

Minutes Join the Network meeting 22 November 2019 EUPHA section on Health Workforce Research (EUPHA-HWR)

Welcome and agenda

President Ellen Kuhlmann and Vice-President Ronald Batenburg welcome the participants. The following agenda is presented:

1. Activities report 2019
2. Policy statements
3. Preparing for 2020
 - First HWR Interim Workshop, 18-19 June 2020
 - World Congress Rome 2020
 - Publications
4. Marketplace
5. Summing up, what's next?

Activities of the HWR section

The HWR section is happy to present its activities in its 2nd anniversary, and is proud to announce that the number of members has grown to more than 400 members.

The HWR section executed a number of events in 2019. In chronological order:

- Participation in the EUPHA Strategy Group, that met 12-13 February in Utrecht;
- Participation in the Conference 'Planning the workforce through evidence', HSE and Department of Health, Dublin, Ireland, February;
- Contribution to the First Public Health Week in May, Day 3 'Care4Care', with Department of Public Health, Aarhus University;
- Contribution to the First Health Sociology Forum, Healthcare Department Moscow, Russia, November.

Next to that, the section collaborated throughout 2019 with the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, the WHO, and the EUPHA sections on HSR (Judith de Jong) and on PHPP (Marleen Bekker), early career researchers/ PhD students (connecting with EUPHANxt), as well as with the Expert Network SEPEN – Support for the Health Workforce Planning and Forecasting Expert Network (funded by the Health Programme of the European Union).

Specifically, here at the 12th EPH Conference in Marseille, the section (co-)organizes the following activities:

- Preconference Real-life skill-mix challenges in the current and future health workforce, with the Observatory (Matthias Wismar), Health Foundation and WHO European Region (Gabrielle Jacob);

- Workshop Health workforce coordination and agency across sectors, organisations and professions, HWR und HSR;
- Workshop Health workforce meets HSR: Tackling regional inequalities in health service provision, HSR and HWR;
- Workshop Care4Care: the migrant care workforce in Europe, HWR, HSR and PHPP;
- Skills building seminar Skills building seminar: Building skills and capacity for a future health workforce.

Finally, the section produced three Quarterly Newsletters in 2019 that were sent to all members. The newsletters include HWR-relevant notices, publications, conferences, health workforce MA or PhD programmes, etc. The Newsletter is also available online at the EUPHA website to members and non-members and provides comprehensive information on HWR activities.

The section is also active on social media, with a dedicated Twitter account and a LinkedIn Group moderated by board members Marius Ungureanu and Milena Santric-Milicevic.

Policy statement

Apart from the activities listed above, the section launched a statement in 2019 to anticipate on the elections for the European Parliament called '*Who cares for the health workforce? Call for action in response to the European Union parties' manifestos*' (Kuhlmann, Batenburg, Dussault). The statement can be found on the EUPHA website that supported the statement: <https://eupha.org/health-workforce-research>.

Preparing for 2020

The section is happy to announce the first HWR mid-term Workshop, to be held on 18-19 June 2020 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Section board member Marius Ungureanu will lead the organisation of the Workshop. The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO Europe and EUPHA section Health Services Research (HSR) immediately supported the mid-term workshop; further collaborations will be explored. The Call for Papers will be send out at short notice.

The audience is informed about the World Public Health Congress that will be held in Rome 2020, that will actually include the next EPH Conference. Abstracts can be submitted from December 1, and a discount registration can be achieved until November 30.

Marketplace

The audience is invited to shortly introduce themselves and speak out their interest in the health workforce field. Each attendant is also asked to suggest what the HWR section can do more in addressing themes and subjects for the mid-term Workshop and EPH/World Public Health Conference in Rome 2020. The main goal of the marketplace is to strengthen the voice of the HWR community and prioritize themes for the HWR section.

Before that, it is mentioned that the Section will continue to work with the other EUPHA Sections, in particular the Health Services Research section (HSR, of which past president Judith de Jong is present, as well as the newly elected president Johan Hansen), the Public Health Policy and Politics section (PHPP), ASPHER (of which immediate past President Kasia Czabanowska is present), the European Observatory, the WHO Europe Programme Coordinator for Human Resources for Health, and SEPEM (of which Sarada Das is present).

Gilles Dussault, the HWR Vice-President cannot be present but gives his warm wishes and gave as input for this agenda point that he is currently working globally on human resources for health, by participating in a health labour market report by WHO Headquarter and advising North African countries to set up a health workforce plan.

Colleagues from ECDC also cannot attend and send an announcement of their first 'Survey of healthcare workers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviour on antibiotics, antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance in the EU/EEA', which was launched in Stockholm earlier this week at the European Antibiotics day.

The marketplace (or: audience consultation round) initiated lively stand-up presentations and discussion among the participants, from which a number of topics and ideas resulted that can be taken further by the section:

- Interprofessional collaboration,
- Migration,
- Collaboratives of practice,
- Skill-mix, team skills, and digital skills,
- Value based health care, triple aim and the value of professions and competences,
- The agenda of Horizon Europe, and Call on skills, competences, workload, stress in professionals,
- Midwifery,
- Transformation, disruptive changes due to digitization, reversed innovation, what does it mean for classic concepts as professions and professionalism,
- Professions working with people with disabilities,
- Methodological problems in HWR,
- Integrative and inter-sectoral care,
- Upscaling, new roles.

Several calls were made that the section should be both scientific and policy relevant, and can improve its influence on the political agenda as workforce problems are higher then ever. HWR can also connect to the widely promoted movement towards patient-centered and integrated care

Elections

n/a

Steering committee

See 2017 election and the EUPHA/HWR-website

Summing up, what's next?

The HWR section President and Vice President thank the participants for their interest and constructive participation. An attendance list is distributed, all participants agreed to share their email addresses. Finally, EUPHA and the colleagues in the EUPHA Office are thanked for their great support.

24 November 2019
Ronald Batenburg and Ellen Kuhlmann