

Public Health Practice and Policy (PHPP)

Section Profile and Strategy 2017-2020: a living document



1. Aims and focus

Without good policies built on solid stakeholder support and a professional organisation interacting between different sectors and scales, public health interventions are not likely to generate sustainable health impact.

Public health practice and policy is a cross-cutting theme and of great added value to other sections within EUPHA. The aims for this Section 2017-2020 include:

- 1) Strengthening the understanding and coordination of useful, feasible and acceptable health policies and governance systems
- 2) Building cross-cutting linkages among different public health disciplines across the practitioner, policymaker and academic realms
- 3) Contributing to capacity building in public health policymaking and governance across the different EUPHA audiences, thereby contributing to the implementation of the EUPHA strategy, more specifically the second strategic objective 'to build capacity and knowledge' and the third objective 'to prepare future generations of engaged and connected public health professionals for their leadership role in public health' (<http://www.eupha.org/2014-2020>).

The PHPP section has a unique focus on the *everyday practice* of public health policymaking (WHAT) and governance in the context of health and other relevant *systems and (infra)structures* for policymaking and revision (HOW), the *allocation and distribution of power* among different actors (WHO), and *democratic implications* (WHY).

The PH Practice and Policy (PHPP) section addresses the horizontal and vertical constitution, diffusion, dissemination and implementation of policies in **European multilevel systems** (namely EU and WHO Europe). The section discusses developments at the supranational, national as well as subnational levels, explicitly also taking the specific situation of small states and border regions into account.

The PHPP Section's core topics of interests are

- policy frameworks and interactions with policy practice
- policy change and learning
- quality systems and accountability regimes
- governance modes

2. Strategy

The section offers opportunities for inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation. The Section's proposed strategy achieving the proposed aims consists of:

1. Setting up an **Advisory Board** with representatives of European public health networks and institutions;
2. Attracting more active participants in **working groups** for the PHPP section;
3. Communications:
 - a) Establish **social media** channels for the Section (Twitter, LinkedIn) and regularly update them;
 - b) Set up the Section **Newsflash** disseminated through the Section listserv 2-4 issues a year,
 - c) deliver a **EUPHActs**, an editorial and an EJPH e-collection on our theme;
4. Organise **joint workshops and events** with attention to follow up events with established collaborations such as with the Sections on Health Services and Public Health Monitoring and Reporting, as well as new collaborations such as with Sections on Public Health Genomics, Ethics, Migrant Health, etc.
5. Present our expertise to other relevant events and networks with more policymakers' participation, such as **Health Forum Gastein**.
6. Explore opportunities and conditions for organising a separate **Satellite Conference on Health (system) politics, policy and governance** at the end of this term 2017-2020.

Cooperation

Cooperation within the section

The section offers opportunities for inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation.

The section will be chaired by the president and vice president. An advisory board will be established to

- support and communicate activities around core issues (see “aims and interests”);
- advise on priorities;
- engage speakers in challenging workshops and debate sessions;
- advise on how to demarcate as well as align the section's agenda to those of other sections and pillars;
- advise on how to demarcate and align the section's agenda to relevant European developments;
- safeguard the presence of specific topics of interest (e.g. subnational levels, small states, border regions);
- bring in new topics in the section's agenda.

The advisory board will operate in a flexible manner and in line with the preparation of EUPHA and EPHC priorities and topics.

Cooperation with other EUPHA sections

PH practice and policy needs inter- and transdisciplinary cooperation – not only within the section, but also between EUPHA sections and pillars.

Public health governance, (European) health related policies and their implementation are of relevance for all EUPHA sections and pillars. They are not exclusive fields of the PHPP section, and the topical expertise of other sections renders the governance expertise with social relevance. To give two examples:

- The governance of infectious diseases or migrant health is nowhere without the professional and scientific specialty expertise on these issues. But these, in turn, could benefit greatly from governance and policy analysis to increase the speed and effectiveness of decision-making.
- The development of European Health Information Systems is a topic of the section Public Health Monitoring and Reporting, yet, how such systems interact with policy processes both in the production as well as dissemination and use of information is one of the important topics in the PHPP section.

The PHPP section wishes to cooperate with other sections on thematic sessions with a particular focus on governance regimes and strategies (see Annex “Suggestions on cooperation with other EUPHA sections”).

Cooperation with EUPHA Pillars and EUPHAnxt

(to be discussed with representatives of pillars)

Cooperation with other organizations and networks

For setting priorities (=identifying major policy developments and implementation challenges) and planning activities, the section wishes to cooperate with representatives of other organisations and networks being of relevance for the aims and interests of the PHPP section. It is planned to establish a network platform, to be facilitated at each EUPHA conference.

The representatives will be invited to the section meetings. The section meetings will give the opportunity to exchange information on activities prioritised by their organisations and networks for the upcoming year. The information exchange shall inform priority setting for section activities.

Annex 1: Suggestions for cooperation with other EUPHA sections, Pillars and EUPHANxt

EUPHA sections can be seen as more or less “disciplinary/methodological” or “domain/topic” oriented (see table). :

Topical/Domain sections		Child and adolescent health	Infectious diseases control	Chronic diseases	Migrant and ethnic health	Environmental diseases	Mental health	Food nutrition	Urban health	Injury and safety	Social Security Health	Health Promotion	Genomics	LGBT health
Disciplinary sections	Disc. Cooperation with PHPP													
Ethics	x													
HIA	x													
HTA	x													
HSR	x													
Economics	x													
Epidemiology	x													
Monitoring and reporting	x													
Policy and practice		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

Our suggestions for cooperation:

Each year we could organise one joint conference session with another disciplinary section, a second joint conference session with another domain section, and a third “own” conference session:

1. The joint disciplinary workshops could dig deeper into the interplay between technical or methodological issues and policies, governance and public health practices.
2. Joint topical/domain workshops could explore the governance dimension of that particular domain, by focussing on comparative studies, examples of good practice, transferability and mutual learning.
3. A third PHPP conference workshop may then focus on cross-domain governance-related themes such as multilevel governance/transposition of guidelines and directives, accountability, adaptive governance, evidence-informed policymaking, or local level implementation (incl. HiAP, European Semester, ESIF policies, small states, subnational levels etc.).