

Annual report 2022

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

This report shortly summarizes the section's previous and current aims and activities, and the planned activities for 2023.

Previous activities by the section, 2016-2021

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 2021, the section focused on establishing the necessary logistical and communication channels and expanding the network of affiliated researchers and students.

Activities in 2022

Among other activities, the section has focused on:

- *Expanding the network*

The network membership grew by 26.5% over the past 12 months (880 members in September 2020 and 1113 in September 2021).

- *New President*

After nearly seven years of leading the section, Dr. Bränström stepped down as president. Dr. Bränström's leadership led to the creation of the SGMH section and resulted in a rapid expansion of its membership over the last few years, up to almost 1200 members to date. The section is very grateful for all the work by Dr. Bränström over the last 7 years; first as section initiator, later as its founding president. Dr. Van der Star was selected and appointed as the new section president.

- *Collaborating with other EUPHA sections*

After appointing several informal liaison persons with several other EUPHA sections in 2018, different collaborations have been realized, including one joint workshop with EUPHA-CAPH in 2022.

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

The section organized two different workshops during the 2022 European Public Health Conference, titled: 'Developmental and School-Based Factors Shaping Sexual and Gender Minority Youth Mental Health' in collaboration with EUPHA-CAPH and 'Structural stigma shapes LGBTQ+ mental health and well-being across countries.' The section will also organize a section meeting, or so-called Join-The-Network meeting.

- *Continued partnerships*

Over the course of 2021 and into 2022, the section leadership has formed partnerships 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).

- *Country representatives*

In early 2022, the section sent out a survey among members to inquire about and search volunteers for so-called country representatives. The seeks to appoint country representatives to facilitate networking and collaboration within and between countries later in fall 2022.

Other plans for 2023

The section is working on the following activities for 2023:

- *Section pamphlet:* A document outlining the section’s aim in several languages is being drafted and will be published and shared with the network.
- *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.
- *Gender minority health services and changing political climates:* The section aims to host a webinar in the spring on the changing political climates across Europe for gender minorities and how this is impacting life-saving healthcare for this population. When successful, the aim is to see if funding can be requested from the European Commission as part of the EUPHA Operating Grant to organize an in-person follow-up event.

Minutes Join-the-Network Meeting 2022

Date

November 10th, 2022, 13:50-14:50 CET

Place

European Public Health Conference 2022, Berlin

Attendees

About 30 persons joined the meeting.

Agenda

1. Introductions by the steering committee and attendees
2. Brief introduction to the section

3. Update on current activities
4. Change in Presidency
5. Search for new Vice President and Steering Group members
6. Future activities and planning for EPH 2023 in Dublin
7. Discussion

MINUTES

3. Update on current activities

In the past year, EUPHA SGMH organized various activities, including two workshops as part of the EPH Conference in Berlin. About a year ago, a member survey was sent out to find interested candidates for a roster of country representatives to facilitate collaboration within and across country borders. The survey will be circulated once more early next year before candidates will be selected and the roster will be published.

4. Change in Presidency

After nearly seven years of leading the section, Dr. Bränström stepped down as president. Dr. Bränström's leadership led to the creation of the SGMH section and resulted in a rapid expansion of its membership over the last few years, up to almost 1200 members to date. The section is very grateful for all the work by Dr. Bränström over the last 7 years; first as section initiator, later as its founding president. Dr. Van der Star was selected and appointed as the new section president.

5. Search for new Vice President and Steering Group members

In the weeks following the conference, Dr. Van der Star will send out a call for a new vice president and steering group members. The aim is to form a group of diverse researchers/professionals in terms of identities and age, representing various countries across the continent, and covering a wide array of SGM-related topics and expertise. Specifically, early-career researchers/professionals will be encouraged to apply. The informal procedure will most likely include a short statement on motivation and CV. A decision will likely be made around mid-January. The aims and strategy of the section will be updated once the new vice president and the steering group has been appointed.

6. Future activities and planning for EPH 2023 in Dublin

An open-forum discussion was used to brainstorm ideas for future activities. Dr. Van der Star shared the plan to host a webinar in the spring on the changing political climates across Europe for gender minorities and how this is impacting life-saving healthcare for this population. When successful, the aim is to see if funding can be requested from the European Commission as part of the EUPHA Operating Grant to organize an in-person follow-up event. Several other topics were suggested for the upcoming EPH conference in Dublin next year, such as:

- 1) SOGI status and neurodiversity
- 2) Best practices around integrating SGM-specific services and general healthcare services