

ECDC Public Health Training Section 2018

Meeting Report ASPHER/ ECDC Meeting 21st-22nd February 2018

ECDC main building, Tomtebodavägen 11 A
Karolinska Campus, Solna, Stockholm, Sweden

Background

In March 2016, a collaboration agreement was signed between ECDC (European Centre of Disease Prevention and Control) and ASPHER (Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region) (Annex 1).

The aim of this agreement between ECDC and ASPHER was to be more effective in delivering training that ensures the sustainable development of workforce in the field of communicable disease prevention



ASPHER/ECDC Group Photo February 2018 meeting, Stockholm

and control, in particular in the area of cross border threats to health. It also aims to facilitate the connections between academia and the public health institutes, translating the collaboration at EU level to national level. This agreement can contribute to the European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services as a key pillar for implementing Health 2020.

ASPHER is the key independent European organisation dedicated to strengthening the role of public health by improving education and training of public health professionals for both practice and research. It promotes

activities that foster the exchange of information and best practices amongst its members in an effort to achieve high standards of public health education and training across Europe.

This ASPHER-ECDC collaboration lies within the ECDC Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme. CPD is an overall umbrella for all ECDC training activities targeting professionals working in the ECDC national competent bodies and actively participating in the ECDC disease programme and public health function networks.

The CPD aims to meet the institutional needs in the Member states to have a competent workforce, sufficiently skilled to (beyond the national responsibilities) effectively work and interact with experts in

ECDC, other countries and other international organisations at the EU-level. Academic institutions and their networks, for example ASPHER, are an essential part of this capacity building and professional development initiative.

The legal basis for the CPD is the [ECDC Founding Regulation \(851/2004\)](#) and the EU [Decision 1082/2013 on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health](#). Based on this legislation, ECDC Management Board endorsed in June 2015 the [ECDC Public Health Training Strategy](#). As outlined in this strategy, the CPD is one of the two core programmatic training efforts of ECDC, the other one being the ECDC Fellowship Programme (EPIET/EUPHEM). These two training programmes complement other capacity strengthening activities of ECDC provided under its Country Support Strategy and *ad-hoc* training organised in response to public health emergencies.

The meeting, organised under the umbrella of the CPD programme, aims at fostering a strong network between the two organizations, facilitating the connections between academia, ECDC and the national focal points for training in the public health institutes in Europe. Our common vision is to be more effective in delivering or making available public health training in the area of communicable disease prevention and control.

History of the collaboration

In 2016 (Annex 2) at the time of the signature of the Collaboration Agreement, a first meeting was held in Stockholm to launch the initiative and the survey of the schools of public health involved in education and training in the area of communicable disease prevention and control.

One of the first milestones of the collaboration was the decision to conduct the analysis of the training offer and competences by European Schools of Public Health.

The final goal was identify key stakeholders for ECDC as training providers who would be in a position to complement the ECDC training offer, and explore opportunities for partnerships. The aim was to map the resources, competencies and current offer of training activities of the Schools of Public Health members of ASPHER in the area of communicable disease prevention and control.,. Considering the study objective, the inclusion criteria of the schools were defined as follows: to be Public Health Schools members of ASPHER; to offer a postgraduate program, bachelor and / or master program in the Public Health Schools members of ASPHER.

The technical scope of this collaborative project includes the analysis of training offer and competences among the ASPHER European Schools of Public Health for the following areas: Public health emergency preparedness and response, Public health surveillance, Communication, Risk assessment, Outbreak investigation, Laboratory support for investigation of health threats, Research methodology applied to public health, Training methods and Leadership, among others.

This is the second meeting of the collaboration.

Goal and Objectives of the meeting

A two-day meeting is organised to share, with the Schools of Public Health that participated in the survey, the results of the survey and to identify strategies for future collaboration in this area. The specific objectives are to:

- Update the participants on the ASPHER/ECDC collaboration context
- Share the results of the mapping of the trainings in prevention and control of communicable diseases:
 - Presentation of the results
 - Discussion and analysis of what we have learnt
 - Proposal of a communication strategy of the results
- Identify priority areas of collaboration in the area of prevention and control of communicable disease and prevention within the schools and with ECDC national focal points for training
 - Definition of the principles and objectives of the collaboration in function of the needs
 - Definition of concrete next steps with an agenda for action

Organisation of the meeting

This meeting was organised in close collaboration between ASPHER and ECDC. Both parties worked in defining the objectives, the outcomes as well as the agenda.

The idea was to provide a framework allowing strong participation and production of concrete outcomes. In order to do so, long specific moments were structured to provide time to discuss and to produce. Specific templates were developed and are presented in Annex 15 and 21. A logic model was also developed to serve as “food for thought” in the identification of potential future areas of collaboration.

All of the tools and the material used during the meeting have been uploaded in a Collaborative working space created in the FEM Wiki platform. All of the presentations and tools used during the meeting are also presented as annexes to this document, through the meeting agenda in the order they were used to allow the reader to appreciate the dynamics of the meeting.

After the meeting, a strategy to follow-up of the collaboration will be defined in order to achieve the identified milestones.

Meeting Agenda

Annexes of the presentations are listed throughout the agenda.

Wednesday, 21 February			
<i>08:45</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Registration of participants</i>	
09:00 – 10:40	Welcome & Introduction	Presentation of the ASPHER/ECDC collaboration (25')	Karl Ekdahl, Kasia Czabanowska, Carmen Varela Santos, Robert Otok
		Annex 3: Annex 4	
		Presentation of the objectives of the meeting (10')	Jeanine Pommier
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of ECDC Continuous Professional Development (10') 	
		Annex 5	
ECDC National focal points: national working strategies and needs (15')	Jeanette de Boer, Miguel Angel Royo		
Annex 6	Martin Krayer von Krauss		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition of partners: where are we today? (10') 			
Annex 7			
<i>10:40 – 11:10</i>	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	<i>will be served outside of Board Room</i>	
11:10 – 12:00	The Mapping	Results of the Mapping of Schools having a Curriculum in prevention and control of communicable disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we learn from these results? • What do we want to do with the results? Communication/dissemination plan Annex 13	Carmen Varela Santos Miguel Angel Royo
12:00 – 13:00	Strengths & Challenges	Identifying strengths and challenges faced by the schools in the trainings on prevention and control of communicable diseases: presentations by the Schools (8 min each school) 15' discussion/wrap up Annex 8 Annex 9 Annex 10 Annex 11 Annex 12	Jeanine Pommier Robert Otok
<i>13:00 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>will be served at König Restaurant</i>	

Wednesday, 21 February			
14:00 – 15:30	Priorities for collaboration:	Building on the previous analysis, further elaboration on the identified areas of focus/specific interest in order to state the area of collaboration Annex 15	Robert Otok Jeanine Pommier
15:30 – 16:00 <i>Coffee/tea break will be served outside of Board Room</i>			
16:00 – 16:50		Feedback from Working Groups (10' per group) Annex 14 Annex 16 Annex 17 Annex 18	
16:50 - 17:00	Wrap up Day 1	ECDC and ASPHER	Carmen Varela
18:00 - 20:00 <i>Dinner Elite Hotel Carolina Tower</i>			

Thursday, 22 February			
09:00 – 09:20	Agenda for action	“Working virtually”: available tools Annex 19	
09:20 – 10:30	Agenda for action	Each group identifies an action plan they want to develop (building on the previous day’s discussions) Annex 20 Annex 21 Annex 22	Robert Otok Jeanine Pommier
10:30 – 11:00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>	<i>will be served outside of Board Room</i>	
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda for action	Feedback from Working Groups: 15’ /group Annex 23 Annex 24 Annex 25 Annex 26	Jeanine Pommier Robert Otok
12:30 – 13:30	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>will be served at König Restaurant</i>	
13:30 – 14:45	Next steps	What can be achieved until June for the ASPHER meeting What can be achieved for the next EPH meeting in November in Ljubljana	Robert Otok Jeanine Pommier
14:45 – 15:00	Wrap up		Kasia Czabanowska, Carmen Varela Santos, Robert Otok

Participants

Participants to this second meeting were members of the ASPHER network who participated in the mapping exercise that looked at training capacity and strengths in the area of prevention and control of communicable diseases. The complete list is presented below.

The group was also fortunate to have the participation of Dr Martin Kraye Von Krauss of Public Health Services Programme, Division of Health Systems and Public Health, WHO Regional Office for Europe to share information about the relatively new [Coalition of Partners](#).

Nr	COUNTRY	NAME	SURNAME	INSTITUTION
1.	Belgium	Robert	Otok	ASPHER Director
2.	Bulgaria	Vanya	Rangelova	Faculty of Public Health, Medical University Plovdiv
3.	Bulgaria	Silviya	Aleksandrova- Yankulovska	Medical University of Pleven
4.	Cyprus	Giagkos	Lavranos	Department of Health Sciences, European University of Cyprus
5.	Czech Republic	Alena	Petrakova	Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Palacky University, Olomouc
6.	Denmark	Martin Paul	Krayer von Krauss	WHO Regional Office for Europe
7.	Finland	Pekka	Nuorti	University of Tampere National Institute for Health and Welfare
8.	France	Pascal	Crépey	The EHESP School of Public Health
9.	Germany	Ralf	Reintjes	Hamburg University of Applied Sciences
10.	Ireland	Patricia	Fitzpatrick	University College Dublin
11.	Poland	Ewelina	Wierzejska	Poznan University of Medical Sciences
12.	Poland	Grzegorz	Juszczyk	Medical University in Warsaw
13.	Portugal	Margarida	Tavares	Institute of Public Health of the University of Porto (ISPUP)
14.	Slovak Republic	Zuzana	Kristufkova	Faculty of Public Health, Slovak Medical University
15.	Spain	Miguel Ángel	Royo Bordonada	Spanish National School of Public Health
16.	Spain	Doris Xiomara	Monroy Parada	Spanish National School of Public Health
17.	Spain	Francisco	Guillen Grima	Public University of Navarra
18.	Sweden	Louise	Stjernberg	The Swedish Red Cross University College
19.	Switzerland	Axel	Hoffmann	Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+)
20.	The Netherlands	Kasjia	Czabanovska	ASPHER President
21.	The Netherlands	Jeannette	De Boer	Netherlans School for Public and Occupational Health (NSPOH)
22.	The Netherlands	Christian	Hoebe	GGD Zuid Limburg
23.	Turkey	Gul	Ergor	Dokuz Eylul University Medical School Department of Public Health
24.	United Kingdom	Siobhan	Leir	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
25.	United Kingdom	Nick	Gent	Public Health England
26.	ECDC	Karl	Ekdahl	Head of Unit Public Health Capacity and Communication
27.	ECDC	Rodrigo	Filipe	Public Health Training Section
28.	ECDC	Natalie	Girin	Public Health Training Section
29.	ECDC	Takis	Panagiotopoulos	Epidemiological Methods
30.	ECDC	Jeanine	Pommier	Public Health Training Section
31.	ECDC	Vladimir	Prikazsky	Public Health Training Section
32.	ECDC	Carmen	Varela Santos	Head of Public Health Training Section

Meeting outcomes

Identified areas of collaboration

During the first working session, the group identified potential areas of collaboration in the area of communicable disease prevention and control. The main ideas that came out of this phase were:

- **Importance of cascading and transferring the knowledge**
 - Creating a reference curriculum
 - Defining the target audience: trainers (podcasts, audio-visual materials, case studies)
 - Sharing new/existing material and creating a review committee to publish those materials. Acknowledgement of authors
 - Quality control or peer review system for case studies
 - Adapt materials to country realities

- **Structuring the existing training resources**
 - Network of Schools of excellence organising courses, gathering professors from different schools around a specific theme. Trainers to be identified within the collaboration of ECDC and ASPHER
 - ECDC certification/ stamp of approval
 - ECDC collaboration centres for trainings/ WHO collaborating centres for training
 - Benchmarking on workforce capacity, accreditation criteria, handbook for accreditation by WHO & ASPHER
 - Circulate the identified training needs that have come up and make them available via ASPHER/ECDC collaboration
 - Sharing European regional expertise, via platform, online database

- **Linking the field experience to academia**
 - Identify areas for hands-on trainings using ASPHER members and ECDC National Focal Points Training (NFP-T)
 - Mentorship programmes in communicable disease control for non-medical professionals
 - NFP-Training becoming more linked with academic institutions
 - Assure that the curricula meet the current needs in the field of infectious diseases
 - ECDC Fellowship acquiring credits toward university degrees

ASPHER-ECDC Network's proposal to move forward

During the second working session, participants identified concrete steps to move forward in the process and decided to:

1. Set up a functioning network in ASPHER countries, by means of a contact point to establish links with ECDC and with the National Focal points for training in order to identify the national needs and the existing national offers. This objective will be met through the following 4 milestones:
 - Identification of an academic contact point
 - Setting a 1st country meeting between NFPT and ASPHER contact point
 - Identifying national training needs and national training/ continuous professional development offers that can be linked to the ASPHER/ECDC catalogue
 - The results of the analysis of the training needs and training offerings will be shared within the ASPHER/ECDC Network (distance or face to face to be determined)
2. Publishing a first draft of the catalogue with the continuous professional development offerings (parts of master trainings can be published if they are standalone and can be offered as such to a larger public)
3. Developing a network of collaborative resource centres in the area of communicable disease prevention and control offering complementary training opportunities not yet available and linking this to the ASPHER Public health training academy and within the ASPHER/ECDC/IANPHI network
4. Setting up a task force for curriculum development
5. Invest time on the 3 pieces that will be produced by ASPHER for June under the framework of the WHO Coalition of Partners Agenda:
 - Public Health Workforce (PHW) Professionalization Road Map
 - Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce
 - Review of the Existing Public Health Accreditation and Licensing Systems

ASPHER-ECDC Network's proposal to move forward in a feasible timetable

	Goal/objective	Time Frame	Responsible	What needs to be done
1	To set up a functioning network in ASPHER countries, by means of a contact point to establish links with ECDC and with the National Focal points for training in order to identify the national needs and the existing national offers. This objective will be met through the following 4 milestones	By June 2018	ASPHER / ECDC in collaboration	A working paper including the goals/ objectives and process on how to identify and appoint academic focal points and how they will work with the ECDC NFP-T.
1a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of an academic contact point 	By June 2018 A follow-up of this activity could be presented at the London meeting as a side meeting (to be determined)	ASPHER	ASPHER will organise a call to its members to identify a contact person or persons for every country (countries may decide if they have one or more contact persons) ASPHER can present a an update in London
1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting a 1st country meeting between NFPT and ASPHER contact point 	By June	The academic contact and NFP-T	A meeting will take place (in the country)
1c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying national training needs identifying national training/ continuous professional development offers that can be linked to the ASPHER/ECDC catalogue 	By November 2018	The academic contact person(s) for each country along with the NFP-T.	Individual countries will need to identify what training needs they have They will identify and document what training offerings exist

	Goal/objective	Time Frame	Responsible	What needs to be done
1d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the analysis of the training needs and training offerings will be shared within the ASPHER/ECDC Network (distance or face to face to be determined) 	By November 2018	ASPHER members and ECDC	<p>These could be presented at the November meeting as a side meeting or some other format to be determined.</p> <p>These results can be informative material to assist in developing points 3 and 4 below.</p>
2	Publishing a first draft of the catalogue with the continuous professional development offerings (parts of master trainings can be published if they are standalone and can be offered as such to a larger public)	By June 2018	Miguel Angel Royo Doris Xiomara Monroy Parada Carmen Varela	<p>Send a draft of the catalogue to all of the schools that participated</p> <p>The schools will correct if necessary the content and add a brief description of the course and its main focus</p>
3	Developing a network of collaborative resource centres in the area of communicable disease prevention and control offering complementary training opportunities not yet available and linking this to the ASPHER Public health training academy and within the ASPHER/ECDC/IANPHI network	2019	Axel Hoffmann (to confirm) Grzegorz Juszczyk (suggests appointing a colleague to be confirmed) Jeannette De Boer (might propose a colleague to be confirmed) With support of the ASPHER office	<p>Production of a concept paper</p> <p>Identify the objective of these collaborative resource centres, the potential audience, the people who can provide resources</p>

	Goal/objective	Time Frame	Responsible	What needs to be done
4	Setting up a task force for curriculum development	2019	To be determined	Production of a concept paper Explore other relevant contexts related to curricula development, competencies systems development and accreditation efforts.
5	Invest time on the 3 pieces that will be produced by ASPHER for June under the framework of the WHO CoP Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Public Health Workforce (PHW) Professionalization Road Map b) Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce c) Review of the Existing Public Health Accreditation and Licensing Systems 	June 2018	Production sent by ASPHER and every school gives feedback	ASPHER will send the documents to be validated by the Network. The 3 elements will be further presented at the CoP meeting in London, on June 19, prior to this year's ASPHER Deans' and Directors' Retreat.

Conclusion

The meeting was deemed successful and was very interactive with much participation from all involved. There was enthusiasm to work collaboratively with ECDC.

We need to concentrate this effort in this partnership in focusing on continuous professional development in communicable disease prevention and control. There is some clear points to move forward with some important milestones in June and November of 2018.

A follow-up meeting with ASPHER and ECDC is necessary to formalize a plan to draft a proposal for moving forward. This plan will include both the tasks expected from each party of the Network, and those tasks to be done collaboratively.

This initiative permits the opportunity to make connections with the WHO Coalition of Partners seeking to reinforce and advocate public health capacity building at the European level.

Annexes

1. Annex 1
ASPHER-ECDC Collaboration Agreement
2. Annex 2
ECDC meeting with ASPHER March 2016
3. Annex 3:
PPT presentation of the ASPHER/ECDC collaboration
4. Annex 4
PPT presentation of ASPHER/ECDC partnership-ASPHER
5. Annex 5
PPT presentation of ECDC Continuous Professional Development
6. Annex 6
ECDC National focal points: PPT of national working strategies and needs
7. Annex 7
PPT Coalition of partners: where are we today?
8. Annex 8
PPT Strengths & Challenges, Axel Hoffmann - SSPH+ Switzerland
9. Annex 9
PPT Strengths & Challenges, Margarida Tavares - ISPUP Portugal
10. Annex 10
PPT Strengths & Challenges Silvy Aleksandrova-Yankulovska – Pleven Bulgaria
11. Annex 11
PPT Strengths & Challenges: Patricia Fitzpatrick - UCD Dublin Ireland
12. Annex 12
PPT Strengths & Challenges: Giagos Lavranos – European University Cyprus
13. Annex 13
PPT Results of the Mapping of Schools

14. Annex 14
Notes of group work to identify priority areas
15. Annex 15
Template 1 for work group of priority areas for collaboration
16. Annex 16
Feedback of group work Mobility and Distance Learning
17. Annex 17
Feedback of group work training materials/Resources/how to share these
18. Annex 18
Feedback of group work Workforce Professionalism and Career Paths
19. Annex 19
PPT of Face to Face meetings in June/Nov
20. Annex 20
Afternoon feedback from previous day
21. Annex 21
Template 2 for working group: setting up a new working group /network
22. Annex 22
Draft of the Logic Model of the ASPHER-ECDC collaboration
23. Annex 23
Feedback from working groups: reference schools
24. Annex 24
Feedback from working groups: Benchmarking/ECDC certification/mentorship/ schools of excellence
25. Annex 25
Feedback from working groups academic national focal points
26. Annex 26
Wrap up of working groups