

Annual report 2021

EUPHA section on Sexual and Gender Minority Health (EUPHA-SGMH)

This report summarizes the section's previous and current aims and activities, and the planned activities for 2022.

Previous activities by the section, 2016-2020

The EUPHA section on Sexual and Gender Minority Health was formally established in November 2016 after decisions by the EUPHA Section Council and the EUPHA Governing Board. In 2016, the section worked on further developing and clarifying the section's aim and vision. From 2017 to 2020, the section focused on establishing the necessary logistical and communication channels and expanding the network of affiliated researchers and students.

Activities in 2021

Among other activities, the section has focused on:

- *Expanding the network*

The network membership grew by 20.7% over the past 12 months (729 members in September 2020 and 880 in September 2021).

- *Collaborating with other EUPHA sections*

After appointing several informal liaison persons with several other EUPHA sections in 2018, different collaborations have been realized, resulting in two joint workshops with EUPHA-ETH in 2021.

- *Increasing visibility and awareness at the annual conference and beyond*

The section organized three different workshops during the virtual 2021 European Public Health Conference, titled: 'Intersex human rights and wellbeing - Part I: From frameworks to ethics and lived experiences' and 'Intersex human rights and wellbeing - Part II: From ethics to healthcare approaches and policies' and in collaboration with EUPHA-ETH and Intersex – New Interdisciplinary Approaches (INIA), and 'Developing interventions to improve health and wellbeing of sexual and gender minority populations.' The section also organized a section meeting, or so-called Join-The-Network meeting.

- *Establishing new partnerships*

Over the course of 2021, the section leadership started talks with several (European) organization to form closer partnerships and to discuss possible future joint activities. These organization include the Intersex – New Interdisciplinary Approaches (INIA), the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, and Intersex Association Europe

(ILGA-Europe), Transgender Europe (TGEU), and European Professional Association for Transgender Health (EPATH).

Other plans for 2021

The section worked on the following activities for 2021:

- *Section pamphlet*: A document outlining the section's aim in several languages is being drafted and will be published and shared with the network.
- *Country representatives*: The section is planning to pursue the idea to appoint country representatives to facilitate networking and collaboration within and between countries. A call for country representatives will be circulated during fall 2021 or early 2022.
- *EPH Dublin*: Several topics were suggested for the upcoming EPH conference in Dublin, such as "LGBTQ populations and the COVID pandemic" and "LGBT health and increasingly hostile political climates" (possibly in collaboration with EUPHA PHPP and ILGA).
- *Digital forum*: The section is looking for a solution that would provide a more forum-based environment where members can share thoughts, ideas, and requests. Options as Twitter, Facebook Groups, and LinkedIn were discussed. Other suggestions are welcomed.
- *Section election*: EUPHA requires periodical elections for the section leadership. An election may be organized in 2022 or at a later date. Members will be able to nominate themselves or others for the positions of president and/or vice president.
- *Section survey*: The section aims to send out a survey to the section membership to assess its make-up.

Minutes Join-the-Network Meeting 2021

Date

November 11th, 2021 between 16:20 and 17:20 CET

Place

European Public Health Conference

Attendees

About 12 persons joined for a virtual meeting on Zoom.

Agenda

1. Introductions by the steering committee and attendees
2. Brief introduction to the section
3. Update on current activities
4. Country-representatives and member survey
5. Future activities and planning for EPH 2022 in Berlin
6. Discussion

MINUTES

4. Country representatives and member survey

Attendees agreed that it is a good idea to set up a network of country representatives to facilitate collaboration, especially on a regional level. This will be part of the next section newsletter. The proposed questions for the member survey were deemed appropriate. It was suggested to add a question on the reasons why members engage with EUPHA and the section. The section will aim to send out the survey in about two weeks after the conference.

5. Future activities and planning for EPH 2022 in Berlin

Several topics were suggested for the upcoming EPH conference in Berlin next year, such as:

- 1) LGBTQ+ health, the need for progressive policies, and increasingly hostile political climates" (possibly in collaboration with EUPHA PHPP and ILGA)
- 2) LGBTQ+ health from a global perspective: low- and middle-income countries.
- 3) An intersectional approach to LGBTQ+ health
- 4) A methodological workshop on how to initiate a study from scratch in new areas/countries, as an educational skill-building workshop. How to navigate legal and political realities when safety could be compromised?
- 5) Intracommunity stress – within-group discrimination and stress

6. Discussion

It was suggested to keep the upcoming conference in Berlin as hybrid, so that it would still be possible for people to attend from anywhere in the world.