



The EUPHA Section of Social Security, Work and Health Annual report for year 2020

President: Gunnel Hensing

Vice president: Ute Bültmann.

Steering committee: Ute Bültmann, George Delclos, Gunnel Hensing, Angelique de Rijk, Simon Överland.

Members

We have had a very good development of members during the year. The number of section members is 1609. We have welcomed 235 new members since last year.

The World Congress of Public Health in a digital version from Rome, Italy

The ongoing pandemic has influenced the section over the year. We planned for a one-day pre-conference as usual but we had to transform it into a three-hour digital version instead. We arranged the digital pre-conference on October 12. The topic of the digital pre-conference was **“It’s not about the future or work.....it’s about the future of decent work. A global perspective on social protections and refocusing on worker well-being”**. Professor George Delclos moderated the pre-conference. Three speakers were invited. The first keynote speaker was Dr. Paul Schulte, director of the Division of Science Integration at the US CDC National Institute for Occupational Safety and health explored different future of work scenarios. The second keynote speaker was Dr. Vera Ngowi, Senior Lecturer at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania presented her recent work on the challenges of obtaining decent work environment in Sub-Saharan Africa. The third keynote speaker was Professor Dr. Nico Dragano, Director of the Center for Health and Society at the University of Dusseldorf, who recently coordinated a European work group on the indirect health consequences such as unemployment and economic difficulties of COVID-19. The participants contributed with comments and questions at the chat function. At the end a brief presentation was held by the SPARKS network which has its focus on the importance of strengthening social protection to avoid disease caused poverty mainly due to TB. Fifty-three participants were registered for the pre-conference (not including presenters) while fewer attended the live session. Feed-back from participants during and after the meeting was very positive – interesting and important theme, excellent presenters representing Europe, USA and Africa and timely theme in the light of the ongoing pandemic. Unfortunately, we could

not have the traditional post-pre-conference dinner which is an important part of our networking.

An annual meeting was held during the congress on Wednesday October 14 at 17.00 CET. We discussed among other things the advantages with the digital possibilities and decided to explore the possibilities to have digital in between EPH conference meetings. In particular, we want to support younger researchers to present and discuss in informal meetings their work with researchers at other universities and institutes than their own. During the main conference several researchers from our section presented their research.

Other activities in 2020

Professor Gunnel Hensing has been invited to a fruitful collaboration with researchers from the SPARKS network and we hope to develop this further, and with other similar groups that have an interest in social security/social protection research and public health. The network to promote research on cancer and work, CANWON, and the Nordic network for researchers using twin data are examples of ongoing collaboration within the section. We have had more than ten meetings in the steering group due to the conversion to digital format. Letters for communication with the members have been sent out regularly. The goal to reach members at least once every quarter of the year has been achieved. The Section president Hensing has scored abstracts submitted for presentations and workshops for the EPH conference. She has also been participating in two expert groups for the Swedish governmental investigations.