



## **Annual Report 2021** (updated, Report August 2021)

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

#### **Goals for 2022**

The future goals build on our previous activities and seek to provide a forum for academic and policy debate, build capacity for health workforce research and strengthen the voice of health workforce researchers in health systems and policy development. More specifically, the 2022 goals include:

- continue and strengthen the efforts to learn from COVID-19, improving resilience and preparedness of the health workforce (see EJPH, Supplement, November 2021), it is now more than ever important to increase visibility of health workforce research within Public Health and Health Policy;
- contribute to the implementation of the EUPHA strategy and support EUPHA activities;
- take action to expand the membership of the EUPHA section HWR;
- strengthen collaboration with our partner associations and with other stakeholders in the field of healthcare workforce research and explore opportunities for collaboration with other EUPHA sections and groups);
- highlight and explore the global dimensions of health workforce research and strengthen solidarity across countries, regions and professional groups;
- contribute to the improvement of mental health of healthcare workers and further explore the 'human face' of the 'human resources for health', as highlighted in 2020 EJPH Supplement. COVID-19 has reinforced the need and added new demand, as stress and burn-out of healthcare workers increased during the pandemic and created new threats to the health workforce;
- highlight the need for European regulation of the health workforce based on solidarity and fairness to counteract 'brain drain', which has been reinforced during the pandemic;
- contribute to the EPH Conference in Berlin 2022;
- plan a new Special Issue (or supplement) of an international journal to improve visibility of the EUPHA HWR section in the academic debate and provide a forum for collaboration and critical debate.

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

The HWR section is based on a collaborative network of individuals and partner organisations and associations. The latter ones include, in particular, WHO Regional Office for Europe (Tomas Zapata/Human Resources for Health), the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (Matthias Wismar) and past ASPHER President (Kasia Czabanowska). Knowledge exchange has also been established with a number of other colleagues/associations, including EHMA, ECDC, CPME, among others.



Within EUPHA, collaboration has been established with EUPHANxt through collaboration with Monica Brinzac (EUPHANxt Coordinator) and with the SDG4 gender equality Working Group (chaired by Elena Petelos) and is currently developed with EUPHA-ENV (Marija Jevtic).

Action was also taken to improve collaboration through webinars, publications and through a workshop, JTN session other events at the EPH Conference 2021.

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

The EUPHA HWR section organised or contributed to the following activities:

- Workshop 'Protecting and preparing healthcare workers: what to learn from COVID-19 to strengthen resilience', in collaboration with WHO (Tomas Zapata) and OBS (Matthias Wismar).
- Contribution to a panel organised by EUPHA on 'COVID-19: the aftermath'.
- Co-organisation and contribution to a Workshop on 'SDG5 Gender', organised by the new EUPHA working group on SDG5 (Elena Petelos)
- 'Join-the-Network' session.

### **Other activities**

A **second HWR section midterm Conference** hosted by Tiago Correia and Gilles Dussault in June 2021 at Lisbon, Portugal, but had to be cancelled in spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

A **Special Issue** on 'Global health and health workforce development: education, management and policy during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond' of the International Journal of Health Planning and Management, 36(S1), 1-203, was connected to the HWR section, edited by HWR board members; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/toc/10991751/2021/36/S1>.

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

**Webinar** 'Addressing key health workforce research topics in challenging times: a call to better advance health workforce protection and well-being', 6 December 2021, organised by the **Centre for Health Workforce Research & Policy, Babes Bolyai University, Romania** (Marius Ungureanu and Monica Brinzac) and the EUPHA-HWR section.

Contribution to the **European Public Health Week 2021** with a **webinar** 'Lunch conversations: preparing the future health workforce', jointly organised with EUPHANxt (Monica Brinzac) and Kasia Czabanowska (past ASPHER President), 17 May 2021.

Contribution (invited by EUPHA) to the **EUPHA Supplement 2021** with a paper on 'Health workforce preparedness and protection during the COVID-19 pandemic: a tool for rapid assessment of European Union countries', European Journal of Public Health, Supplement; DOI: [10.1093/eurpub/ckab152](https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckab152)

Contribution to the **WHO (Headquarters) Health Labour Market Analysis Guidebook** (Gilles Dussault); the guidebook was briefly introduced by Pascal Zurn, WHO, during the Meet-the-Network session at EPH 2021.



Invitation by EHMA to a panel discussion at the **EHMA Conference**, September 2021, virtually (Ellen Kuhlmann).

Invitation to participate in an **IANPHI meetings** 2021, virtually (Ellen Kuhlmann).

EUPHA HWR board members contributed to a number of other events, mostly virtually.

The board members also contributed several chapters to a comprehensive health workforce skill-mix book, edited by the Observatory (Matthias Wismar et al.) and expected to be published in 2022.

Invited participation in an expert workshop (30 Sept-1 Oct 2021) titled 'A Pan-European Research to Improve the Support for Healthcare Workers After COVID-19', organised by the project [RESISTIRÉ research and innovation](#), funded by the EU Horizon2020 research and innovation programme

### **Annual meeting**

A 'Join-the-Network' session was organised during EPH 2021, virtually as a live stream, which was well attended (see report). Colleagues from partnering organisations (OBS, WHO, ECDC, EHMA, etc.) were invited to strengthen knowledge exchange.

### **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.

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

None.

### **Survey**

A member survey has not been carried out. As everybody is very tired from surveys, the direct interaction during the Join-the-Network session at EPH seems to be most useful.

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