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June 2022 ASPHER Newsletter



Pictured: Jacques Brel, Brussels. Credit: Pixabay

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's message for June 2022 – and a summary of the year's ASPHER highlights

This year's [ASPHER General Assembly](#) takes place on Tuesday June 7th. We mark another year which has seen major challenges to the health of the public and planet and for the public health system. ASPHER has been working hard on your behalf and through the efforts of our members.

The health of the public and planet – ASPHER's advocacy role

Inequalities in health, growing through years of austerity policies have come into starker relief through the pandemic; the pandemic is continuing despite the wishful thinking of many political leaders – it doesn't go away because they say it is, or because they have closed down the surveillance systems; extreme temperatures have arrived early in the northern hemisphere spring, continuing to warn us of the dangers to health from climate breakdown; and war in Europe has created hell on earth in Ukraine, brought millions of refugees to the doors of many European countries, created the threat of global food shortage and mass starvation and added to the cost of fuel and cost of living crises across Europe. Public health schools, professionals and systems nationally and internationally have risen to those challenges.

The COVID task force [marked the first two years of pandemic](#), passing its 100th meeting in the process; members have contributed to over 100 papers on COVID-19 and its implications for society and health systems. Most recently, an ASPHER statement calls for [strengthening public health and primary care](#) for better pandemic management, better recovery of health systems and to generally improve health care. I am grateful to Nadav Davidovitch for taking over the chair of the COVID task force and for colleagues' continuing support. It is clear the pandemic is not over.

Our task force on war has published a [statement on the war in Ukraine](#) and moved forward a [programme of webinars](#), organised by the University of Bielefeld, on various aspects of war and conflict. My thanks go to Oliver Razum and Lisa Wandschneider for their commitment and expertise in moving this agenda forward. We were active with colleagues in [Gdansk, Poland at their recent conference](#) on health consequences of the war in Ukraine. We will continue to support colleagues working in Ukraine, and working on refugee health needs, where-ever they may be in Europe.

The public health system, services and profession – ASPHER's role supporting our members

ASPHER has been active over a wide range of issues involved in competency and workforce development. Many of these initiatives have been in support of our members and many more in collaboration with our partners. Our roll-out continues the [WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework](#) document published in 2020. Through our executive board member, Mary Codd, we will be revisiting the 5th edition of [ASPHER Core Competencies for the Public Health Professional](#) document. [The WHO-ASPHER Professionalization Roadmap](#) was published in February, and the task force to support implementation has now been set up. Kasia Czabanowska leads on our behalf. We are moving forward other work on knowledge management and our relationship with the journal [Public Health Reviews](#). We will launch our

new ASPHER website before this year's [Deans' & Directors' Retreat](#) in October. Our involvement of [young professionals](#) continues and expands.

Partnership working – with our European colleagues

We have let our actions speak for us in our commitments to partnership working. We have collaborated strongly with [EUPHA following our joint statement last year](#). We have had strong presence online at the [EPH Conference](#) in 2021 and [European Public Health Week](#) 2022. We joined with EUPHA in thanking [the public health community for their work on COVID](#). We will soon be publishing jointly with EUPHA and the UK Faculty of Public Health, joint research on public health ethics. We continue to work strongly with the European Commission. We have launched our [statement on climate change and health education](#) for the European Health Policy Platform. I was pleased to be able to speak to this [statement for the EU HPP meeting on May 5th](#); it has now been finalised with more than 80 partner organisations' endorsements. We will continue this platform in the future and will extend our work with the [Global Consortium on Climate Change and Health Education](#). We have completed a commission for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the revised [core-competencies for applied infectious diseases epidemiology](#). We have also neared completion for ECDC on a project for vaccinology and vaccine hesitancy education. I have been appointed in 2021 as an ECDC advisory board member, one of three NGO members appointed.

Partnership working – with our global colleagues

We are partners with the World Federation of Public Health Associations and the Italian Public Health Association SItI in next year's [World Congress on Public Health in Rome](#). We are major contributors to the work of the [Global Network for Academic Public Health \(GNAPH\)](#), with our sister associations in other WHO regions of the world. With GNAPH we have [called for major investment in schools of public health](#). We must build the quality and quantity of training and capacity building for local, national and international public health systems. We have contributed to [a major WHO document](#), *National workforce capacity to implement the essential public health functions including a focus on emergency preparedness and response: roadmap for aligning WHO and partner contributions*. [The report was launched during European Public Health Week](#) and will be used to inform the work of the International Negotiating Committee for the [Pandemic Preparedness Treaty](#). We are also working closely with WHO Regional Office for Europe on a range of projects including implementation of competencies and the professionalization roadmap. Our Roadmap for professionalizing the public health workforce, is now being taken forward through a joint task force. Prof Kasia Czabanovska leads on our behalf.

ASPHER governance

We have continued to improve ASPHER's governance – including implementation of statutes from last year. Our finances have improved and we have established stronger relationships with members through the appointment of our new member of staff Tatiana Caftea. We are seeking to further expand the secretariat and improve our office base in Brussels. These and other improvements will be presented at the General Assembly this week. Once again, I would like to thank the Secretariat Robert Otok, Lore Leighton and Tatiana Caftea for their extraordinary commitment to ASPHER, and their incredible hard work on all our various projects and commitments. Not least, they are great company and great to work with. I am sure all our members will join me in thanking them for all their support. I also thank my colleagues on the

ASPHER Executive Board for all their support and commitment in another challenging year. You too, have worked hard and with good humour supporting the work of ASPHER and our members, colleagues and peers. We look forward to welcoming you to the General Assembly 2022.

Professor John Middleton
President ASPHER, June 3rd 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

We are looking forward to meeting with many of you and welcoming 10 new members on Tuesday 7 June for the 2022 [ASPHER General Assembly \(GA\)](#) from 13:00-16:30 CEST (Brussels time) on Zoom. Be sure to check back to the [GA2022 webpage](#) for any updates and additional materials. If you haven't done so yet, register in advance at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-6srTgvHddb3ct3lqSzzjBUCd880Inq>.

ASPHER Secretariat is even more impatient to see members in person at the [ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat](#) which will be a hybrid event from 14-16 October held in Sofia, Bulgaria and on Zoom. Be sure to save the dates!

There have been some exciting updates to ASPHER's [annual awards](#) including two new awards in research and early career excellence as well as an update to the good practice award. Of course the Andrija Stampar Medal remains as our highest distinction! We are calling on you to make nominations!

You can't have missed past reporting from the [COVID-19 Task Force](#) now chaired by Nadav Davidovitch, Ben Gurion University and since February ASPHER has convened a [Task Force on War](#) led by Oliver Razum, Bielefeld University. We have now added the [ASPHER-WHO Professionalisation of the Public Health Workforce Task Force](#) under the direction of Past-President Kasia Czabanowska, University of Maastricht. And ASPHER Fellows, Rana Orhan and Tara Chen have established a [working group on Climate and Health](#). All these groups have meetings coming up in the near future - please get in touch with ASPHER Secretariat if a representative from your programme would like to join!

We also have many ongoing and upcoming activities with our young and early career professionals. We have welcomed [ASPHER Intern Tessa Brake](#) from Bielefeld University at ASPHER office in Brussels! The ASPHER [Young Researchers' Forum](#) will be held this Thursday 9 June and another edition is expected during the EPH Conference in Berlin. The [YPP & ASSETS Meeting](#) is also coming up and will be held in person at ASPHER Brussels headquarters from 7-9 July. This summer we also expect to welcome an incoming cohort for the [Young Professionals Programme \(YPP\)](#). Make sure your students, post-docs, junior faculty and recent graduates are aware of all these great opportunities!

Finally, don't miss all the other ASPHER, Member, and Partner news and opportunities!

See you Tuesday for the ASPHER GA!

Best wishes,
ASPHER Secretariat (Robert, Lore, Tatiana and Tessa)

Please don't forget to share your news, publications, comments & suggestions with Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the [newsletter](#) and on the ASPHER website [activity log](#).

ASPHER GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The ASPHER General Assembly (GA) will be held online Tuesday 7 June 13:00 - 16:30 CEST (Brussels time) via Zoom. Some highlights include:

- We are looking forward to presentations from 10 new candidate members (9 full, 1 associate)!
- Executive Board Members Mary Codd, University College Dublin, Ireland and Oliver Razum, Bielefeld University, Germany will stand for re-election and we will introduce co-opted Executive Board Members Polychronis Kostoulas, University of Thessaly, Greece and Ines Siepmann, ASPHER YP Coordinator, Belgium.
- Executive Board Member Karolina Lyubomirova will present plans for the Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Sofia - Bulgaria, 14-16 October 2022. Save the dates!
- Reporting from the President, Treasurer and Secretariat & other communications.

Further materials and the meeting agenda are posted at the [GA webpage](#). Please check back for any last minute additions.

Time is allotted in the agenda for Member communications: Please let ASPHER Secretariat know if your school/programme would like to make a communication.

Please register for the meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsc-6srTgvHddb3ct3lqSzzjBUCd880Inq>

ASPHER NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM UPDATES

ASPHER is fortunate to have a tremendous resource of motivated young professionals through our member network. We are happy to provide opportunity and welcome participation from students, post-docs, recent graduates and junior faculty through Fellowships, Internships, Young Professionals Programme, Young Researchers' Forum and ASSETS Mentoring Summer School. Here are some highlights from the ASPHER Next Generation Platform.

Updates from Climate-Health Fellows Tara Chen & Rana Orhan and establishment of an ASPHER Working Group on Climate and Health

As the temperatures begin to warm, we are very concerned about the heatwaves impacting countries such as India and Pakistan that are having devastating effects to human health and

food supply chain. The growing concern of the impacts of climate change reiterate the importance of the thematic network statement on climate-health education which was presented by John Middleton and Robert Otok at the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting ([read more about the EUHPP meeting here](#)). Tara and Rana are happy to finalize the statement with over 80 endorsements to date.

The statement will be shared in an official launch with partners for their website and social media, to show a cohesive voice in the importance of climate-health in our Schools of Public Health. The network on the EU Health Policy Platform will be transformed into an Exchange Network (access open to all registered users). For more information regarding this, please contact Rana Orhan (rana.orhan@aspher.org).

In the meantime, Tara will be representing ASPHER at the IANPHI Committee on Climate Change and Public Health Meeting on June 24th, to learn more about where we can synergize our goals to implement the 13 priorities from the thematic statement.

Following the statement, we are setting up the **ASPHER Working Group on Climate Change and Health**. We would like to invite interested members to join the working group. The first orientation meeting will take place on **Wednesday 15 June at 17.00-18.00 CEST**. Rana Orhan will lead the first orientation meeting.

Register for the ASPHER Working Group on Climate Change and Health meeting via:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEucuCopz4sGt0aFWk9jiMwkAV3b-uiBswC>

Introducing ASPHER Intern Tessa Brake



Tessa Brake is a current master's student in (European) Public Health at the University of Bielefeld, Germany. She works there as a graduate assistant at the Faculty of Health Sciences in the research group of epidemiology and international public health. Within her work, she mainly deals with the health of refugees. She is currently writing her master's thesis on the influence of the housing situation on the health of refugees and asylum seekers in resettlement countries. During the internship at the ASPHER office in Brussels, she is researching on the topic of "geopolitical health". The focus here is mainly on public health frameworks for the primary prevention of war and conversations with different actors regarding geopolitical determinants affecting health. She also supports the ASPHER task force on war.

Tessa is in Brussels through the end of June and thinks that an internship at ASPHER offers very good opportunities to network with different actors, to deal with current issues and to get insights into different projects.

Young Researcher's Forum - June 2022

15th International Scientific Conference: Digitalisation and Education in Health Sciences
Angela Boškin Faculty of Health Care, Slovenia: 9 June 2022

The 15th International Scientific Conference 2022 hosted by Angela Boškin Faculty of Health Care will emphasize the importance of digitalisation and new approaches to health sciences education. The conference will bring together the practice of health sciences, facilitate collaboration between different health disciplines and introduce a modern approach to the holistic treatment of the individual.

In the framework of this scientific conference ASPHER Young Researcher's Forum will take place during the thematic sessions 2 & 4 (10:25 - 15:30 CEST). The Forum will be opened by John Middleton, ASPHER President who will co-Chair with Leah Okenwa-Emegwa, Swedish Red Cross University and Katja Pesjak, Angela Boškin Faculty of Health Care.

The YRF will feature the presentations of nine ASPHER Young Researchers and the best presentation will be awarded with registration to the European Public Health Conference in Berlin. Presentations will be judged by John; Leah; Nadav Davidovitch, Ben Gurion School of Public Health; and Ines Siepmann, ASPHER YPP coordinator.

1. Beyond High Hopes: A Scoping Review of the 2019-2021 Scientific Discourse on Machine Learning in Medical Imaging - **Vasileios Nittas**
2. Mobile Applications Leveraged in the COVID-19 Pandemic in East and South-East Asia: Review and Content Analysis - **Bohee Lee**
3. Highly Lethal Methods of Self-Harm: An Analysis of Hospital-Treated Attempted Hanging and Drowning in Ireland, 2007-2019 - **Philippa White**
4. Variation in Access to Occupational Health for Health and Social Care Staff Across WHO European Region Health Systems - **Sharmi Haque**
5. Estimating the Public Health Impact of Excess Physical Comorbidities Associated with Mental Health Disorders in Europe: Structured Review, Meta-Analysis and Population-Level Extrapolation of Existing Epidemiological Evidence - **Dennis Wienand**
6. Implementation of a Mobile DBT App and its Impact on Suicidality and Self-Injury in Transitional Age Youth with Borderline Personality Disorder: A Qualitative Study - **Tobias Schiffler**
7. What is the Impact of COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies on the Mental Health of Post-Secondary School Students? - **Prerna Krishan**
8. Understanding Barriers and Facilitators for the Implementation of a Diversity Curriculum - Development of an Online Survey in Public Health Schools in the European Region - **Emma Schlegel**
9. Taking the First Steps Towards a European Public Health Code of Ethics - **Sylvia Agarici**

More information about the conference and full programme are available [here](#).

Stay tuned for the next YRF opportunity for your students, grads and junior faculty at the EPH Conference this autumn!

Call: ASPHER Young Professionals Programme (YPP) Intake

The ASPHER YPP is calling for applicants for the 2022-2023 Intake.

The goal of the programme is to incorporate public health students and professionals early in their career with the ASPHER network. The programme does this by:

- Building a network within the YPs that is maintained through monthly meetings and provides a medium for advice, feedback, and future collaboration
- Incorporating YPs into ASPHER research collaborations to provide opportunities to gain relevant experience

There is a great level of flexibility on how YPs are involved. In the past, YPs have been involved in projects ranging from full-length research collaborations to commentary articles.

YPs are expected to engage in monthly YPP meetings and actively participate in ASPHER research projects. By applying, you agree to commit to this.

[Do distribute this call to your students, alumni and early career faculty!](#)

We look forward to hearing from you by the 1st July, 11:59 pm CEST!

Please contact Luis Beltran, YPP recruitment officer (lgbg500@york.ac.uk), with any questions.

ASPHER YPP & ASSETS Meeting

The meeting will be held in Brussels from 7-9 July 2022.

The in person YPP & ASSETS Meeting will provide an opportunity for key drivers behind the ASPHER next generation platform agenda to meet, share and network. ASPHER YPP members, fellows and interns will join; with exciting happenings being planned by ASPHER fellows. Elements of ASSETS mentoring will be offered by senior colleagues onsite and online. Time will be given to reflection for planning future editions, activities and other next generation agenda. Stay tuned for what's going to happen for this not to miss event!

Contact ASPHER Secretariat if you would like to learn more or if you have students, recent grads, post-docs or junior faculty who would like to join.

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PH WORKFORCE PROFESSIONALISATION AGENDA

ASPHER-WHO/EURO Task Force on Professionalising the Public Health Workforce (PPHW-TF)

On 31 May 2022, ASPHER kicked off the [ASPHER-WHO/EURO Task Force on Professionalising the Public Health Workforce \(PPHW-TF\)](#).

The Public Health Workforce Professionalisation (PPHW-TF) is pivotal to raising awareness and recognition of the public health profession in the European Region and globally. It is centred

around such topics as: public health employment outcomes, licencing and credentialing, public health job taxonomy, public health workforce development and planning, public health education at graduate and post graduate levels including continuing professional development (CPD) training, public health codes of ethics and professional conduct, enumeration and professional self-government. More specifically, the field focuses also on capacity building, competency-based education and training, systematic development of competency frameworks, competency development, self-assessment methods and identification of skill gaps for the provision of essential public health operations. The field is system specific, dependent on the stakeholders and governance structures.

We are excited to move forward with WHO Regional Office for Europe on this timely and urgent agenda with a large and motivated group led by ASPHER Past-President Kasia Czabanowska. Please follow developments and learn more from the PPHW-TF homepage: <https://www.aspher.org/pphw-tf.html>.

Contact ASPHER Secretariat if you are interested to be involved in the work.

Building the Public Health and emergency workforce: A roadmap

On 18 May, WHO Headquarters launched the roadmap for strengthening the public health and emergency workforce. ASPHER is committed to contribute to the operationalization of this roadmap synergizing it with the [PPHW-TF agenda](#) and through the [Global Network for Academic Public Health \(GNAPH\)](#) with sister SPH networks in other regions. Participants at the launch included John Middleton on behalf of ASPHER and Laura Magaña on behalf of GNAPH.

[Learn more and download the roadmap here.](#)

ASPHER COVID-19 TASK FORCE NEWS

BMJ Opinion: Is it really time to ditch the mask?

The mandatory use of face masks in indoor public areas and on public transport as a mitigation measure to prevent covid-19 transmission was abolished between February and April 2022 in Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the UK. With the omicron BA.2 variant still spreading rapidly, uncertainty about what future variants may emerge, and ventilation related mitigation still limited in many areas, removing all mask mandates may be unwise at this point. Widespread mask use should remain part of the arsenal that helps us to protect people's health and reduce the social and economic burden of covid-19, especially if new variants emerge that present a higher disease risk and put increased strain on healthcare services.. To blunt these harms, European governments should make a sustained effort to demonstrate the added value of wearing masks in high risk indoor spaces with large population mixing, while seeking to mitigate the environmental impact of disposable masks and make mask use financially accessible to all.

[Read the full BMJ Opinion from the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force.](#)

Hrzic R, Peixoto V R, Mason-Jones A J, McCallum A. Is it really time to ditch the mask? BMJ, 2022; 377.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o1186>

Invest in Primary Health Care and Public Health for the Pandemic and Beyond: An ASPHER Statement

Governments and health authorities must invest more in primary health care (PHC). This is increasingly urgent to assure service continuity throughout and beyond the pandemic. Careless relaxations of PH measures in rich countries, inadequate support for local PH and PHC and the communities they serve, and failure to support the global delivery of vaccines keeps us all in a state of perpetual COVID. We must invest in local PH and PHC and communities to extract us from this pandemic and provide better health for the future.

[Read the full ASPHER Statement now published in Public Health Reviews.](#)

Lopes H, McCallum A, Martin-Moreno J M, Middleton J. Invest in Primary Health Care and Public Health for the Pandemic and Beyond: An ASPHER Statement. Public Health Reviews, Volume 43, 30 May 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2022.1604875>

COVID-19 Task Force Country Situation Reporting

For the past year, the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force has been producing weekly [European country situation reports](#). The reports take a snapshot of what is happening in terms of the pandemic across regions of Europe and how governments are responding. It has proved most useful in Task Force discussions to stimulate conversation and timely response on the most pressing issues arising from the pandemic.

ASPHER Associate Fellow [Rok Hrzic](#) has taken over responsibility for the weekly reports streamlining the content. [Don't miss the latest report and check in for updates each week here.](#)

Further COVID-19 Reading

Abu-Freha N, Alsana H, El-Saied S, Azbarga Z, Aloka M, Goda T, Tailakh MA. COVID-19 Vaccination Among the Arab Bedouin Population: Lessons Learned From a Minority Population. Int J Public Health 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2022.1604133>

Luque-Fernandez MA, Tobias A. The Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic Evidences the Need to Transform Spain's Public Health Education. Int J Public Health. 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2022.1604907>

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ASPHER TASK FORCE ON WAR

A Roadmap to Developing ASPHER Technical Guidance Notes (TGNs) on War and Health

In response to the war on Ukraine, [ASPHER issued a statement condemning the war](#) and outlining potential roles of ASPHER members. Translating this vision, ASPHER has strategically convened a [Task Force on War](#). The Task Force focuses on three key areas: 1) Scientific advice; 2) Neighboring countries and refugee context; 3) Training and broader academic context. [The Roadmap to Developing ASPHER Technical Guidance Notes on War and Health](#) document is developed within the first area, Scientific advice.

The overall aim of this document is to outline a roadmap leading to the development of a series of technical guidance notes to inform the response of the ASPHER community to the Russian war on Ukraine. This document focuses on the situation inside Ukraine. The roadmap is intended to facilitate discussions among members of the ASPHER community about the potential contributions of ASPHER in this war. The intention is for the roadmap to be a living document that will be revised and updated as needed to address the needs of its users, inside and outside Ukraine. Each technical guidance note envisioned in the roadmap has the objective of providing practical guidance, from a public health perspective, on specific matters directly related to the ongoing war in Ukraine, its consequences, and the response to it.

Please note that the roadmap is now published and available at:

https://www.aspher.org/download/1103/aspher_ukraine_roadmap_2022-tfw.pdf

Seminar Series: Public Health in Times of War

The Bielefeld School of Public Health and the PH-LENS research group, in association with the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) have launched a series of short seminars on the topic of 'Public Health in Times of War'.

These seminars aim to fill the gaps in public health curricula, which became obvious since the start of the war in Ukraine, by assessing health risks, drawing parallels to relevant public health challenges in other world regions and also to relevant non-war settings.

The lectures take place on **Wednesdays, 18:00 - 19:00 CEST via Zoom**. The participation is free of charge, but registration is mandatory. Please register by following [this link](#).

For more information, please see [here](#).

Gdansk Meeting on War in Ukraine and Public Health

On 20 May in the context of European Public Health Week and Gdansk Public Health Days, the Medical University of Gdansk and ASPHER held a special meeting on the War in Ukraine and Public Health.

Speakers included university colleagues from Ukraine and members of the ASPHER Task Force on War. Discussions explored the war impact on public health; public health needs in Ukraine, other European countries and world-wide; how schools of public health can respond and public health curriculum adaptations.



Download the meeting agenda [here](#).

A recording of the meeting will be made available. We will update you when it is ready.

Joint Statement on the special session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), the leading European and international public health civil society organisations, express their deep concern about the devastating impact of the war in Ukraine on people's physical and mental health. Standing by hundreds of our members and partners, we support the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in calling for an immediate cessation of military aggression and for a transition to peaceful negotiations, allowing for the necessary health and social support to every person in need.

Health requires peace

While commending the solidarity and resolve shown so far, we call on the international community, in particular the Member States of the WHO European Region, to do everything in their power to secure health and humanitarian principles as key drivers of peace.

We call on governments and political leaders to support Ukraine as it protects and promotes the health of its people, to assist the neighbouring countries who are protecting the human and health rights of all refugees regardless of their national, ethnic or racial background, to act resolutely against human trafficking and gender based violence, to secure humanitarian corridors that allow the transit of medical supplies and workers to the affected zones while hostilities continue, and in general to mitigate all threats to public health.

Moreover, we call on governments to counteract the implications of the crisis on nutrition and energy security, consistent with a move to sustainable, resilient food and energy systems.

With civil society organisations proving once again crucial in supplying support, rapid response, and humanitarian aid where others cannot, we urge governments to prioritize support to the work of these organisations, offering resourcing, communication and coordination support in responding to emergency and ongoing health needs.

Finally, as the health community cannot remain silent in the face of ferocious attacks on health, we welcome the resolution [EUR/RCSS/CONF./2 Rev.2](#) as adopted at the special session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe, noting that its content reflects the deep gravity of a situation requiring exceptional measures.

[Download the full Joint Statement here.](#)

Further Reading on Public Health and War

Hagopian A, Jabbour S. Global Public Health Workers and Academics Must Step Up Response to War. *Am J Pub Health* 2022;112:814.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2022.306870>

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ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat



Save the date! The 2022 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat is planned as a hybrid event in Sofia, Bulgaria and on Zoom from Friday - Sunday, 14 - 16 October.

We hope we will see many of you in person for the 2020 Retreat this autumn!

Call for ASPHER Award Nominations

ASPHER has updated our awards policy and is launching a call for nominations! We will keep the signature **Andrija Štampar Medal** and the ASPHER Good Practice award has been updated with new criteria - now becoming the **ASPHER Teaching & Practice Excellence Award**. Additionally we have two new awards: **ASPHER Research Excellence Award** and **ASPHER Early Career Excellence Award**. Keep reading for more details and nominate your colleagues and peers for one of the four ASPHER awards listed below! **Send us your nomination/s by Monday 5 September accompanied by a short endorsement letter to office@aspher.org.**

Andrija Štampar Medal

The Andrija Štampar Medal recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements in the public health teaching, research or practices of an esteemed individual within the public health community. Nominees do not need to be a current or past faculty member of an ASPHER member school.

Nominations should include a description of the nominee's outstanding contributions in:

- Demonstrating leadership in advancing health equity, member-focus, diversity, integrity, corporate-citizenship, Europe-centred global outlook and/or meaningful work (ASPHER core values) in the fields of academic public health research, teaching and practice.
- Demonstrating national and/or international visibility of the accomplishments within and outside scientific community.
- Lasting, equitable and sustainable contributions in advancing public health teaching, community-building, implementation and research.

ASPHER Research Excellence Award

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in public health research. It is given annually to an individual – on behalf of their research team – primarily affiliated with an ASPHER member school.

Nominations should include a description of the nominee's outstanding contributions in:

- Demonstrating leadership in advancing health equity, member-focus, diversity, integrity, corporate-citizenship, Europe-centred global outlook and/or meaningful work (ASPHER core values) in the field of academic public health research.
- Outstanding exemplary and documented scholarly accomplishments in form of a notable record of success.
- Innovative research advancing the research mission of the field of public health and improving the health of communities they serve.
- Demonstrating national and/or international visibility of the accomplishments.

ASPHER Teaching & Practice Excellence Award

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in public health teaching and practice of a School of Public Health within the ASPHER community. It is given to an ASPHER member school or ASPHER-member programme of public health.

Nominations should include a description of the nominated SPH outstanding contributions in:

- Demonstrating leadership in advancing health equity, member-focus, diversity, integrity, corporate-citizenship, Europe-centred global outlook and/or meaningful work (ASPHER core values) in the field of academic public health teaching or practice.
- Documented engagement beyond the immediate School of Public Health (SPH), e.g. through collaborative work with several SPHs (within the ASPHER community).
- Demonstrating national and/or international visibility of the institution.
- Innovative, creative efforts in education or practice to overcome obstacles (e.g. political, societal, teaching-related) in challenging settings.

ASPHER Early Career Excellence Award

This award recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of teaching, research, or practice of early career individuals. It is given annually to a maximum of five individuals that are primarily affiliated with an ASPHER member school. Early career positions considered for this award include up to assistant/associate professors.

Nominations should include a description of the nominee's outstanding contributions in:

- Demonstrating leadership in advancing health equity, member-focus, diversity, integrity, corporate-citizenship, Europe-centred global outlook and/or meaningful work (ASPHER core values) in the field of academic public health teaching, research or practice.
- Outstanding exemplary and documented scholarly accomplishments in form of a notable record of success.
- Innovative research, teaching or practice advancing the mission of the field of public health and improving the health of communities they serve.

ASPHER Survey on Diversity Syllabi

Diversity and intersectionality are concepts that are increasingly used to understand health inequalities and health inequities in public health research. Yet, a gap between research and education remains. To promote the integration of diversity and intersectionality in public health education, an ASPHER working group led by Bielefeld University has developed teaching syllabi on diversity and intersectionality.

In the working group, we designed a survey to ask people who are actively engaged in public health education about their perceptions of and experiences with diversity and intersectionality. The results of the survey will be used to inform the implementation process of the syllabi.

Emma Schlegel from Bielefeld University will give insights in the survey development at the [ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum on 9th June](#).

The survey will be open from early June until 8th July. We will share the link soon through different channels of ASPHER communication and look forward to your support!

European Public Health Week (EUPHW)

ASPHER was pleased to partner with EUPHA for the opening day of EUPHW with the theme of a healthy and health literate youth. In case you missed it you can find a recorded version [here](#).

Updates from the SEEPHI project

Partners from the ERASMUS+ Capacity Building [SEEPHI project](#) attended the annual conference of the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians which was held at Ashkelon Academic College on 16 May.

A workshop was held to disseminate results from Year 1 activities of Work Package 2: FIELD QUALIFICATION ANALYSIS IN THE ISRAELI PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM and Work Package 3: MAPPING OF THE COMPETENCY PROFILES OF THE ISRAELI SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMMES OF PUBLIC HEALTH.



Preliminary work of Work Package 4: WORKFORCE ADAPTATION AND EMPLOYABILITY IN THE ISRAELI PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM and Work Package 5: BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY IN THE ISRAELI PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM was presented. Discussion was held over the ongoing project work and how to best synergize between work packages.

Work Package 6: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT kicked off their I am Public Health Campaign gathering video testimonials from conference attendees.

Public Health Reviews Call for Papers

Public Health Reviews is multi-disciplinary and dedicated to foster knowledge synthesis and translation in public health, in order to inform public health science, practice, policy and education, and improve public health. PHR publishes high quality Reviews of all formats, and Policy Briefs. In addition to accepting papers on all topics in Public Health, PHR has several open calls for papers

- Neighbourhood Influences on Population Health
- Life Course Epidemiology of Chronic Disease - From Surveillance to Interventions
- Transformative Public Health Education
- Covid-19: Guidance from Research for Policy and Practice
- Health In All Sustainable Development Goals

Learn more at <https://www.ssph-journal.org/journals/public-health-reviews/call-for-papers>

Member Database and Social Media Accounts

The ASPHER Secretariat continues to improve its infrastructure to serve members better. Currently we are working on updating the member database and linking members' social media handles to their dedicated pages on ASPHER website. The Secretariat encourages all members to set up social media accounts (if you have not done so yet) and send us relevant details so we may link up with you and amplify your communications. We also encourage members to take advantage of the ASPHER blog if you have any items or reporting from your country or institution that you wish to share in more detail.

The Secretariat will ensure to screen ASPHER members' social media accounts on a regular basis for any news which can be published in the monthly newsletters and shared within the network. **Therefore, share the handles of your social media accounts with the Secretariat, if you have not done so already or follow us on social media platforms. If you are posting content, which might be of interest for the ASPHER community, feel free to tag us on Twitter: @ASPHERoffice and LinkedIn: @ASPHER.**

You are always welcome to share your news, publications, comments & suggestions with Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the newsletter and on the ASPHER website activity log.

MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Prof. Sónia Dias appointed the new Dean at the National School of Public Health, NOVA University Lisbon.

Prof. Sónia Dias was elected the new Dean of the [National School of Public Health \(ENSP\)](#) of the NOVA University in Lisbon. Prof. Dias has been a full professor at ENSP-NOVA since 2018, she is the coordinator of the Center for Research in Public Health and a member of the Executive Board of the Comprehensive Health Research Center.



Sónia Dias has developed her scientific activity in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention and community health with a focus on the most vulnerable populations. In her professional activity she has worked with several national and international academic institutions, as well as local authorities, health and social sector units, associative fabric and civil society.

She works as an expert in international bodies such as the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, the World Health Organization and the International Organization for Migration, among others.

Ted Tulchinsky receives the Miffal Haim Lifetime Achievement Award

ASPHER warmly congratulates Emeritus Professor Ted Tulchinsky, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel who received the Miffal Haim Life Achievement Award at the annual conference of the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians (IAPHP) on 16 May.

Ted is a former recipient of the Andrija Štampar Medal (2008) and has been a member of the ASPHER family for many years showing great dedication to Public Health Education. In addition to his time at Braun School of Public Health at Hebrew University of Jerusalem,

Ted was instrumental in founding the [Bachelor of Public Health at Ashkelon Academic College](#). He served for several years as Deputy Editor of the journal [Public Health Reviews](#) and was a driving force behind the ongoing ERASMUS+ Capacity Building Project [SEEEPHI](#).

Mazel Tov!



Leo&Giulia nominated for UNICEF award

The Leo&Giulia episode on vaccines has been nominated for a special UNICEF award for Best Social Work at the [RAI Cartoons on the Bay 2022 Festival](#), the International Television, Film and Cross-Media Festival of the Blush Festival by #RAI.

The creators with Prof Anna Odone at University of Pavia sincerely thank the Ministry of Universities and Scientific Research #MUR, which financed the project, the Ministry of Health #Minsal, the Higher Health Institute #ISS, supporting institutions and scientific societies, - and all colleagues about working with them.

They will continue to contribute our skills, commitment and enthusiasm to the health education service aimed at children, so that the value of public health is part of today's and tomorrow's society.

Watch Leo&Giulia in [Italian](#) and [English](#).

New! Online Master of Public Health at University College London

7 June, 15:00 - 16:00 (GMT +1) Online Open Day

UCL Population Health Sciences has recently launched a new [interdisciplinary online Master's degree in Public Health](#). On 7 June those interested can attend a virtual information and Q&A session and hear from the director of the programme and the team.

The programme is designed for new or recent graduates looking for a career focused Master's that will enable them to bring knowledge and expertise to their future public health careers. The programme is also suitable for individuals already working in the public health field, ideal for their career progression, learning and development.

Compulsory modules include:

- Fundamentals of Interdisciplinary Public Health
- Applied Epidemiology
- Statistics for Public Health
- Health Improvement Theory and Practice
- Health Systems Organisation, Economics, and Policy
- Health Protection
- Leadership and Management for Public Health

To register for the online open day, follow [this link](#).

UNIT TIROL Summer School in Clinical Epidemiology

27 June - 1 July 2022

UNIT TIROL is pleased to announce a 5-Day Certified Course "Summer School in Clinical Epidemiology". The Summer School in Clinical Epidemiology will give you a comprehensive

overview of epidemiologic principles and methods to problems encountered in public health and clinical medicine. It provides important information for clinicians and health policy makers in order to identify risk factors for diseases and to determine optimal preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for individuals and populations.

The course combines lectures, discussions and case study group work within its 5 days. Main lecturer of this course will be Prof. Albert Hofman, Professor of Public Health and Clinical Epidemiology (Harvard University).

Learn more at:

https://www.uit-tirol.at/page.cfm?vpath=departments/public_health/htads-continuing-education-program/winter-school-in-biostatistics--epidemiology

Selected ASPHER Member Publications

Berisha M, Ramadani N, Basholli F M, Jerliu N, Humolli I, Tahirukaj A, Maraokuli M, Martin-Moreno J. M. Self-assessment of essential public health operations in Kosovo. South Eastern European Journal of Public Health (SEEJPH), 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.11576/seejph-5458>

Bjegovic-Mikanovic V, Wenzel H, De Leeuw E, Laaser U. Schools of Public Health in Europe: Common mission-different progress. Journal of Public Health and Emergency July 2021. Available at: <https://jphe.amegroups.com/article/view/7386/html>

Bjegovic-Mikanovic V, Wenzel H, Laaser U. Data Mining Approach: What Determines the Wellbeing of Women in Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia?. Front. Public Health 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2022.873845>

Laaser U. How to Save our Common Future: The Global One Health One Welfare Approach. Published 14.02.2022.

Available at: <https://impakter.com/save-common-future-global-one-health-one-welfare/>

Malterud, K. Developing and promoting qualitative methods in general practice research: Lessons learnt and strategies convened. Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14034948221093558>

Patterson DW, Harvey R, Matkovic V, Hesselman M, Tahzib F. Post COP26: legal action now part of public health's environment and climate change toolbox. European Journal of Public Health. 2022.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckac057>

South Eastern University Journal Special Volumes:

The Population's Health: Could South Eastern Europe do better?

Volume Editor: Prof. Jadranka Bozikov

<https://www.seejph.com/index.php/seejph/issue/view/377>

Leading Policy Change In Public Health

Volume Editor: Prof. Kasia Czabanowska

<https://www.seejph.com/index.php/seejph/issue/view/362>

Young Indonesian Scientists Write on Public Health

Volume Editor: Prof. Ulrich Laaser:

<https://www.seejph.com/index.php/seejph/issue/view/391>

PARTNER NEWS & EVENTS

National workforce capacity to implement the essential public health functions including a focus on emergency preparedness and response

Roadmap for aligning WHO and partner contributions



In response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other ongoing and future challenges such as climate change, rising noncommunicable disease burden, antimicrobial resistance and economic inflation, Member States face an unprecedented moment in human history. As countries recover and turn attention to investments in health systems to meet such challenges, now is an opportune time to bolster the public health workforce, including those personnel charged with emergency preparedness and response functions.

This roadmap is the result of joint efforts across leading public health and emergency response experts, organizations and associations. The collaboration process highlighted the importance of engaging policymakers, politicians, practitioners and professional associations; the need to focus on developing competencies and skills as well as mapping and measuring the diverse occupations involved in delivery of the essential public health functions; identifying and understanding key stakeholders as well as defining roles from the outset; and contextualizing to regional, national and subnational settings.

The roadmap can be downloaded [here](#) and the video recordings of the webinar can be viewed [here](#) in English, French and Spanish.

EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting – Stakeholders' Dialogue

EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting – Stakeholders' Dialogue organised by the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission took place on 5 May, 2022. More than 200 people from across Europe followed the event and participated during the Q&A. The Thematic Networks leaders presented their final Joint Statements on different health topics, such as:

- **"Climate and health education in Europe"**, led by the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and represented by its President, John Middleton.
- **"Health as a fundamental value. Towards an inclusive and equitable pharmaceutical strategy for the EU"**, led by the Interest Group on Supranational Biolaw from the European Association of Health Law proposes, represented by Aurélie Mahalatchimy, CNRS Permanent researcher in law, and Éloïse Gennet, Postdoctoral researcher in law, Aix Marseille University, Toulon University, Pau & Pays de l'Adour University, Aix-en-Provence, France.
- **"Whitepaper of the EU Thematic Network on Integrated Nutrition in Cancer Care (INC2)"**, led by the European Nutrition Health Alliance and represented by Nicole Erickson, European Federation of the Associations of Dietitians (EFAD), Erin Stella Sullivan, University College Cork, Joost Wesseling, Executive Director, the European Nutrition Health Alliance, and Marianna Kalliostra, Moderator, Integrated Nutrition Cancer Care.

Find the recording of these sessions, the presentations and the final Joint Statements here: https://ec.europa.eu/health/events/eu-health-policy-platform-annual-meeting-2022-05-04_en

The recording of the Ceremony, some photographs and the winners and shortlisted initiatives booklet are made available on the [EU Health Award Ceremony website](#). The winners' videos and the flash report will be published there as well very soon.

The 2021 EU Health Award may be over, but you can register in the [EU Health Policy Platform](#) to keep the discussion going, participate in the different networks and endorse the Joint Statements!

Lessons and Innovations in Law Enforcement and Public Health

Marketplace of Ideas 5 - 23 September 2022

Call for presentations

The Global Association for Law Enforcement and Public Health (GLEPHA) is hosting its 2022 Marketplace of Ideas on 5-23 September 2022 to showcase practical approaches and innovations in policing and public health being implemented across diverse global settings. Such programs are often jointly led by people both from law enforcement and public health backgrounds, and demonstrate the power of partnership to improve community safety and well-being.



GLEPHA is calling for expressions of interest from individuals, program teams and/or organisations that would like to present during the Marketplace of Ideas. Programme

Committee encourages submissions from programs covering a wide range of law enforcement and public health themes and topics, including: law enforcement and mental health; violence prevention; deflection and diversion; policing and pandemics; law enforcement and harm reduction; supporting vulnerable groups and communities; policing and indigenous communities; human trafficking and modern slavery; responding to neurodisability in law enforcement settings; first responder wellness; other related themes and topics

Deadline for expressions of interest: **Wednesday 22 June 2022**

Selected programs/presentations will be advised by: **Thursday 30 June 2022**

[Read more here](#)

Competencies for applied epidemiologists now available in all EU/EEA languages



ECDC has published a report which contains the results of the ASPHER-led project UCCAIDE which reviewed and updated the core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology for mid-career applied epidemiologists. [To facilitate the use of the competency set, the report has been translated and is now available in all EU/EEA languages.](#)

To facilitate the use of the competency set, the ECDC has also developed a [self-assessment tool](#), which aims at helping individual professionals analyse their competency level in each domain and identify relevant resources provided by ECDC and its stakeholders. Case studies that show the use of the competency set will also be made available in the near future.

Invitation to hosting ESCAIDE 2023 or 2027

ESCAIDE follows a bi-annual rotation for the hosting of ESCAIDE, whereby the hosting of the Conference alternates between Stockholm, Sweden and a city in another EU/EEA country.



ECDC is now seeking expressions of interest in hosting ESCAIDE 2023 or ESCAIDE 2027 in an EU/EEA country other than Sweden. In 2025 the conference will be hosted in Warsaw as Poland had a successful bid for this prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

[The European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology \(ESCAIDE\)](#) is an annual ECDC event which aims to share scientific knowledge and experience in all areas of applied infectious disease epidemiology, to provide a forum for debate on public health challenges, and facilitate strengthening of networking among those working in the field of infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control. The conference also provides important opportunities for professional development for fellows of EPIET, EUPHEM, FETP and other programmes. The target audience for the Conference includes epidemiologists, microbiologists, clinicians, veterinarians and public and environmental health experts, as well as policy makers.

Historically, ESCAIDE has been alternating between Stockholm and another city of an EU/EEA Member State. In 2018, it took place in Saint Julian's, Malta, and received 595 participants and in 2019, the conference took place in Stockholm, gathering almost 650 participants. In 2021, when held as an online event for a second year, in response to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, and this year, and for future editions, the conference will be organised as an hybrid event, allowing a return of the physical aspect of the conference, while retaining the convenience and accessibility of online attendance.

The ECDC Management Board considered that there are significant gains to be achieved by rotating the location of ESCAIDE; it gives opportunities for the national public health institutes and other public health researchers in the hosting country to engage with colleagues from all over the EU and the world, and it should improve accessibility and opportunities for involvement in any linked professional development activities for those in the hosting and neighbouring countries. All past hosting countries, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom and Malta embraced ESCAIDE when hosting the conference, and benefited from the interactions and learning opportunities that ESCAIDE offers. When held as an on-site conference, ESCAIDE also attracts over 600 participants, so there is also some economic value to any MS that is selected to host the conference.

The budget for venue hire, the logistical support and all other aspects of the core conference organisation will not be the responsibility of the hosting country, but will be provided through a third party with which ECDC will establish a contract through open tender. Hence ECDC will cover the costs of the conference and manage the organisation of the event. However, any assistance from Member States to support the event and the associated logistics will be looked on favourably during the selection (see criteria for more details).

If your Member State wishes to be considered as hosting site for ESCAIDE in 2023 or 2027, please send your expression of interest by 6 July 2022 to escaide.conference@ecdc.europa.eu.

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OPPORTUNITIES

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Global Public Health Research

Department of Public Health, Policy and Systems of the University of Liverpool is seeking an enthusiastic and driven postdoctoral researcher with strong quantitative and statistical skills to join an established team to work on a multi-year, multi-centre global public health research and capacity building programme in Central and East Africa.

The post is funded by the new NIHR CLEAN-Air(Africa) Global Health Research Unit (2022-2027, £7million) and is part of the Energy, Air Pollution and Health Research Group at the Department for Public Health, Policy and Systems, University of Liverpool. The Unit's programme builds on substantial success of the CLEAN-Air(Africa) Global Health Research Group (2018 to 2022: see www.cleanairafrica.com) and expands its geographical focus from Cameroon and Kenya to include Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda.

The candidate should have experience of working in the field HAP and/or access to clean household energy to prevent HAP related disease. The post holder will work with the Unit's

research team at the University of Liverpool and from partner countries to contribute to meeting key objectives and deliverables for the Unit.

The post is available from 3 October 2022 until 30 September 2024, with possibility of renewal. Deadline for application: **7 June 2022, 23:30 (UK time)**

For more information and application process, [see here](#).

ECDC call for Remunerated Independent External Experts

ECDC has published a call for engagement of [Infectious disease public health training specialist Ref.No. CEI/ECDC/2021/003](#).

You are welcome to express your interest in becoming a remunerated external ECDC expert creating a profile on the ECDC [expert directory](#).

Each time ECDC will need support from an external expert for a specific scientific task, a shortlist of potential experts is drawn up from the directory on the basis of pre-defined criteria, such as the skills, experience and knowledge necessary and in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests. The candidate(s) who closely match the sought profile will be contacted to check on their availability and interest in participating in the identified task. The indemnity is currently limited to maximally 450 Euros per working day.

You can find all the details on the ECDC website:

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/work-us/external-experts>

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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