

MINUTES – JOIN-THE-NETWORK MEETING 2017

EUPHA section on Sexual and Gender Minority Health



Date

November 3rd, 2017 between 12.10-1.40pm

Place

10th European Public Health Conference Stockholm

Attendees

11 persons coming from Austria, Finland, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and the US

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Aim of section – discussion
3. Current activities in EUPHA Sexual and gender minority health (SGMH) special section
4. Future activities and planning for EUPHA 2018
5. Possible announcement for yearly EUPHA SGMH student award
6. Interest in joining special section steering committee

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2. Aims

Current aims:

- Visibility and awareness of LGBT health in the public health field
- Increase knowledge on sexual and gender minority populations differences in health and health care
- Promote monitoring of health disparities among LGBT populations
- Explore the underlying mechanisms and reasons for health disparities in this group
- Spread knowledge on sexual and gender minority populations differences in health and health care
- Promote the development of interventions that aim to tackle these differences
- Encourage and facilitate cross-European studies



It is suggested to reprioritize the aims and define the main goals among the rather extensive list of objectives. *Monitoring* could be one of the main aims. More data is needed and we should advocate for the inclusion of questions on sexual orientation status in all national and cross-European studies.

A question was raised on how the term 'gender minorities' is defined. Keeping this term in the name of the section is crucial in order to keep it visible to push for additional questions in surveys.

The aims are currently missing an *advocacy focus* in order to push for policies and intervention, and also to keep monitoring of sexual orientation and gender identities on the agenda.

Furthermore, the section could potentially focus on the question on how to facilitate monitoring also *outside EU region* in order to cover the full European continent.

Finally, an additional aim could be to also include LGBTI health in *public health training* in Europe.

4. Future activities

It is suggested to create a more *interactive way of communication* to enable two-way exchange. LinkedIn groups (or similar platforms) could facilitate this.

In order to keep section members actively engaged throughout the year, it might be interesting to organize a *meeting* in-between the annual conferences – when there is enough of an agenda. Funding could potentially come from programs as Erasmus+. If additional funding is not available, one could also think about organizing a webinar instead. *Additional note: The recently acquired EU operating grant may facilitate this (check with EUPHA office).*

Such a local event in a specific country could create a buzz. As an example: the mental health conference in Lithuania resonated in society for an additional 6 months.

Local NGOs could be involved in such a local event. Also, the conference in Slovenia could be an opportunity for this in the coming year. A direct skills-building workshop targeted at them should be considered as an idea for next year.

It is suggested to look into exchange and collaboration with other organizations and conferences, like the ILGA conference that is more oriented on practice.

5. Student award

The idea on initiating a student award for studies on sexual and gender minorities was well perceived. The price could contain a waived registration fee for the upcoming conference in order to promote continuity.

6. Steering committee

To further structure the section, it was proposed to establish a steering committee. Ideally, the steering group has to be diverse in the broadest sense of the word; geographically, gender, ethnicity etc. A call

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for committee members will be send around via newsletter. An additional call for new section members will be added to the central EUPHA newsletter. Kristefer Stojanovski (University of Michigan, US) and Lisa Mcdaid (University of Glasgow, UK) expressed potential interest. Also, the possibility for a liaison with the Austrian association will be assessed.

Action items:

- Rewrite and reprioritize the aims of the section based on the new input
- Develop a roadmap for future growth and activities
- Assess funding for a physical meeting
- Discuss the plan for initiating a student award with the EUPHA office
- Promote the section in the EUPHA newsletter
- Send out a call for steering group members