

DRAFT Report 2021 of the EUPHA Section on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health (MIG)

2021 continued to witness the onslaught of the COVID 19 pandemic globally having serious implications for both professional and personal lives across countries and regions. The pandemic has revealed that despite the underlying core values of solidarity, equity, and universality in Europe the reality is far from being true to these values. Besides gaining a better understanding of the intersectional nature of health, the enormous costs to society of disease and excess morbidity and mortality the pandemic has heightened public awareness and political concerns about health including inequities.

The section members among other things continued to make data on migrant health available and summarized this in an overarching article for the special issue of the EJPH on COVID 19. In the course of this process as well as the webinars and preconference's organized by the section, it was evident that Migrant and Ethnic Minority groups were still being left behind in particular regarding vaccination. The importance of filling the knowledge gaps through collecting relevant, credible data to raise awareness of health inequalities, gain public engagement and political commitment cannot be overemphasized. The section worked closely with the EUPHA office in Brussels to develop and submit a proposal to the EC on a thematic network and qualified as a finalist among 4 others but did not make it to the final 3 due to a lack of votes!! However we were later invited to join one of the other successful ones.

The EUPHA platform was used to disseminate information and to connect members working on similar issues. While several planned activities and events had to be postponed, cancelled or were unable to gain momentum several new initiatives driven by the need of the hour arose. The collaboration with GSMERH among other things included webinars and the preconference at EUPHA 2021. The preconference at EUPHA 2021 was successful though the numbers were not as high as in 2020 an indication of digital fatigue or other reasons. Of our section working groups, well established ones continued their work (Economic Argument) whereas others have not been able to move forward. However, the working group on COVID 19 and migrants established under the leadership of Charles Agyemang as part of GSMERH continues to have active participation from our section. While 2021 further slowed down activities in particular with regards to moving ahead with the strategy

Section Activities 2020

1. **EUPHA- MIG THEMATIC PROPOSAL** – In close collaboration with EUPHA Brussels office and other partners the section developed a proposal for a thematic network with the Health Policy Platform of the European Commission within the area of - *Health inequalities with regard to ethnic minorities and racism* and in particular on *Inequalities & COVID 19 – Increasing inequalities - impact of the coronavirus on disadvantaged migrants and ethnic minorities*. The presentation at the finalists conference can be found at the section website
2. **Pre Conference 2021** - The Section has worked closely in the planning of the yet another digital preconference at EUPHA 2021 entitled ' Beyond the COVID-19 Syndemic: Lessons Learned for Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health. The pre-conference brought together leading scholars to discuss some key perspectives on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting the health and well-being of migrants, ethnic minorities and Indigenous peoples around the world and what could be

done to lessen the impact. The Programme, speakers presentations and a short summary can be found at https://www.gsmerh.org/files/ugd/79fd70_23caa158aad744f986abd2513b80bafb.pdf

3. **Webinars 2021:** Webinar on Vaccination and Migrants was held in March 2021 in collaboration with GSMERH. The Webinar Multiple Jeopardy: Long-term Impact of COVID-19 on Migrants & Ethnic Minorities' Physical and Mental Wellbeing was held in July in collaboration with GSMERH and University of Amsterdam led by Charles Agyemang.
4. **Publications:** EJPB Thematic Issue- Reducing the impact of the coronavirus on disadvantaged migrants and ethnic minorities was published by the section in collaboration with Lancet Migration and GSMERH. Kumar, B. N., Hargreaves, S., Agyemang, C., James, R. A., Blanchet, K., & Gruer, L. (2021). Reducing the impact of the coronavirus on disadvantaged migrants and ethnic minorities. *European Journal of Public Health*, 31(Supplement_4), iv9-iv13.
5. **Collaboration WHO Europe:** The section has participated in the expert group preparing for the High level meeting to discuss the Strategy on Migrants and Refugees in May 2022.
6. **Collaboration Global Society on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health.** The work of the interim committee with strong support of EUPHA MEMH SECTION and EUPHA Secretariat continues with the establishment of the Society as an organization registered as a charity in Scotland.
7. **MIEUX Seminar – Collaboration with Latin America**
8. **Steering Committee Meeting:** As the EUPHA conferences are virtual it was deemed essential to have an additional meeting to discuss strategy, plans and activities. It was decided to meet more often.
9. **Section meeting.** In the context of the EUPHA conference, this year section meeting took place virtually. We counted more than 40 attendants. A summary of the years activities (above) was presented, and among the points discussed, the EUPHA MEMH conference every two years, and its alternance with the pre-conferences and the GSMERH conferences.

Participation of Section in International Conferences/Events

The Presidency of the Section continues to present issues of migrant and ethnic minority health at international and national meetings and to review and contribute to European publications on migrant and ethnic minority health. This year's participation has been active despite being only digital and includes the European Public Health Week, EU VET Care online Symposium-

Collaboration

The Section continues the strong collaboration with WHO Europe, ECDC and Lancet Migration. This includes participation in various COVID 19 related initiatives, meetings and projects.

EUPHA MEMH Section Strategy

Based on past experiences of what has worked and past gains Past President Allan Krasnik developed a strategy for the section jointly with the Steering Committee and it was endorsed at the Section Meeting in Marseille (2019). The section strategy is guiding the work of the section but implementation of the strategy itself has slowed down due to COVID 19.

General communications / Reports/ Publications

The Presidency continues through the Mailman System to distribute frequent communications to the increasing number of section members regarding new publications, relevant international meetings on migrant and ethnic minority health and other subjects of general interest related to the section theme.

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