

Minutes Join-the-Network meeting, 11 November 2021

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, Romania.

Welcome

Chair and hosts welcomed the audience.

Agenda

HWR section 4th anniversary

1. Activities and report 2020
2. Publication pre-launch, guest Pascal Zurn, WHO
3. Marketplace (activities and suggestions of HWR section members)
4. preparing for 2022
5. Summing up

Activities of the section

An overview of the activities is available via the quarterly Newsletters, which are posted on the EUPHA HWR website. An annual report has been sent to the EUPHA Office and is available on the website.

Highlights:

- HWR section 4th anniversary.
- Currently more than 850 Members.
- Collaboration with OBS, WHO, EHMA, EUPHANxt, ASPHER, EUPHA SDG5 working group, and others.

Key publications:

Health workforce preparedness and protection during the COVID-19 pandemic: a tool for rapid assessment of European Union countries; EJPB, 2021, 31, Supplement 4, iv14-iv20; DOI: [10.1093/eurpub/ckab152](https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckab152); Kuhlmann E, Brinzac MG, Burau V, Correia T, Ungureanu M-I; https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article-abstract/31/Supplement_4/iv14/6423462 (fulltext)

Global health and health workforce development: education, management and policy during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/10991751/2021/36/S1>. Special Issue, editors Ellen Kuhlmann, Gilles Dussault and Tiago Correia

Guest: Pascal Zurn, WHO Headquarters, briefly introduced the WHO Health Labour Market Analysis Guidebook, which be officially launched by WHO in February 2022

Marketplace/suggestions from participants

This is an established part of the JtN session and even more important this year, because of the very limited opportunities for interactive session formats and knowledge exchange due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and the lack of physical meetings.

A number of colleagues from collaborating/partner organisations of EUPHA-HWR section were invited individually prior to the JtN meeting to join the session and share their current projects and work. ECDC (Carmen Varela) and Monica Brinzac/EUPHANxt sent brief announcements via email, because the JtN session clashed with their own meetings and commitments. Other colleagues joined the virtual session, including WHO Regional Office (Tomas Zapata), Observatory (Gemma Williams, Michelle Falkenbach) and EHMA. The EUPHA-HWR steering board members also informed about their current projects. Peter Groenewegen introduced new research from the Primary Care health workforce group. Marija Jevtic from EUPHA-ENV highlighted opportunities for collaboration with EUPHA-ENV and the important role of healthcare workers in protecting the environment. It was agreed to collect the topics/ideas and provide a summary in the next Newsletter.

Opportunities for, and interest in a midterm conference in 2022 were also discussed. Several participants expressed their interest, yet there was also concern regarding the still hardly predictable COVID-19 situation. One idea is to explore opportunities for a webinar series in spring 2022 instead of a midterm conference. A webinar series might build on some of the suggestions and collaborations. The options will be further explored by the Board and partners.

The collection of topics and research introduced during the JtN also stimulates the development of collaborative workshop (or panel) proposals for the EPH Conference in 2022 in Berlin. Opportunities will be further explored.

Elections

No elections, the current steering board is expected to be in office until 2023.

Steering committee

President: Ellen Kuhmann (Germany)

Vice-president Ronald Batenburg (Netherlands)

Vice-president Gilles Dussault (Portugal)

Board member: Milena Šantrić Milićević (Serbia),

Associated members: Marius Ungureanu (Romania), Tiago Correia (Portugal), Monica Brinzac (EUPHANxt/Romania)

Any other business

The JtN session and the 'marketplace' were well received. Several participants also sent positive comments after the session, highlighting the importance of exchanging information and knowledge under conditions of the pandemic. There was an overall wish and hope that EPH 2022 can take place in Berlin and again allow for physical meetings.

List of attendants

We were on average 25 participants and overall, about 30 colleagues joined the JtN session. The virtual format went very well; no technical problems.

3 December, 2020
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