

Annual report PHPP Section 2017-2018

1-11-2018, Marleen Bekker and Sofia Ribeiro

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

Section Profile and Strategy 2017-2020

Our Section Profile and Strategy, a living document towards a thriving section in 2020 that puts health policies, politics and systems governance center stage in EUPHA, is guiding our activities. It is available on: https://eupha.org/section_page.php?section_page=121

Publications

Special Issue Eur J Pub Health on Politics and health 1 November 2018

The Section has renewed and revived the call for a political health science in subsequent decades with a Special Issue following the 2017 publication on 'Policy, politics and public health' (see below). This Supplement to the EJPH, titled 'How to navigate political landscapes: towards a Public health political science' and guest edited by Scott Greer and Marleen Bekker, was published 1 November 2018, and can be found here: https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/issue/28/suppl_3.

It consists of the following papers:

Author	Title of the article
Bekker, Marleen	Public health and politics: how political science can help us move forward. Editorial.
Greer SL, Bekker MPM.	Political analysis in public health: from macro- and microscopic accounts to middle range theories within the public health sphere of influence. Introduction.
Loblova, Olga	Epistemic communities and experts in health policy-making
Brooks, Eleanor	Using the Advocacy Coalition Framework to understand EU pharmaceutical policy
Falkenbach, Michelle	Political parties matter: the impact of the populist radical right on health
Bekker, Marleen	Comparative institutional analysis for public health: Governing voluntary collaborative agreements for public health improvement in England and the Netherlands
Jarman, Holly	Legalism and Tobacco Control in the EU
Kieslich, Katharina	Addressing Vaccination Hesitancy in Europe: A Case Study in State-Society Relations
Greer, Scott	Labour politics as public health: How the politics of industrial relations and workplace regulation affect health

The work group is also working on an e-collection of EJPH articles on the political analysis of public health, which is due in the first half of 2019.

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

Greer, S.L.; Wismar, Pastorino, Kosinska, M. (2017). Civil Society and Health: Contributions and Potential. WHO: Copenhagen. Available at: <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:

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. Available at: 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:

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. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckx062>

Member survey and theme directions

In order to help us improve and tailor the Section's activities to your informational, networking or other needs, between 1st and 22nd June we have conducted a membership survey.

In total, we received 197 replies [from 42 countries](#). Here, we briefly present preliminary results of the survey.

Hyperlinks in the text refer to online infographics (available [here](#)).

Who are our members?

The Section currently counts [2672 members](#) from 108 European and non-European countries. While we have quite a number of replies from other parts of the world outside of Europe, the survey data lack results from Eastern Europe and Finland.

Respondents mostly have a medical [background](#) or/with a PhD/MSc title, and most of them [work](#) in academia or public health institutes. Most of the members work in the [field](#) of policy research and practice.

The majority would rate their proficiency in public health policy between intermediate (practical application) and expert (recognised authority) level.

Mean relevant work experience among respondents is 13.6 years.

The [most important topics](#) reported on both national and European level generally overlap with Sections' priorities, but there were also many other topic suggestions.

In the table you can find the most prominent categories.

Topic	National level mentions	European level mentions
Health system performance	74	45
Chronic disease (management)	74	78
Migration and health	11	12
Polymaking processes and governance	34	33
Intersectoral collaboration; Non-health topics	29	22
Equality; Equity	26	24
Other	56	34
Sharing knowledge and information	1	8

Public health policy main challenges

The main challenges in health policy according to the respondents are categorised into issues of planning and resources; politics and minority interest representation; social determinants; health systems; data management; and evaluation. A relevant topic that seems to be missing from this list is political and public accountability.

Planning and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Short-term and limited • Short-term approaches • Lack of vision • Austerity • Human and financial resources
Politics and minority interest representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder (and patient) engagement • Leadership • Participatory governance • Bridging the research/practice gap • Political barriers • Scattered ownership • Consensus process • Management of expectations • Public's trust
Health determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health inequalities • Facing the real health needs of the population • Health determinants
Health systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisational issues • Resistance to change • Complexity of domain
Data management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to data • Data management • Quality of data and information; • Lack of data or non-comparable data • Fake news • Balancing between privacy and transparency

Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation of policies • Lack of standardized and shared methods for policy research
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Most promising innovations

The most promising policy and non-policy innovations that need more exploration, knowledge exchange, exposure and dissemination are (listed in order of frequency/mention) categorised into innovations in digitalisation; organisation; new push for old policies and molecular health.

Digitalization	Organisation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital development • Social media • Health trackers • Mobile apps • AI • Big-data • Predictive analytics • Free access to information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-professional and inter-sectoral cooperation and collaboration • Multi-stakeholder approach • Participatory governance • Media engagement • Civil society engagement • Community engaged research • Reverse innovation – HICs learning from LMICs • Self-care • Non hospital-based healthcare delivery • Payment mechanisms that include integration and quality improvement • Health literacy
New push for “old” policies	Molecular health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tobacco policies – end-game for tobacco • Vaccination • New push for “Health in all Policies” • New health promotion policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genomics • Biomarkers • Biobanks

Members were also asked to share English language internet resources in their countries for health data, relevant publications and policy documents, including English language newsletters that keep track of latest health policy developments in their countries. This list will be reviewed and included in the Section’s website and shared with members through Section’s communication channels.

Implications for PHPP Section

Next, a more detailed analysis of the membership survey will be presented at the [11th EPH Conference in Ljubljana](#), including the implications for the priorities and work of the Section.

We will also use the results to inform the broader audience outside EUPHA.

We thank all respondents for their precious time and effort!

You are all invited to join us for the discussion at our **Join the Network meeting** on **Friday 30st November, 13:10-13:40!**

Fostering connections to other European events and groups

European Health Forum Gastein

3-6 October 2017

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 Taskforce and was able to manage 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 continued 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.

European Health Policy Group

19-20 April 2018

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. 19-20 April 2018 in Rotterdam PHPP section collaborated in a joint session of the EHPG facilitated and co-funded by EUPHA with a theme focused on public health policy. 35 participants from different countries in Europe participated in animated discussions on the theme of *'Bringing public health, social care and urbanity back in – health governance beyond policy subsystems'*.

Programme

Erasmus School of Health Policy & Management in collaboration with the EUPHA and Radboud University (research group Governance and Innovations in Social Services).
Venue: Podium 0950, Oostmaaslaan 950 3063 DM Rotterdam

Thursday 19 April 2018

12.30	Registration and lunch
13.20	Welcome and introduction to the theme Chair: Roland Bal
13.30	Paper 1 – Governing for health in a complex urban environment: International insight Authors: Chris Naylor, Senior Fellow in Health Policy, The King’s Fund, UK; David Buck, Senior Fellow in Public Health and Inequalities, The King’s Fund, UK Discussant: Marleen Bekker
14.30	Paper 2 – Design thinking as an organizational strategy to reconnect to the needs and wishes of individual patients: an ethnographic case study Authors: Martijn Felder, Tineke Kleinhout-Vliek, Marthe Stevens, Hester van de Bovenkamp and Antoinette de Bont, Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus University, Rotterdam Discussant: Katharina Böhm
15.30	Refreshment break Chair: Marleen Bekker
16.00:	Paper 3 - Improving the responsiveness of social work practices in disadvantaged neighbourhoods Authors: dr. Roos Pijpers (Radboud University, Nijmegen) Discussant: Stephanie Ettelt
17.00:	Paper 4 – Calibrating Governance in the Dutch Youth Care. A practice approach toward experimentalist welfare governance Authors: Lianne Visser MSc. Discussant: Kor Grit
18.00:	Start social event and dinner

8.45	Arrival and refreshments Chair: Iris Wallenburg
9.00	Paper 5 – Social Work and Policing: Towards a Common Teaching and Training Module Authors: Dr. Günter Stummvoll, Dr. Cees Goos, Mag. Hannes Schindler (EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH, Vienna, Austria) Discussant: Roos Pijpers
10.00	Paper 6 – The Jerusalem Railroad Park: Focusing the Urban Mind on Health, Social Justice, Inclusiveness and Governance Authors: IVA GREENSHTEIN-LITTMAN, OSNAT KEIDAR, DAVID CHINITZ Braun School of Public Health, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel; Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center for Women, Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel Discussant: Joseph White
11.00	Refreshment break Chair: Jan-Kees Helderman
11.15	Book presentation: Carolyn Tuohy will give a short presentation about her newest book REMAKING POLICY SCALE, PACE, AND POLITICAL STRATEGY IN HEALTH CARE REFORM. To be published by Toronto University Press. Carolyn Tuohy is professor emeritus of political science and founding fellow in the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto
11.45	Keynote session: “Public health and urbanity” Speaker: dr. Aparna Verma (Head of Division of Population Health, Health Services Research and Primary Care School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, The University of Manchester. Aparna Varma was PI of the FP7 URHIS project http://www.urhis.eu/ .
12.45	Business meeting
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Close

2018 EPH conference activities

The following workshops will take place at EPH Ljubljana.

9.B. – Skills building seminar: Political landscapes and options for Public Health

Saturday 1st December, 09:40-11:10

Chairpersons: Marleen Bekker, EUPHA PHPP Section – Scott Greer, University of Michigan, US

This workshop presents a recent Supplement to the European Journal of Public Health on Political skills building for public health. There is a clear need for in-depth understanding and more effectively engaging with political processes that affect health.

There is no support for the simple and common, implicit model of politics in which scientific evidence plus political will produces healthy policies. Efforts to improve the translation of evidence into policy such as knowledge transfer work only under certain circumstances.

These circumstances are frequently political, and to be understood through systematic inquiry into basic features of the political economy such as institutions, partisanship and the organization of labour markets. Understanding this political landscape of public health helps to define the political options for organizing effective influence on healthy policies and outcomes.

Political science articulates the understanding and improvement of the conditions under which politics is able to produce effective and legitimate solutions to policy problems. The science of health politics has been developed mainly by US scholars, who at first consisted mainly of sociologists or historians, and later on by political scientists. In Europe, health politics has become a topic of particular interest only very recently, and often addressed by economists or doctors with little background in political science.

While a political science of and for public health has been called for before (Bambra et al (2005); Oliver (2006); Navarro (2008) and Judge (2008), De Leeuw et al 2014, and Raphael (2015), it has not yet led to a distinct stream of political analysis publications (but for a few authors) or to institutionalisation into educational programmes.

The core objective of the Supplement is skills-building and agenda-setting: In terms of skills-building, the supplement teach political analysis in example cases by conveying key concepts of (a) constitutional order, law and litigation, (b) political economy, (c) interest groups, (d) partisanship, (e) bureaucracy and governance, and (f) role of the media. This will allow public health professionals to complement their skills in areas such as persuasive writing with a sense of the strategic landscape in which they operate including the European level. In terms of agenda-setting, the supplement will make the case for more programmatic research and publications on the broader political determinants of health and health policies.

The guest editors and a selection of authors will present their empirical findings from public health cases. The workshop will continue detailing the model and methods used, and offering exercises applying this to public health issues relevant to the participant audience.

10.C. – Workshop: European and international public health policy-making: the case of health literacy

Saturday 1st December, 11:40-13:10

Chairpersons: Orkan Okan, Bielefeld University, Germany – Sofia Ribeiro, EUPHA PHPP Section

Health policy and health governance, including health advocacy and leadership, have been recognized with a growth in interest and are core principles of the new public health movement. Whilst early approaches have been associated with medical, clinical or epidemiological perspectives, in the recent years there is growing consideration of health policy makers for addressing the social and political determinants of health as well as lifestyle and culture.

In this context, there is an increasing interest towards health literacy and also that health literacy actions are supported by health policy, especially linking health literacy with Health in all Policies (HiAP). Informed by empirical evidence pointing on negative consequences of low citizen health literacy on society, researchers, practitioners and policy-makers have highlighted the need to create domestic and cross-national policies to ensure that the goal of health literacy enhancement is included into policy action. Today, health literacy policies can be found for many European countries, and besides governments also non-governmental organizations, such as the WHO, the UN, and the OECD have included health literacy to their policy action frameworks.

This workshop is organized in collaboration between the EUPHA Sections on Health Promotion and Public Health Practice and Policy in order to merge the debate that is surrounding health policy-making and health literacy.

The section members understand this to be of paramount importance since as of today only few systematic efforts have been taken to compare the approaches to health literacy policy-making, map them and synthesize available evidence.

The aim of this workshop is to: (1) present empirical health literacy research as conducted in European Member states in relation to health literacy related policies regarding national, European, and global policies and (2) initiate a critical discussion with the audiences and among the presenters. The first presentation will introduce an evidence synthesis on health literacy policies in the WHO European Region. The second will shed light on how health literacy policies address children and adolescents, including health, education and social policies. With the German National Action Plan to promote health literacy, the third presentation will introduce a policy case study, which is followed by a case study highlighting various health literacy policy activities undertaken in Portugal. Finally, the last presentation will present results from a health literacy leadership study.

This workshop offers a forum for researchers, practitioners and policy-makers interested in public health policy making with a specific focus on health literacy and will allow discussing results, facilitate exchange, and support further synergies.

Section organisation

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 two 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 have submitted a formal request to EUPHA Governing Board twice, and it has been denied for unknown reasons both times. We have submitted a formal request to clarify the formal decision-making rules and procedure, and have demanded transparency about the argumentations against this section name change proposal. If there are other sections claiming territory we demand this be discussed in an open and transparent procedure with proponents and opponents.

Working Group

We have set up a working group of section members that take up a number of tasks in assistance of the section presidents. The working group now consists of the following active members:

- Damir Ivankovic (president of EURO-MRPH, medical resident, Croatia), section survey and EJPH e-collection
- Olivia Biermann (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden), EJPH e-collection
- Dorja Vocanec (University of Zagreb, Croatia), section survey and EJPH e-collection
- Stefano Guicciardi (University of Bologna, Italy), Communications and social media, e-collection

Communications

- a. Section mailinglist: limited, smart utilization to avoid spamming
- b. Newsflash: 2 editions
- c. LinkedIn group: is regularly updated, and has 143 participants.

- d. Facebook group: 38 participants.
- e. Twitter: mostly active during events and activities
In the last 91 days (the max period covered by Twitter statistics) we earned **15.800 impressions**.
In February we had 80 followers, now we have 175.
We should reach 200 followers before EPH Conference.