be further discussed with section members.