



Annual report 2019

EUPHA section on Health Workforce Research (EUPHA-HWR)

Goals for 2020

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

- expanding the EUPHA section HWR membership,
- strengthening collaboration with our partnering associations and stakeholders in the field of healthcare research,
- highlighting the importance of the health workforce as a key theme of Public Health and increasing visibility of health workforce research at the Public Health World Congress in Rome,
- highlighting the global dimensions of health workforce research and strengthening solidarity across countries and professional groups,
- making the 'human face' of the 'human resources for health' visible, speaking up against forced (labour) migration and strengthening humanity and responsibility in health workforce recruitment and work conditions,
- contributing to the implementation and further development of the NHWA (National Health Workforce Accounts) developed by WHO,
- organising the first midterm Conference of HWR with collaborating partners,
- editing a Special Issue of European Journal of Public Health.

Collaboration with section members

The HWR section is based on a collaborative network of individuals and of partnering organisations and associations. The latter ones include in particular: WHO Regional Office for Europe/ Human Resources for Health Programme, the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and ASPHER. Within EUPHA, collaboration with the EUPHA HSR section is firmly established and strengthened, and a new collaboration is developed with the PHPP section, and contacts are also made with EUPHAnxt, in particular to explore joint activities at future conferences.

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 2020, collaboration will be expanded through the organisation of a HWR section midterm conference, which will provide ample opportunity for discussion and networking. Specifically, this midterm conference also seeks to strengthen collaboration and improve opportunity for active participation of HWR section members from Eastern European countries.



Activities at the EPH conference

The EUPHA HWR section has organised and co-organised the following activities:

- Preconference 'Real-life skill-mix challenges in the current and future health workforce', with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (Matthias Wismar), the Health Foundation and WHO Regional Office for Europe/ Human Resources for Health Programme (Gabrielle Jacob).
- Workshop 'Health workforce coordination and agency across sectors, organisations and professions', HWR und HSR sections.
- Workshop 'Health workforce meets HSR: Tackling regional inequalities in health service provision', HSR and HWR sections.
- Workshop Care4Care: the migrant care workforce in Europe, HWR, HSR and PHPP sections.
- Skills building seminar 'Building skills and capacity for a future health workforce' (available at the EUPHA HWR website).
- 'Meet the Network' session.

Other activities

The first HWR section midterm Conference 'How to make a future health workforce happen? Policy, practice and people' has been announced, which is hosted by Marius Ungureanu (HWR Board Member) at Cluj Napoca, Romania, 18-19 June 2020, and held in collaboration with partners (WHO Regional Office for Europe/ Programme Human Resources for Health, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, ASPHER and EUPHA HSR section). A Call for Papers has been distributed via the HWR emailing list and website and also through the channels of the partnering organisations, the Health Policy Platform (European Commission), and a number of other networks (e.g. SEPEM).

A twitter account was set up; main responsibility: Marius Ungureanu and Milena Santric Milicevic.

The HWR section applied for an edited special issue of EJPH in 2020 related to the health workforce, which was accepted by EUPHA and will be prepared in 2020.

HWR section board members contributed to a number of events, among others:

- Participation in the EUPHA Strategy Group and a retreat, March 2019, at Comer Sea Italy.
- Contribution to the First Public Health Week in May, Day 3 'Care4Care', with the Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark.
- Several members participated in 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

The annual meeting took place during the EPH Conference in Marseille, Friday, 22 November. It was attended by more than 25 participants and organised as an interactive knowledge



exchange and information platform ('marketplace'); a detailed report is available at the EUPHA HWR website.

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

There was no participation as an invited delegate on behalf of EUPHA, but HWR section members participated in a number of important meetings. For instance,

- Invited keynote to the Conference 'Planning the workforce through evidence', HSE and Department of Health, Dublin, Ireland, February (Ellen Kuhlmann);
- Invited keynote to the First Health Sociology Forum, Healthcare Department Moscow, Russia, November (Ellen Kuhlmann).
- Global Symposium on Health Workforce Accreditation and Regulation, 10-12 December 2019, Istanbul, Turkey, co-organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) and the Global Health Workforce Network (GHWN 2019); www.healthworkforce2019.org (Gilles Dussault, Marius Ungureanu, Milena Santric Milicevic).
- International Congress – the 53rd Days of Preventive Medicine, 24-27 September 2019, Niš, Serbia; <http://media.dpm.izjz-nis.org.rs/2019/09/53-Days-of-Preventive-Medicine-Programme.pdf> (Milena Santric Milicevic).
- WHO-HRH Expert Consultation on the Workload Indicators of Staffing Need, 15-17 October 2019, Istanbul, Turkey (Milena Santric Milicevic).

Survey

A formal member survey has not been carried out, but there was an extensive feedback as part of the interactive 'Meet the Network' session at the EPH Conference in Marseille.

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Ellen Kuhlmann, PhD, MPH
EUPHA HWR section President
kuhlmann.ellen@mh-hannover.de