

EUPHA Section PH Practice and Policy (PHPP) Annual report 2016

Activities at the EPH conference 2016

At the EPH2016 conference in Vienna the section was involved in the organization of the following events: The PHPP Section has co-organized five workshops at the coming Vienna Conference, of which two are preconference workshops.

1. Enhancing evidence-informed decision-making to support resilient and sustainable health systems in Europe.

This was a follow up preconference on last year's preconference, this year organized by the Consumer, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA) with the support of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), Health Services Research (HSR) Europe, EUPHA Section on HSR, EUPHA Section on Public Health Practice and Policy and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. More than 100 participants were present. See for program details: <https://ephconference.eu/2016-pre-conference-programme-275>. After a general introduction plenary there were four partial session dedicated to evidence informed decision-making in integrated care; migrant and refugee healthcare access; rare diseases medicines, and cancer control collaborations. WHO prepared an analytical framework, structuring the parallel sessions around five sets of factors in evidence transfer and uptake:

- i) role and characteristics of participating organizations and actors;
- ii) dissemination / knowledge transfer mechanisms i.e. Interactive Knowledge Sharing (IKS) and Information Packaging (IP) mechanisms;
- iii) role of context in exporting and importing policy settings
- iv) specific policy features that may facilitate or hamper transfer, and
- v) mechanisms for policy implementation.

Currently, a report is in preparation.

2. Governance for Health and Health Systems.

This pre-conference workshop was organized by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, WHO Regional Office for Europe, with our Section support. This workshop focused on governance at a health system level, as distinguished from 'good governance', healthcare management or single organizational governance. A small but dedicated group participated in the interactive health system case studies applying the TAPIC framework for health system governance analysis. See for more details: <https://ephconference.eu/2016-programme-pre-conferences-260>

A second conference workshop was organized around a sub item of the governance theme, namely governance through civil society organisations, see below. An edited book is in

preparation by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, due in the first half of 2017.

3. Health for All: Health policy making for refugees and other migrants: context, capacity, competences

This 90 min Conference workshop was organised by the Sections on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health, Public Mental Health, and Public Health Practice and Policy, and focused specifically on dealing adequately with the capricious decision-making process.

4. Working with society: strategies and instruments addressing the governance challenge.

This 90 min conference workshop was organized by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies WHO Europe and our Section.

The main focus of this workshop was on civil society organizations and their conditions and capacity for (co-) steering society.

5. Health assessments in support of decision-making

This 90 min conference workshop was organized by the Sections HIA; Health Services Research; Public Health Economics; Public Health Practice & Policy, and focused on exploring the role of different types of health assessments for evidence-based governance and policy-making, acknowledging the existence of “evidence-centered” networks and initiatives (which so far do not focus on health assessments), and, relatedly, to identify training needs and opportunities.

Activities between the EPH conferences 2015 and 2016

Kai and Marleen have drafted a Section Profile and Strategy, and have consulted Section members seeking feedback and approval. This document has now the status of a living document that can be updated or adjusted following the annual Network meeting. The document serves to implement part of the EUPHA Strategy 2014-2020 with regard to capacity building in health governance and policy issues; to seek alignment and active collaborations with other Sections; and to actively engage European networks and institutes that have governance expertise in both research and practice. One of the activities will be focused on engaging health service directors in the Section Platform, another is to actively support and engage EUPH@nxt members.

Marleen Bekker joined the Section Council meeting for the first time, and made some very useful contacts which directly paid off in accepted 2016 conference events.

In 2016, two PHPP Newsflashes were sent out in March and September. To support communication within the section, Marleen Bekker opened up a LinkedIn group. The Newsflash will appear 3-4 times a year. In the meanwhile, the LinkedIn group EUPHA Public Health Practice & Policy Section will be updated regularly.

The section contributed to the EJPH article project ““Health assessments for health governance – Concepts and methodologies”, in cooperation with numerous sections and coordinated by Rainer

Fehr. Another paper is in preparation about the 2015 Preconference on Evidence-Informed Policymaking, also based on the WHO Office for Europe report of that meeting.

With regards to the upcoming EPH conference in Vienna the section contributed to the preparation of pre-conferences, workshops and round-tables:

1. Pre-conference “HSR - Enhancing evidence-informed decision-making to support resilient and sustainable health systems in Europe” (together with CHAFEA, WHO EURO, HSR Europe, EUPHA (HSR), Observatory);
2. Pre-conference “INEQ1 - Addressing health inequities across Europe: from evidence to policy - Part 1+2” (together with Maastricht University and the Euro-HEALTHY project);
3. Workshop “Health for All: Health policy making for refugees and other migrants: context, capacity, competences” (together with EUPHA (MIG) and EUPHA (PMH));
4. Round table “Empowering All For Health. Engaging citizens in Health Policy Development: Experience From the Field” (together with WHO RHN)
5. Workshop “Health assessments in support of decision-making” (together with EUPHA (HIA), EUPHA (HSR), EUPHA (ECO), and WHO)
6. Round table “Working with society: strategies and instruments addressing the governance challenge (together with Observatory, WHO EURO)

Section elections 2016

Due to changes in his occupational position in 2016, Kai Michelsen will step down as Section President. Marleen Bekker will announce her candidacy as Section President, and one candidate for vice-President has confirmed her candidacy. Elections of the section president and vice-president will take place at the upcoming conference in Vienna (Join the network meeting). With the elections of a new President and vice-President, the Section Profile and Strategy will be further developed and implemented, and communications with Section members will be planned at a more regular basis.