

Notes from the Annual Meeting of the EUPHA Section on Social Security and Health, 20 November, 2014 in Glasgow

1. Kristina Alexanderson, the section president welcomed everybody to the annual meeting, presented the suggested agenda and asked if there were any additional issues to include – there were none.
2. Kristina presented the organization – the vice president Gunnel Hensing, and the steering committee of the section; Ute Bültmann, Angelique de Rijk, Sören Brage and George Delclos – of which the two latest could not participate today. Kristina asked for suggestions of people (now or later) willing to take part in the organization of the section, e.g., in the steering group work groups, newsletters, or in organizing activities.
3. Kristina informed on how to become a member of the section, on the website of EUPHA.org and that you, preferable at a yearly basis, need to *log in to* the EUPHA website. If not active you will not be registered as a member any longer, and thus not receive information for the mail system of the section, nor the EUPHA newsletters, etcetera.
Also, Kristina encourages members of the section also to become members of their national EUPHA organization. As EUPHA is an organization of national organizations, it is important the sections members also are members. Presently the rate of the section members also being EUPHA members is very low. In most countries the membership fee to the national organization equals the sum of the reduction of the registration fee for the conference.
4. *We all thanked the organizers of the preconference* of this year – the twelfth preconference! We had the number of participants we were aiming for and both the content and the organizing of the pre-conference were much appreciated. This was the first time we had this as a lunch-to-lunch preconference. Kristina had been worried that some people would not be there at start up, drawing on the experience from our very first pre conference in Rome in 2003. That one started at 11 o'clock and quite a few participants arrived late, due to late ore delayed flights – which affected the meeting negatively. After that, we have started the following pre-conferences early in the Wednesday morning – that is, travelling participants have had to arrive the day before.
This year the EUPHA office asked us to test a lunch-to-lunch concept. The majority found this good and we will continue with this next year. There were different opinions regarding what time to start Thursday morning. All found the concept we used for the pre-conferences of mixing presentations with group work/workshops to be very good.
5. The annual meeting also thanked the organizers of this year's *workshop*. It went well, good standard and discussions. This year we had invited the president of one of the other EUPHA sections (Iveta Nagyova from the Section on Chronic Diseases) to lead the discussion following the presentations. The meeting agreed that this was positive and we want to continue find ways of collaborations regarding workshops, pre conferences, projects and others. There was a question whether the

Section of Chronic Diseases includes all chronic diseases, e.g., also mental disorders – and the answer is yes.

6. Discussions regarding workshop(s) and the pre-conference for next year: as always, there were many suggestions, e.g.; mixed-methods, research informing policy; intervention research, different statistical challenges in researching insurance medicine, consequences of being sickness absent, gender or minority issues, implementation research, diagnosis-specific themes, e.g., cancer and work.
7. Regarding workshop(s) for 2015, we agreed that will contact the president of the Section of Chronic Diseases to discuss a joint workshop for 2015. Cecile, Ute and Kristina are responsible for this first step. Of course other suggestions and submissions are also very welcome!
 - Regarding the pre-conference 2015, we after having discussed the many ideas agreed that we have a need to again focus on theories used in research on sickness absence, RTW and presenteeism. We had a much appreciated pre-conference with this theme in Oslo in 2004 and much has happened since then, both in terms of development of theories and in terms of new section members. Claus and Angelique will, together with Kristina, start planning for this. Others are welcome to join the planning group.
8. Information from Kristina: EUPHA now has a new president: professor Martin Mckee and a new president elect: Natasha Azzopardi Musca. The next EPH conferences will be in Milan, Italy 14-17 October 2015, in Vienna 9-12 November 2016, and in Stockholm in 2017. EUPHA has adopted a Strategy map for 2014-2020 and a new logo – the latter will be launched in March 2015. More information can be found on the EUPHA website.
9. Four initiators, from universities in four countries (Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada and Sweden) have for some years worked to get Insurance Medicine accepted as a Field within the Cochrane Collaboration. There are several steps that need to be taken in order to be able to establish such a field, and we are getting close to making the final application now. Having this field established would be of great importance for our research area.
10. One of the aims of the section is to encourage and promote also joint research projects and grant applications. Several such are going on and more are needed. We talked about EU Horizon 2020; DG Sanco and DG Employment; Cost, etcetera.
11. Some of us are involved in the recently established network CANWON, that is, a network to support research in (return to) work after a cancer diagnoses/treatment. The network is financed by Cost and has arranged one training school for junior researchers on using register data in studies on cancer and (return to) work (more information here: http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/Actions/IS1211) At least two more learning school will be arranged, one per year.
12. Information on other conferences involving sickness absence research was discussed, e.g., EUMASS 2016, WDPI 2016, Well-being at work 2016 Amsterdam (end May), EPICOH 2016 Barcelona, Premus 2016 Toronto.

13. The section needs and wants input from our members! For emails to the members, for the section website, for a brochure, etcetera! Regarding membership: we want to attract more members and especially so from southern European countries.
14. We have the possibility to use the European Public Health Journal for discussion or statements. Please contact Kristina!
15. Kristina thanked all for participating in this meeting in spite of taking place parallel to a very interesting plenary presentation!