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Call for Papers

Health workforce development: disruption, innovation and resilience beyond the COVID-19 crisis

**Second mid-term Conference, EUPHA section Health Workforce Research
Lisbon, Portugal, 10-11 June 2021**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the most serious empirical ‘stress test’ for health systems and healthcare workers across the globe; many healthcare workers paid with their health and wellbeing, even with their life. The pandemic not only caused threats and disruptions in all areas of healthcare, it also opened windows of opportunity for innovations, in particular in the health and social care workforce. Indeed, the pandemic shock triggered policy developments that public health professionals had been advocating for many years: the health workforce was moving from a cost factor to the ‘heart and soul’ of health systems. The challenge is now to make these changes sustainable and effective.

This second mid-term Conference seeks to critically reflect on the lessons to be learned from the COVID-19 situation and on how to build a future health workforce that is resilient, fit-for-practice and prepared for emergencies. The EUPHA section Health Workforce Research (HWR) and the Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine-Nova University of Lisbon (IHMT-UNL), in collaboration with partner organisations European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO Regional Office for Europe and ASPHER – Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, will provide a forum for knowledge exchange across the European health workforce community and beyond. Taking a multidisciplinary and transnational approach, the conference aims to contribute to the breaking of professional ‘silos’ and to the establishment of health workforce governance based on solidarity, participation and on the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’.

The format follows the previous midterm conference in 2020, which combined a research workshop format based on peer-selected posters and presentations with invited panels and policy dialogue. We invite research that addresses COVID-19 related challenges to frontline staff and the management and organisation of work, professional experiences (e.g. burn-out) and policy responses to health workforce needs and demands; other themes are also welcome. Abstract submission will open on 15 January and close on 28 February 2021.

Save the date! We are currently envisioning a meeting in Lisbon, but a virtual conference or a hybrid solution might also be possible, depending on the COVID-19 situation. More details, including on conference fees, will follow soon; <https://eupha.org/health-workforce-research>. Organisation team: Tiago Correia, Gilles Dussault and Ellen Kuhlmann.

