

Annual report PHPP Section 2016-2017

12-10-2017, Marleen Bekker and Sofia Ribeiro

The Section has been very active this year and is building strategy and organisation in order to get political skills and capacity higher on the public health agenda.

1. Section Profile and Strategy 2017-2020

Last year we presented our Section profile and Strategy, a living document that guides section activities and organisation towards a thriving section in 2020 that puts health policies, politics and systems governance center stage in EUPHA. https://eupha.org/section_page.php?section_page=121

2. Organisation set up

Advisory Board

The Section Advisory Board took off April 2017 and now consists of Anne-Marie Yazbeck (EU Chafea Health programme); Silvio Brusaferrero (Practice Pillar); and David Stuckler (Policy Pillar). We seek to expand our Board with two other relevant advisors and representatives who are dedicated and committed to our agenda.

Based on discussions with the Advisory Board we identified **three core section tracks** that will be followed up in the next three years:

- A. Implementation and evaluation of chronic diseases prevention policies;
- B. Health system development, performance and resilience, and
- C. Innovations in health governance (covering HiAP and approaches to tackle the socio-political determinants of health).

Most of the Section events, workshops and other activities will be centred around these three core tracks.

Section name change

We also discussed the name of the Section that has a rather undistinctive and undetermined ring to it. The Advisory Board supports a section name change to 'Health Policy, Politics and Systems Governance' (HPSG) so as to articulate the unique focus of this section on processes and structures of health-related policy decision-making, implementation and evaluation as well as health system governance and how this is embedded and dependent on political, economic and social systems. We will submit a formal request to EUPHA Governing Board.

Working Group

We are also setting up a working group of section members that take up a number of tasks in assistance of the section presidents. We have the following members that have volunteered during the section meeting in Stockholm, November 2017: Roberte Manigat (Science officer Ministry of Health, France); Damir Ivankovic (president of EURO-MRPH, medical resident, Croatia), Marius Ungureanu (Cluj School of Public Health, Romania), Olivia Biermann (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden), Dorja Vocanec (University of Zagreb, Croatia), Stefano Guicciardi (University of Bologna, Italy),

Alexandra Ziemann (King's College, UK), and Ana Carriedo (LSHTM, UK). We have organised the work group into 6 teams working on: Strategy, Communications, Publications, Satellite events, EPH conference logistics, and the section member survey.

3. EPH conference activities

The following workshops have taken place at EPH Stockholm:

1. Workforce and leadership (WHO Europe, ASPHER, EUPHA Practice Pillar and PHPP) (section track B)
2. From public health lobbying to Public Affairs for health: a skills building workshop (with EUPHA Policy Pillar, EUPHAnxt) (section track C)
3. Civil Society Governance for health (EOHSP, PHPP) (section track C)
4. Evidence-informed Policy Network (EVIPNet) Europe. WHO Europe, Section HSR and Section PHPP. (section track A)
5. Legal frameworks for HIA in Europe and conditions for institutionalisation (Lead Section HIA) (section track A)
6. Natural Experiments for policy evaluation (Sections Epidemiology, Economics, HIA and PHPP) (section track A)

In addition, a Preconference event on 'Implementation of innovations in public health policy and practice' was organised by the European Implementation Collaborative, Centre for Implementation Science, CLAHRC South London and King's College, and our Section in close collaboration with EU Chafea (section track A).

We evaluated the practical organisation of timetables with EUPHA Office on limits in accessibility to our members, which will be organised differently next year.

See table at the end of this document for Sections collaborations.

4. Other activities

Publications:

Our section workshops in 2015, 2016 and 2017 on Civil Society have directly contributed to the WHO/European Observatory book:

1. Greer, S.L.; Wismar, Pastorino, Kosinska, M. (2017). Civil Society and Health: Contributions and Potential. WHO: Copenhagen. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/publications/abstracts/civil-society-and-health-contributions-and-potential-2017>

One of our Section ambitions, bringing a political science of health onto the public health agenda as a solution asset rather than as a source of problems, has been translated into this paper:

2. Greer, S., Bekker, MPM., De Leeuw, E., Wismar, M., Helderma, JK., Ribeiro, S., and D. Stuckler (2017). Policy, politics and public health. Eur J Pub Health 27 Issue Suppl 4. https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/27/suppl_4

Section contributions to a number of joint workshops, in which former section president Kai Michelsen was involved, led to:

3. Fehr et al. (2017). Health assessments for health governance—concepts and methodologies *European Journal of Public Health*, Volume 27, Issue 4, 1 August 2017, Pages 609–616, <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckx062>

Fostering connections to other European events and groups

1. European Health Forum Gastein

3-6 October we were kindly granted a conference waiver representing EUPHA and our section on the European Health Forum Gastein. This is an annual meeting of European level institutions, organisations and corporations, EU member states, focusing on European level public health challenges and policies. Our section vice president Sofia Ribeiro is a member of the Young Forum Gastein Task force and was able to get us a workshop time slot granted in the Young Gastein programme. We facilitated a workshop on public health lobbying and public affairs management for health, which we will continue in EPH Stockholm. About 30 Young Gasteiners participated. Furthermore, together with EUPHA office and Governing Board, we promoted EUPHA, the EPH conference and our section with highly relevant and useful networks present in Gastein, gathering support for future collaborations and joint activities in order to get a stronger voice and position in the European playing field.

2. European Health Policy Group

The section was represented at the bi-annual European Health Policy Group meeting in London 21-22 Sept. The EHPG is a relatively small-scale meeting (30-50 participants) open to academics, policymakers and health service managers from all over Europe. It is a lunch-to-lunch meeting that offers 8 draft papers with one full-hour reviews in a range of topics within a particular meeting theme. Being invited to organise the next meeting, we proposed to co-host the next meeting in 19-20 April 2018 in Rotterdam on behalf of EUPHA with a theme focused on public health policy. EUPHA Board will support this as a EUPHA satellite meeting, exploring opportunities for structural cooperation.

Communications

- a. Section listserv: limited, smart utilization to avoid spamming
- b. Newsflash: appeared 2 times (May and to be released 19 October 2017)
- c. LinkedIn group: is regularly updated
- d. Twitter: mostly active during events and activities

5. Work plan/Action points for 2018

For the coming year, we have the following work plan that will be executed by the section working group:

1	Request for Section name change into Health Policy, Politics and Systems Governance (HPSG), introduction and communication	Nov 2017
2	Prepare e-collection Public Health Policy and Politics and System Governance	Jan-Feb 2018
3	Organise and co-host the bi-annual European Health Policy Group meeting 19-20 April Rotterdam, The Netherlands as a EUPHA HPSG section satellite meeting	April 2018
4	Prepare Theme Supplement or Special Issue following up on 'Policy, politics and Public health' paper in 25 yrs celebration supplement EJPH	published before EPH 2018 Ljubljana
5	Prepare a EUPHacts fact sheet on HPSG	before EPH 2018
6	Prepare plenary EPH 2018 Ljubljana 'Winds of change: towards new ways of improving public health in Europe'. This is an excellent conference theme for our Section to take the floor and present a number of social innovations in PH policies, infrastructure and governance	Spring 2018
7	Explore opportunities and conditions for a separate Satellite conference Public Health Policy and Systems Governance 2020: In the past few years many institutions and conference participants have expressed an interest in a separate conference on health policy, politics and systems governance. In a separate sphere from the big EPH conference, much more in-depth attention can be given to the <i>political determinants of health and health systems</i> : features of democratic systems (including shifts in ideologies and implications for policy and order); policy and decision-making processes, institutional analysis and agile action repertoires in complex adaptive systems; multilevel governance, political skills-building, public affairs management for health etc, as related to the section core tracks of A) prevention of chronic diseases, B) health system development, performance and resilience, and C) innovations in health governance	Throughout the year
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