



## **Minutes Join the network meeting, 15 October 2020**

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

The Meet the Network session was organised virtually via a zoom link. We wish to thank EUPHA and appreciate very much this opportunity for a more interactive session! Chair: Ellen Kuhlmann; hosted by associated Board Member Marius Ungureanu and EUPHANxt Representative Monica Brinsac, Romania.

#### **Welcome**

Chair and hosts welcomed the audience.

#### **Agenda**

HWR section 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary

1. Activities report 2020
2. Publication, EJPH Supplement 4
3. What next?  
2<sup>nd</sup> HWR Interim Workshop, June 2021  
EHP Dublin 2021  
Publications & follow up from WCPH workshops
4. Marketplace

#### **Activities of the section**

An overview of the activities is available via the quarterly Newsletters, which are posted on the EUPHA HWR website.

Highlights:

EUPHA HWR section celebrates its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Currently more than 700 Members, nearly 60% increase since 2019; about 85 countries.

1st EUPHA HWR midterm Conference, June 2020, Romania (see HWR website).

Publication: 'The health labour market and the human face of the health workforce', European Journal of Public Health, 2020, 30(Suppl.4), Guest editors: Kuhlmann E, Dussault G, Wismar M; sponsored by EUPHA, open access; <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/30/Suppl>

Main activities during the WCPH:

- Workshop: The health labour market and the human face of the health workforce: analysis, advocacy and action, HWR and OBS (2G, Tuesday)
- Workshop: Support4Global Health and SDGs in health workforce education: advocacy and action, HWR, EUPHANxt and ASPHER (12G, Wednesday)
- Section President contributed to a round table of the Observatory on the SDGs and co-benefits (13B, Wednesday).



The two HWR workshops had strong presentations. The first workshop faced only minor technical problems, while access to workshop 2 was entirely blocked for the first part (except for speakers) and interaction with the audience via Q&A was not possible during the entire workshop.

- **Meet the Network session**  
EUPHA Fellow Annika Kreitlow and EUPHANxt Representative Monica Brinsac shared their insights into the HWR activities during the conference; it was highlighted that education of the next generation should be strengthened in order to improve preparedness of future healthcare systems.
- There were a number of oral presentations and posters related to health workforce research.

### **Annual report**

Sent to the EUPHA Office previously.

### **Ideas for workshop activities next year**

2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm Conference, Health workforce development: disruption, innovation and resilience beyond the COVID-19 crisis, 11-12 June 2021, Lisbon, Portugal.

Organisation team: Tiago Correia, Gilles Dussault, Ellen Kuhlmann. The conference is hosted by the Universidade Nova, WHO Collaboration Centre for Human Resources for Health; collaborating partners: WHO Regional Office for Europe, ASPHER, Observatory A call for papers is placed on the EUPHA website since some time; abstract submission will open in January 2021.

The EPH Conference in 2021 in Dublin was introduced; Niamh Humphries, HWR section member from Dublin, highlighted the benefits of her city and warmly invited everybody.

Opportunities to set up a webinar based on our Workshop “Support4Global Health and health workshop” at WCPH are currently explored with Kasia Czabanowska/ ASPHER, also involving EUPHANxt/ Monica Brinsac.

Other work in progress includes a Special Issue of International Journal of Health Planning and Management (Wiley) on “Global health and health workforce development: education, management and policy beyond the COVID-19 crisis”, edited by: Ellen Kuhlmann, Tuba Agartan, Tiago Correia. Publication scheduled for May 2021

### **Suggestions from participants**

Named ‘Marketplace’, this is a well-established part of the “Meet the Network session”, and it is even more important this year, as the virtual format is very much limiting the opportunity for interaction.

There was lively interaction and very interesting contributions from the audience. HWR Board Members and collaborators were also invited to share their research. Debate emerged on future themes. Major suggestions are summarized below:



Ronald Batenburg, introduced his idea for workforce research/planning; Milena Šantrić Milićević recalled the need for improving data, especially comparative data; SEPEN and CPME shared their experience and announced further plans.

Education of the next generation and preparedness of the (public health) workforce was highlighted as important future demand.

Ellen recalled the theme of the EJPH Supplement and the efforts to put greater attention to the 'human side'. This might also affect data collection and monitoring.

Peter Groenewegen (NIVEL; and HWR founding member) informed us on a very recent programme by the Commission, which does not mention the health workforce and suggested to develop a policy statement from the EUPHA HWR section.

Further suggestion, also from Peter Groenewegen was to send out a poll to all HWR section members via the emailing list and ask members: "What do you see as a priority of our next HWR Midterm Conference and activities in 2021?". This would provide more bottom-up insights into the HWR developments.

Both suggestions were well received; action will be taken on the policy statement in the next few days, and idea of a poll will be followed-up later this year.

### **Elections**

It was announced that the Board takes office for a second term. Vice-president Gilles Dussault steps more to the background to give room to younger colleagues, but confirmed his availability and support for the section. 2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm Conference host Tiago Correia is invited as associated Board member to strengthen collaboration for the midterm conference.

### **Steering committee**

President: Ellen Kuhmann (Germany)

Vice-president Ronald Batenburg (Netherlands)

Board members: Milena Šantrić Milićević (Serbia),

Gilles Dussault (Portugal)

Associated members: Marius Ungureanu (Romania), Tiago Correia (Portugal)

### **Any other business**

Several participants welcomed the opportunity for sharing knowledge through the HWR section and the Meet the Network session. Ellen, Marius and Monica thanked the participants.

### **List of attendants**

We were 18 participants and almost everybody stayed for the whole session. Thus the virtual format went very well.

15 October, 2020  
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