

# Future Presidency, its vision and focus

*Katarzyna Czabanowska, ASPHER President Elect*

The schools and departments of public health which are members of ASPHER show a profound level of commitment, genuine interest, willingness and trust in working together to develop, strengthen public health education and training to produce public health workforce to operate effectively in the complex, evolving and insecure international and global health systems context including: health inequalities in and across countries, migration crisis and related cultural challenges, multi-comorbidities, non-communicable diseases, a growing burden of mental health, aging and health workforce shortages as well as a range of unmet health needs of the European populations. While focusing the strategic vision for ASPHER around **Public Health Workforce** development and systematic methods to it, next ASPHER presidency will be based on principles of: continuation, collaboration, wide stakeholder involvement and sustainability.



## Continuation

For 50 years ASPHER has been successfully developing public health agenda through different initiatives and presidential programmes. There is a big legacy which I aim to follow and carry forward, adapting to the current needs of the Members. The initiatives include, naming a few: [ASPHER Strategy 2020](#), which should be implemented in alignment with or acknowledging [WHO Health Strategy 2020](#), the objectives the [EU Health Programme 2014-2020](#), [Horizon 2020](#) and other European policies and instruments. Further comes [European Public Health Reference Framework](#), and [Public Health Core Competencies Programme](#), [Public Health Reviews Journal](#) which is a widely recognised scientific and professional forum addressing important public health problems, [ASPHER working groups](#), [Human Rights in Patient Care project](#), and the work of [APHEA](#) safeguarding and assuring high quality standards for public health education and training. All these efforts will be brought closer to the Members through direct involvement in the execution of some of these programmes, consultations or expert reviews.

## Collaboration

I would like to put a strong emphasis on collaboration and exchange of good practices at all levels, helping the schools showcase their achievements, benchmark and compare curricula of their bachelor, master or continuous development programmes and exchange students and staff as stated in [ASPHER Strategy 2020, Objective 1](#). ASPHER needs to take full advantage of the collective wisdom, experience and know-how of our 112 full and 14 associate members - not only to improve public health education and training but also to contribute to the improved population health in the European region and to global health.

## Wide stakeholder engagement

Only more coherent and interconnected initiatives, with a strong inter-professional and inter-sectoral component, bringing together many stakeholders to discuss, develop and propose solutions which may have impact on new favourable for public health policies and regulations will assure sustainable and central position of ASPHER in the global network of organisations which promote and support health and wellbeing of the populations. We will maintain and develop further the successfully established links with such organisations as: [WHO Europe](#), the [European Commission](#), the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#), European public health networks such as [EUPHA](#) and [EPHA](#), global networks including: [World Federation of Academic Institutions for Global Health](#), [World Federation of Public Health Associations](#) and other regional schools associations such as: [American Association of Schools and Programmes of Public Health](#) and [Asian Pacific Consortium for Public Health](#).

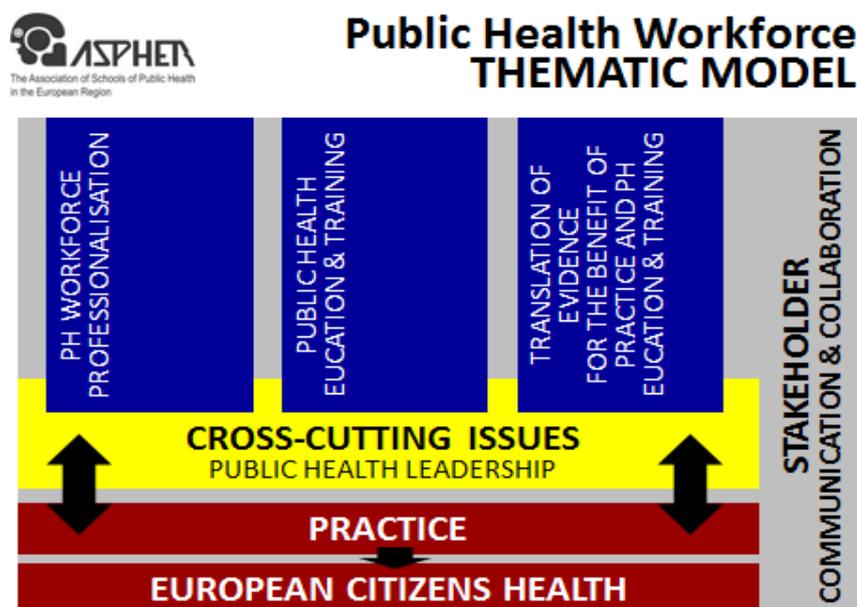
## Sustainability

Only by working together, identifying synergies and common interests, building upon our strengths and excellence, assuring strong participation in various structures and networks, finding new solutions, financial instruments and management practices we will contribute to building the sustainability of ASPHER as a modern, network organisation.

## Strategic focus

It is not a mere coincidence that the next ASPHER's presidency strategic focus is **Public Health Workforce**, there is scientific evidence in support of the pressing need to develop effective public health workforce able to meet the demands of 21<sup>st</sup> century health challenges and great political will which manifests itself in the concerted actions and policies of governments and global health actors such as WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health – [Workforce 2030](#).

Therefore we propose a *thematic model* (Figure 1) which will guide ASPHER efforts in the support of Public Health Workforce development. There are three key strategic elements such as: *public health workforce professionalization, education and training including CPD, translation of evidence for public health practice*. Professionalization will include activities related to defining and enumerating public health workforce, promoting core academic public health competencies and developing professional competency models to assure professional development, self-assessment and planning, development of professional code of conduct and striving to develop regulatory basis to safeguard the right of public health professionals and the attainment of the qualifications and their certification. There will be a strong emphasis on the identification and proposal of the career development paths including CPD courses which will be available through the creation of ASPHER Public Health Training Academy. We will acknowledge, support and promote the translation of scientific evidence into public health practice, education and training through both: cutting edge, newest scientific course content and developing competencies in dissemination and implementation strategies also including communication and social entrepreneurship skills. The implementation of these themes will require the development of strong public health leadership which should be more adaptive, content and experience driven, transformational and authentic, facilitating growth and development of the workforce. It should be horizontal and more participatory involving many actors and many sectors. That is why, collaboration and communication with various stakeholders based on the consensus, mutual interest and principles presented earlier will hopefully enable the joint action towards Public Health Workforce development benefitting health and wellbeing of European citizens in the long run.



Contact: [kasia.czabanowska@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:kasia.czabanowska@maastrichtuniversity.nl)