

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
14 October 2015, Milan

**Report from the President**

I give herewith an account of my time as the incoming and then full president of ASPHER since end of 2013. Although I was a member of the Executive Board since 2006, this last period was much more demanding. Without the steady support of Robert Otok as ASPHER Director as well as many others, I would hardly have managed.

In the focus throughout this period was and remains to be the perspective of ASPHER 2020. Where do we want to be at the end of this decade?

In my Programme of Work of 2013 the following objectives together with a detailed workplan were listed:

- Objective 1:** Opening the consultation process, supporting development and adoption of the ASPHER Strategy 2016-2020 with a special attention to the close cooperation with WHO and the responsibility ASPHER accepted for EPHO 7.
- Objective 2:** Promoting Continuing Professional Development (CPD) based on blended learning as ASPHER online courses and developing common tools and mechanisms for the accreditation of Continuing Public Health Education (CPHE) by APHEA to be available from the beginning of 2015.
- Objective 3:** Contributing to strong recognition of public health professionals in the context of ASPHER's lead on EPHO 7 (preparations to be finalized until mid 2015 including the adoption of a guideline);
- Objective 4:** Exploring the possibilities of the European labour market for public health professionals by a Delphi process as follow-up of the ASPHER survey on European employers (to be executed in 2014);
- Objective 5:** Building a supportive environment for all ASPHER working groups to complement and enhance unity and close cooperation between all ASPHER members in education, training, research and practice.

Subsequently we advanced these objectives and integrated them into our Strategy 2020 in an intensive open discussion process, first approving our general direction during the D&D meeting in Zagreb 2014 and finally adopting the resulting version during the D&D meeting in Jerusalem in May 2015. The results are published in the **EuroHealth Journal** this year.

ASPHER 2020 is based on three innovative developments:

1) The **ASPHER Surveys 2012/2013**, on the Schools and Departments of Public Health in Europe and on the Employers of Public Health Professionals with a participation rate of 82.5% for our members and 57.8% for the employers, sending their answers from 30 European countries. Both surveys are published in the International Journal of Public Health: The biggest gap has been identified for Preparedness and Planning for Public Health Emergencies, by our members and as well by the employers. To me it seems that in a world as it is today, this area should become a priority of our teaching and research. This year we have started the second set of surveys to document developments during the last four years, but including not only our

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members and also again employers but in addition our graduates. I have to thank especially my colleagues Dejana Vukovic, Katarzyna Czabanowska, Robert Otok, and Ulrich Laaser.

2) The second important development was the drafting and final adoption of our “**Charter on the global dimension of education and training for public health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Europe and in the world**” in Brussels end of 2013. Not only has this links to the aforementioned deficits in teaching preparedness but also to the role of Europe in the world. Based on the Charter a **Working Group** on Education for Global Public Health has been established and produced 25 modules on relevant topics within the very short time of one year. My thank goes to Ulrich Laaser and his group. Another consequence of the global orientation is the planned set up of an **ASPHER Alumni** Organisation by Yehuda Neumark.

3) The last but certainly not the least achievement is **the lead of ASPHER on the Essential Public Health Operation No. 7** on Public Health Workforce Development in the European Region. I am extremely grateful to Anders Foldspang having taken the responsibility for this work in support to WHO-EURO, represented by Elke Jakubowski. Anders has organised the coordination of this work in the European Public Health Reference Framework Council. I am convinced that through this line we can really achieve change. In this context I should also mention our policy brief on “Addressing needs in the public health workforce in Europe”, published by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, as cited in Anders’ editorial.

However, **other developments** stabilising during the last year are no less important. Let me start with the reorganisation of the **Public Health Reviews** as a Journal published by Springer. Here of course my thanks and appreciation goes to Laurent Chambaud and Fred Paccaud who support the transfer to Springer financially and of course to Ted Tulchinsky who started the PHR and now continues as Executive editor.

Furthermore we may celebrate the release of **two children of ASPHER** into maturity, their names being **EAGHA**, the European Academic Global Health Alliance, and **APHEA**, the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation. ASPHER will continue to participate in both organisations, hoping that our children survive successfully in the future. I want to express here my sincere thanks to Antoine Flahault being responsible for both children and to Julien Goodman for his very important work in APHEA.

ASPHER has a great potential as expressed in its leitmotif Education for Research and Practice, formulated in the mid-nineties. I personally was very proud to see in **Glasgow at the 7<sup>th</sup> European Public Health Conference**, that we were able to contribute not only the pre-conference events: ASPHER Forum and Young Researchers Forum with 18 participants but in addition 6 workshops getting accepted against very strong competitors. In addition we have a long tradition of awarding the Andrija Stampar Medal with 2 medalists during my presidency, i.e. Peter Piot and Jean Rochon. However, we should also strive to further develop our D&D meeting. I think that **the model presented in Jerusalem** is very attractive, **to combine four elements**: The General Assembly, the consultation programme of the Deans and Directors (maybe in the future including the Andrija Stampar award), the National Conference, and an international conference section. We should build on this in the future.

Last not least, I would like to report on the further development of our **administrative** infrastructure. Robert Otok managed to increase our membership considerably to presently over 110 Schools and Departments of Public Health as full members and additional associate members, also from outside of Europe. Also, Robert oversaw the production of our first newsletter which gives everybody a detailed account on ASPHER’s work. Most important probably we were able to finalise the **move from Paris to Brussels**, a very cumbersome, even painstaking operation. However, the position in Brussels gives us a much better opportunity to communicate with the European Commission; three operational grants were received and

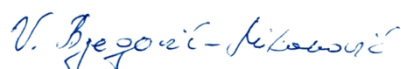
helped a lot although as most of you know the administrative execution of EU projects is not easy.

In addition we have now guidelines for the Andrija Stampar award, the election of the ASPHER president, amended statutes, and an updated proposal for our future fee structure. Please pay also attention to the proposed guidelines for funding and the guidelines for our working groups as attached to the Strategy 2020.

Let me conclude with a plea regarding **one deficit** I should mention at the end. The ASPHER surveys have shown that we have still considerable deficits in the areas of social media and continuing professional development. As a first step we managed to publish the booklet on "Modern Teaching – Distance Learning, a guide to online and blended learning". I ask you to consider second and third steps using the framework of a Working Group on Online and Blended Learning.

Our capacities may be limited but your engagement for public health education and training is so encouraging, I thank you very much and wish us a successful meeting here in Milan.

Milan, October 14, 2015



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