

Report Public Mental Health Section (PMH) 2014

We divide this report in two sections: A) Activities in 2014; B) planned activities for 2015 and 2016.

A) Activities in 2014

In 2014 we conducted a series of activities before, during and after the EUPHA annual conference in Glasgow.

Before the conference

I was invited to teach a course on Public Mental Health at Vilnius University, in Vilnius, Lithuania. During this teaching week contact with Dr. Marija Veniute from Vilnius University was intensified.

As board member I was glad to be able to request EUPHA membership from the German organization of higher education institutions “Universities of Health” (HOGE). The necessary documents were prepared.

Several talks were given to further inform German associations on EUPHA activities and activities of the PMH section.

During the annual EUPHA conference in Glasgow

We organized a full-day pre-conference together with the EUPHA sections on “Environment and Health” and “Urban Health”. Main aims were to enhance interdisciplinary thinking and research under the umbrella of “Environment and Mental Health”. Environment was understood as built environment, physical environment and social environment. The pre-conference was attended by almost 35 participants.

Additionally to the preconference we organized four sessions and the annual meeting of the PMH section. One session was jointly organized by the EUPHA sections on “Child and Adolescent Health” and the section on “Environment and Health”.

The sessions organized by the PMH - section focused on children’s mental health, on determinants of mental health (e.g. violence, poverty, built environment). These sessions attracted participants which for the first time participated at an annual EUPHA meeting (e.g. architects, landscape architects).

The annual meeting was attended by almost 10 participants. At the annual meeting we organized the necessary elections for the president and the vice-president of the PMH section. Prof. Dr. Jutta Lindert was elected as president; Dr. Marija Veniute was elected as vice-president. During this annual meeting participants expressed their wish to help organizing the following sessions for next year’s annual EUPHA conference: 1) a session on research methods in PMH; one on 2) Life-events

and Mental Health and one on 3) Mental Health Promotion. We agreed to organize skype meetings to further develop these ideas.

After the annual conference

Preparations for a multi-institutional master's course on Public Mental health are organized by the president and the vice-president. Further research proposals together with some of the EUPHA section presidents are planned.

- Planned activities 2015-2016: Increasing visibility of EUPHA PMH section: e.g. a short (30 min.) pre-course session (presentation) at Vilnius university training course in June presenting EUPHA's Public Mental Health section and activities.
- Collaboration in strengthening research capacities in public mental health in Lithuania/Eastern Europe (e.g. Twinning project:
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/6064-h2020-twinn-2015.html>)

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