

EUPHA Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health section meeting November 3rd, 2017, Stockholm

Minutes – by Janne Sørensen and Allan Krasnik.

Agenda:

1. Status on the planning of 1st World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health, MERH (Raj Bhopal)
 2. Possible pre-conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia 2018?
 3. The economic argument – working group activities after the pre-conference in Vienna 2016 (Nadav Davidovitch)
 4. Election of Section President and Vice-president
 5. Election of Steering Committee
 6. Any other business
 7. European policies for Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health - considerations and discussion regarding a possible EUPHA declaration (David Ingleby)
- To be continued in room M12 (13.45 – 14.45)

Allan Krasnik welcomes the 45-50 participants and initiates the meeting by commenting on the minutes from the annual section meeting 2017 to ensure continuity and check that we have fulfilled the goals. Last year we discussed the annual section report and had a brief evaluation of the experiences from the Migrant Health conference in Oslo. On the agenda were also a status and discussion of the Edinburg conference and a discussion of a possible pre-conference for the 2017 EPH conference. It was decided not to have a pre-conference in Stockholm. Another focus point was the increasing interest and importance of migrant health and how the section could get a better position at the EPH conference and how to increase the number of abstracts in this field. From the amount of parallel sessions and abstracts, it seems that the section has been successful in this regard.

Re 1)

Raj Bhopal presents the status for the 1st World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health in Edinburgh. This incorporates the 7th European conference and the concept of a global conference has been developed within the section with Raj Bhopal leading the congress on behalf of the section. There are three main partners: 1. The University of Edinburgh, 2. EUPHA and 3. NHS Scotland. The organising committee has tried to keep the registration fees as low as possible through fundraising. They have already been granted 100.000 GBS. The goal is to reach 150.000 GBS. Much of the grant will be used for waivers for researchers from low-income countries to ensure their participation.

672 abstracts have been submitted including almost 40 workshops. The abstracts and workshops are submitted from all over the world. Additional 10 invited workshops are planned and 8 of these have been accepted. Nine excellent keynote speakers are in place. It was important to the committee to ensure a diverse platform with speakers from many different parts of the world. The venue is much different from the Stockholmsmässan – it is also very nice, but more compact and people will be closer together.

There are three committees involved in planning the conference: The Executive Committee led by Raj Bhopal, The Scientific Committee, which is led by Allan Krasnik and in addition an International Advisory Committee has been established.

It was asked if it would be possible to organise meetings before and during the conference. Raj Bhopal answers that it is possible and that meeting rooms will be available for a low fee. Please see webpage for contacts for this (<http://www.merhcongress.com>).

The main aim of the conference is to bring people together from all over the world to discuss key issues related to the topic of the congress and possibly to set up a new global professional and academic society.

Re 2)

Allan Krasnik raises the issue of a possible pre-conference in Ljubljana in connection with the European Public Health Conference 2018. We would need a local partner to co-organise this, but he has not so far identified one. Allan also calls for suggestions for a theme. Oliver Razum raises doubts about having to submit for two conferences within a short time – both the Edinburgh Congress and a pre-conference soon after. Allan Krasnik answers that the preconference does not need to imply a format based on abstract submission, it could be a seminar or a workshop just with invited speakers.

One idea would be to have a pre-conference to follow up on the economic argument that was the theme for the pre-conference in Vienna, another suggested to focus on human rights and medical ethics possibly with a discussion about who is a migrant, maybe in collaboration with the Public Health Ethics section of EUPHA. Farhang Tahzib representing this section confirms a strong interest in collaboration and joint initiatives (e-mail: Farhang.tahzib@gmail.com). Raj Bhopal mentions that there will be a workshop at the Edinburgh conference with this kind of focus. Others would like to hear presentations about what is going on in Eastern Europe within our field. One of the participants mentions that he has relevant contacts in Ljubljana and that he will send the contact details to Allan Krasnik.

Re 3)

Nadav Davidovitch presents a soon up-coming workshop organized by the working group on the Economic Argument. See attached program. Until now the working group has published three viewpoints in the European Journal of Public Health. There will also be focus on funding opportunities at the workshop. Migration is increasingly a focus area in Horizon 2020 and a possible new consortium will be discussed. It was again pointed out that the ethical dimensions are important, but a section member stressed the importance of the economic argument as being very strong. Politicians listen when you can relate your research to questions on how to save funds and raise productivity.

Another member asked if the Palestinians and their situation are included in the workshop. Nadav confirms that this will clearly be included in at least one of the presentations and that there will be reflections and discussions regarding this issue.

Re 4)

The standard presidency in EUPHA is two terms of three years which means that Allan Krasnik and Charles Agyemang should end their second term this year. The presidency and the steering committee have discussed how to ensure continuity with the ongoing activities like the Edinburgh conference, WHO, the work on policy statements etc. They therefore suggest that Allan Krasnik and Charles Agyemang should continue for one more year until the EPH conference in 2018. The EUPHA council has accepted this suggestion and will support this solution if the section agrees. Allan Krasnik invites for discussion and also offers to leave the room during the debate. There was a general support to the suggestion and

Allan Krasnik and Charles Agyemang are therefore re-elected for a one year period during which candidates for election next year must be identified.

Re 5)

Allan Krasnik says that there has been 8 members of the Steering Committee during the last period. Six of these are willing to continue, 1 has tragically died in an accident and 1 wishes not to continue due to personal reasons. The presidency would like to recommend the following to continue: Raj Bhopal, Sónia Dias, Tahereh Moradi, Marie Louise Nørredam, Oliver Razum, and Istvan Szilard.

Additionally, Antonio Chiarenza from Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale Reggio Emilia in Italy and Maria Luisa Vazquez from the Consortium for Health Care and Social Services of Catalonia in Spain are willing to become member of the steering committee. Antonio Chiarenza presents himself shortly. He is a trained sociologist and work for a large health care organization. He has during the last 15 years been involved in European projects focusing of adaptation of health care services to migrants He has also been a leader of the task force for Migrant Friendly Hospitals. Allan Krasnik presents Maria Luisa Vazquez as a Head of the Health Policy Research Unit at the Concorci de Salut i Social de Catalunya, she is an MD and a public health specialist with a strong background in migrant health and integration of health care. She has been very active in our EUPHA Section activities and co-organized the Section Conference in Granada in 2014.

No further candidates were suggested and Allan Krasnik supported the election of both new candidates as well as the re-election of the 6 members mentioned above. This was approved by the participants at the meeting.

Re 6)

Allan Krasnik informs about the collaboration with WHO Europe in Copenhagen. One initiative is the WHO Summer School on Migrant Health, the first was held in Sicily this summer in July and it will be held once again next summer in the same location. After next year they will consider to locate it somewhere else. The summer school was very successful with a very interesting program. There was much interest to participate – over 200 applied, but only 75 participants places available. The Section is also involved in the new WHO Knowledge Hub where we collaborate on different kinds of activities including webinars, seminars etc.

Istvan Szilard informs about several new initiatives at University of Pécs that is serving as a collaborating WHO center. These include a new NGO platform and a new post graduate training program in migrant health.

The new EU research program includes a call about cohort studies - only one will be funded, but migrant health issues could be an element. However, no one present were aware of any group preparing a proposal.

Re 7)

David Ingleby presents the background for the initial work on a EUPHA Statement on European Policies for the Health of Migrants and Ethnic Minorities. The statement should be ready for publication at the Congress in Edinburgh in May 2018. David Ingleby is coordinating this process and the further development of such a statement was the focus of a special meeting right after the section meeting. More information about this will be distributed later.