



## **Annual report 2020**

### **EUPHA section on Health Workforce Research (EUPHA-HWR)**

#### **Goals for 2021**

An overarching goal is to continue and expand on previous activities to build capacity for health workforce research (Call for Action, 2018; EJPH Supplement 4, 2020) and strengthen the voice of health workforce researchers in health systems and policy development. More specifically, the 2021 goals include:

- learning from COVID-19, improving resilience and preparedness of the health workforce,
- contributing to the implementation of the WHO EPW and the EUPHA strategy 'Analysis, Advocacy and Action',
- expanding the membership of the EUPHA section HWR,
- strengthening collaboration with our partner associations, especially WHO Europe, Observatory nad ASHPER, and with other stakeholders in the field of healthcare research, like professional associations,
- increasing visibility of health workforce research within Public Health and Health Policy,
- highlighting the global dimensions of health workforce research and strengthening solidarity across countries, regions and professional groups,
- making the 'human face' of the 'human resources for health' visible, preventing burn-out, improving crisis preparedness and personal protection equipment of healthcare workers,
- highlighting the need for European regulation of the health workforce and exploring opportunities for EU health workforce governance based on solidarity and fairness to counteract 'brain drain', maldistribution and inequality of the human resources for health in Europe,
- organising the second midterm Conference of HWR in 2021 in Lisbon with collaborating partners, and contributing to the EPH Conference in Dublin 2021,
- editing a Special Issue of International Journal of Health Management and Planning (Wiley) on 'Global health and health workforce development'.

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

The HWR section is based on a collaborative network of individuals and of partner organisations and associations. The latter ones include in particular: WHO Regional Office for Europe/ Human Resources for Health Programme (Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat/ Gabrielle Jacob), the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (Matthias Wismar) and ASPHER (Kasia Czabanowska). Within EUPHA, collaboration with EUPHAnxt has been established through collaboration at the first HWR midterm conference in Cluj-Napoca, Romania (with Monica Brinzac), and through organising a joint workshop at WCPH.



Collaboration with institutional/ organisational members as well as with individual members is mainly organised through the EPH Conference workshops and other events. Further activities include a number of individual collaborations, e.g. working on a co-authored journal paper, skype meetings and email exchange. For 2021, collaboration will be expanded through the organisation of the second HWR section midterm conference, which will provide ample opportunity for discussion and networking. The 2021 midterm conference will focus on strengthening collaboration and active participation of HWR section members from Southern European countries.

### **Activities at the EPH conference**

The EUPHA HWR section is organising the following activities:

- Workshop 'The health labour market and the human face of the health workforce: analysis, advocacy and action', in collaboration with OBS (Matthias Wismar).
- Workshop 'Support4Global Health and SDGs in health workforce education: advocacy and action', in collaboration with EUPHAnxt (Monica-Georgiana Brînzac) and ASPHER (Katarzyna Czabanowska).
- 'Meet the Network' session.

### **Other activities**

The **first HWR section midterm Conference** 'How to make a future health workforce happen? Policy, practice and people', hosted by Marius Ungureanu (associated HWR Board Member) at Cluj Napoca, Romania, 18-19 June 2020, was organised and successfully transformed into a virtual event due to the Covid-19 restrictions. It included four livestream sessions and a meet the network session and additional research sessions based on power point presentations or posters. The midterm conference was supported by EUPHA and held in collaboration with partners – WHO Regional Office for Europe and the WHO Programme Human Resources for Health, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and ASPHER. A number of other associations and networks were also involved, e.g. a session organised by the EU-funded SEPEM (Support for Health Workforce and Planning) Network/ Project, and CPME (Standing Working Committee of European Doctors). The midterm conference attracted about 180 subscriptions; active session participation varied between 75 (opening session) to still more than 40 (concluding session) participants. A Book of Abstracts, three of the livestreams and the research sessions/ power point presentations are available open access at the conference website: <http://hwrconference.publichealth.ro/>. The website will be open until mid of October 2020.

The **EJPH Supplement** on 'Health labour market and the human face of the health workforce', edited in collaboration with OBS/ Matthias Wismar and Gilles Dussault (Lisbon), will be available in September as Supplement 4, 2020. We wish to thank EUPHA very much for the funding and Maaïke and the Office for the support during the process.

**HWR twitter** account, managed by Marius Ungureanu and Milena Santric Milicevic.

A **second HWR midterm conference** is planned in 2021, which will be hosted by Tiago Correia and Gilles Dussault at Lisbon, WHO Collaborating Centre Human Resources for



Health. A first announcement/ Call for Papers has been launched in collaboration with WHO European Office, Observatory and ASPHER. The format of the conference will be adapted to the COVID-19 situation. However, we might go for a hybrid conference format even if there are no travel restrictions, as this would help strengthening international contacts and improve participation from outside Europe and LMIC countries.

A **Call for Papers for a Special Issue ‘Global health and health workforce development: education, management and policy beyond the COVID-19 crisis’**, edited by Ellen Kuhlmann, Tuba I. Agartan and Tiago Correia, was launched in July 2020; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10991751> publication is scheduled for summer 2021.

HWR section board members contributed to a number of events, e.g. to the workshops and activities of SEPEM – Support for the Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting Expert Network (funded by the Health Programme of the European Union).

### **Annual meeting**

A Meet the Network session was organised virtually in June 2020 during the midterm conference and attended by about 40 participants. A second Meet the Network event will be organised during the WCPH, also virtually as a live stream.

### **General communications with section members**

A quarterly Newsletter is distributed electronically to the members and available via the website. Members are invited to send their notices and announcements; this is increasingly utilised and improves the quality of the newsletter as a communication platform.

### **International participation in events on behalf of EUPHA**

ESNO (European Specialised Nurses Organisation) Annual Conference in Brussels February 2020; Ellen Kuhlmann was invited as panellist for the concluding session.

Other conference participations were cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions.

### **Survey**

A formal member survey has not been carried out, but there was feedback as part of the interactive ‘Meet the Network’ session at the midterm conference 2020.

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