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June 2021 ASPHER Newsletter



Pictured: The Pride Flag flies at the Cinquantenaire Arcade, Brussels
(photo credit: Lore Leighton)

Table of Contents:

[MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT](#)

[MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT](#)

[ASPHER COVID-19 NEWS](#)

[ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#)
[Children, Schools and COVID-19: Consequences of Opening and Closing Schools](#)
[Webinar: COVID-19 vaccination roll-out:
Meeting the needs of hard-to-reach groups now and beyond](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
[ASPHER COVID-19 Situation Reporting for Europe](#)
[ESMED Call for a new globally equitable vaccine strategy](#)
[Further COVID-19 Reading](#)

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

[ASPHER 2021 General Assembly](#)
[Call for ASPHER Award Nominations](#)
[Call for Deans' & Directors' Retreat topics](#)
[Calling all Members for the ASPHER Members Survey!](#)
[Win an opportunity to take part in the GNAPH Public Health Leaders Academy!](#)
[ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan Thematic Network 2021 Semi-finalist](#)
[ASPHER Young Professionals Intake](#)
[ASSETS: ASPHER's Mentoring Summer School](#)
[Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel](#)
[Public Health Reviews Invites Reviews and Policy Briefs](#)
[Culture, Arts, Health and Wellbeing](#)

MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

[Call for Abstracts: International Scientific Conference \(on-line\)](#)
["Public Health – current achievements and new challenges": 7-8 October](#)
[Webinar: ATS and the COVID-19 emergency and not just COVID-19:
Testimonials, lessons and objectives: 30 June \(in Italian\)](#)
[UMIT Modeling Approaches for HTA: A Practical Hands-On Workshop: 8-10 September](#)
[Pecunia Project Final Workshop](#)
[Heidi Larson awarded Edinburgh Medal](#)
[Selected ASPHER Member Publications](#)

PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

[Casebook on Advocacy in Public Health](#)
[Fact-checking COVID-19 Workshop: 30 June](#)
[Reducing Inequalities in Vaccine uptake in the European Region –
Engaging Underserved communities \(RIVER-EU\)](#)

OPPORTUNITIES

[ECDC Calls for External Experts](#)

[Share the ASPHER newsletter!](#)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our ASPHER members, colleagues and partners, as we go into the summer months for Europeans, full of the promise of 'freedom' and the end of the pandemic... It comes only a bit more than a year after the Prague Charles Bridge "[end of pandemic](#)" party', and the English prime minister's '[Magic Monday](#)' announcement of the end of lockdown. I am sure there will be many more examples of political leadership failures across our region, where political and economic expedience has *trumped* public health science, and the protection of the people we serve.



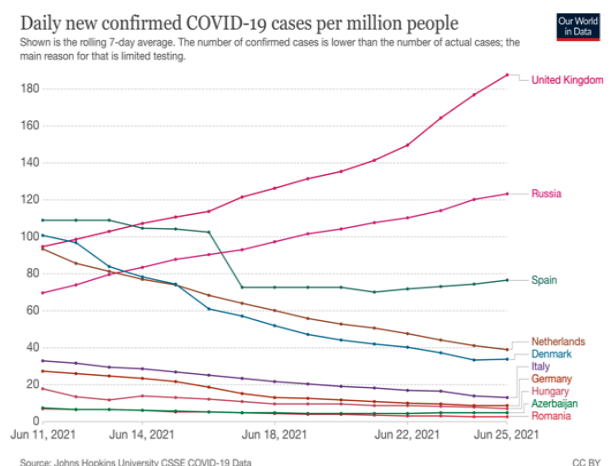
At the time I write, we are all, I am sure, enjoying the sheer drama and passion of the beautiful game played out in the Euro2020 tournament in ten venues across the UEFA/WHO European Region. The spectacle grips us. Some [political leaders fear](#) there will be a reckoning in the failure of realism about running the event with such large numbers in the stadia across Europe. Europe braces itself for [a surge of](#)

[delta variant](#). Restricting mass gatherings is one of the central requirements from WHO guidance from early in the pandemic. Failure to control and stop mass gathering is a major reason why this pandemic is continuing and will be allowed to regroup and grow.

The UK government has just published the results of its [Events Research Programme pilot programme](#). This programme ran from April 17th to May 15th 2021 and covered events such as the World Snooker championship and the FA CUP final. The results are encouraging – with only 28 outbreaks identified from events covering nearly 60000 people. Until you learn that loss-to-follow up LFT tests was 85%. The results of this study, widely trumpeted by the UK government will struggle to get peer review publishable status.

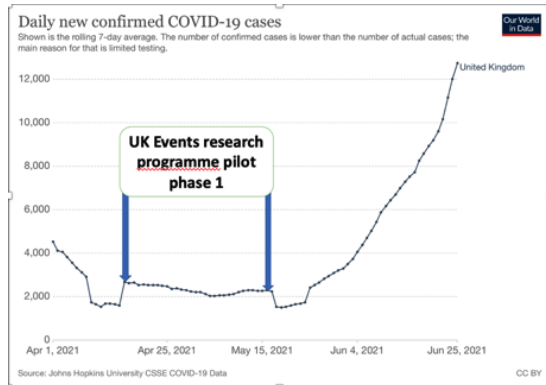
This is a problem, not of the intelligence or integrity of the scientists involved, but rather, a failure to acknowledge the difficulty in undertaking such a study, and in expecting and seeing people in mass gatherings behave as the 'rules' require, under controlled conditions. In the UK case, science has been suckered into tokenism and collusion, offering conclusions that could have been reached without a study. The public has been persuaded that the scientists are able to control what is going on and provide, not just reassurance, but protection. And the UK is not alone... apparently, German 'rules' required football

Figure 1



fans in the München stadium to stay in their seats, and not shout.... So, we must monitor the experience of our EURO2020 venues... Here are the countries in which the tournament plays out... Which country would you play the final in (Figure 1)?

Figure 2



The UK study took place in a period of very low incidence of COVID-19 in the UK (Figure 2). The Delta variant, already established in the period of the study, exploded soon after...

We are concerned about this mass unnatural experiment about whether we can get away with mixing millions of people across Europe. The [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) is formulating our 3rd wave statement. We also continue to have concerns about arbitrary, expedient and unilateral decisions taken by individual countries about border controls, social distancing and

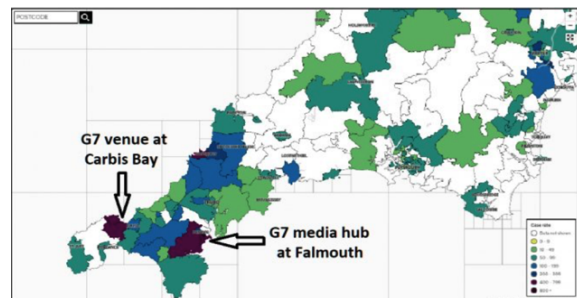
other protective measures. This failure still, to understand the international nature of this pandemic risks further waves and variants and vaccine resistance. European countries are reaching ever higher levels of vaccine coverage but becoming complacent about the continuing need for physical distancing and other protective measures, [as did the Americans](#).



The [rise of cases in Africa](#) should now be a major cause for concern. However, at the Carbis Bay G7 meeting, [our global leaders failed](#) to offer the world real hope and commitment in the fight against the pandemic – the [‘no-one is safe till we are all safe’](#) is now a hollow cliché. G7 committed only to 2 billion doses of vaccine in 2021 – a commitment already made to COVAX in January 2021. Dr Tedros Adnanom Gebreyesus, WHO Director General in a tweet after the summit, called for 11 billion doses to

be supplied by the time of next year’s G7: *"The COVID19 virus is moving faster than the global distribution of vaccines. To end the pandemic, our shared goal must be to vaccinate at least 70% of the world’s population by the time the G7 meets again in Germany next year. To do that, we need 11 billion doses"*.

The other legacy of the G7 meeting now appears to be [the super-spreading event some predicted](#). In addition to the mass gathering, this highlights the multiple routes of infection possible – through transport, hospitality and the media circus. Senior [BBC presenter Andrew Marr](#) the most visible victim, despite double vaccination.



Nevertheless there are some fine words on paper from recent weeks, so we must press our political leaders' feet to the fire and ensure real commitment follows. The [Carbis Bay accord](#) has to be delivered, and more.

[The Independent Panel report](#) was published in May and offers some challenges towards better global health governance for future pandemics. It was commissioned by WHO and chaired by former New Zealand prime-minister Helen Clark and Ex-President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia. It gives strong pointers towards better funding for WHO, a Global Council for Health threats, sitting alongside the World Health Assembly and delivery of the global vaccine programme. It calls for 21st century health data surveillance and transparency in data sharing across countries. And it confirms the need for a new Treaty on pandemic preparedness, called for earlier by [25 of the World's leaders](#) including President Macron and Prime-minister Johnson. At the World Health Assembly last month, there was an agreement to debate proposals for a Pandemic Treaty in a special session in November. ASPHER will be joining colleagues in the [Global Network for Academic Public Health](#) and the [World Federation of Public Health Associations](#) in developing evidence for that session. We will be arguing particularly for the need for an [expansion of training and workforce capacity](#), for multidisciplinary training and professional standards in public health.

In other work, I have been involved in the [International Culture arts and health conference](#). We need to [harness the arts in our health promotion work](#); our [This is Public Health campaign](#) has given us some examples of how this can be done. There is also a role for the arts in the work we do training and developing public health professionals.

I have also been developing connections in the UK between [health and criminal justice professionals](#) – in the UK at least, [it is a crime to be poor](#).

Finally, we held a very successful [General Assembly](#) earlier this month, reported elsewhere in the newsletter. My thanks go to Secretariat colleagues Robert Otok and Lore Leighton for their smooth administration of the event. I am particularly pleased to welcome 7 new members and 1 new associate member to ASPHER, to report a full range of activities of the COVID-19 Task Force and on ASPHER's core business on competence and curriculum, workforce development and professionalisation. We have improved our governance and rationalised our business operations, with a good financial balance. We also celebrate the work of our young professionals, looking forward to a presence in our board and to new internships. Despite the trials of the pandemic, [there is no better time to be in public health!](#) The future is bright, the future is public health!

Professor John Middleton
President, ASPHER

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER Secretariat would like to thank all the many members who participated in the [2021 ASPHER General Assembly](#) on 4 June. We had 100 delegates register from 37 countries around the world. We welcomed seven new full members and one associate member, new executive board members were elected, and updated ASPHER bylaws were accepted. You can read more details here in the newsletter.

We would like to remind you once again that the ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat will be held online 27-28 September. We'll be informing you of more exciting Retreat information over the summer. For now, please get back to us by 15 July if you have [suggestions for topics](#) you would like to see featured during the Retreat. We will also be accepting [nominations for the Andrija Štampar and Deans' & Directors' Awards](#) until 15 July.

ASPHER will be launching a new [Members' Survey](#) this month. This is a key consultation to help implement the ASPHER 2025 agenda and further improvements in the Association's membership policy. Read more in the newsletter including a special incentive you could be eligible for when you fill the survey. Please take the time to respond and tell us the unique story of your institution!



Win a place
for the GNAPH
Leadership Academy!!!

ASPHER Membership Survey 2021

This survey should ideally be answered by the head of the member institution. If not available, a delegated representative in a leadership position is also acceptable.

This survey is a key consultation with members to help implement the ASPHER 2025 agenda and further improvements in the Association's membership policy including tailoring the benefits and services provided to serve members needs best.

The Secretariat congratulates [ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan on the selection of her proposal Adaptation actions on climate change and health \(through education and training\) amongst the top five proposals to become a 2021 Thematic Networks within the EU Health Policy Platform](#). Only the three proposals that receive the most votes in three different topics will become the 2021 Thematic Networks. The poll will open from 28 June and will close on 26 July so be sure to give Rana your vote!

Our Mentoring Summer School, [ASSETS](#) will run a short programme in mid-July offered to the newly accepted group of [2021-2022 ASPHER Young Professionals' Programme](#). We had a

tremendous response to our call for the 2021 intake and we are looking forward to working with a dedicated group of motivated early career professionals over the course of the year.

You will also find many other news items from [ASPHER](#), the [Covid-19 Task Force](#), [Members](#) and [Partners](#) within the newsletter. Please share it widely!

We hope you enjoy your summer and have an opportunity for some rest and relaxation!

Best wishes,
Robert Otok and Lore Leighton

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](#).

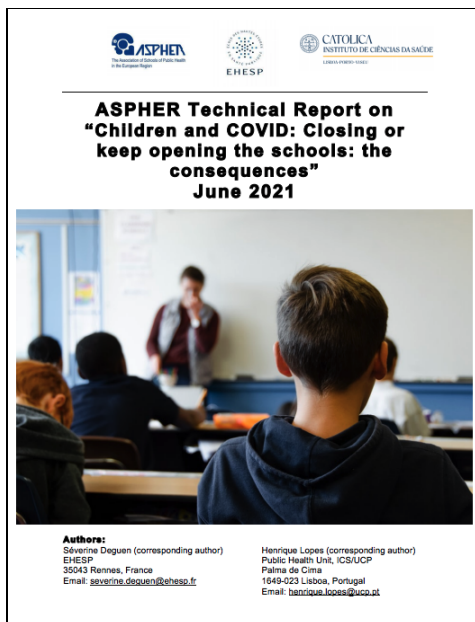
ASPHER COVID-19 NEWS

ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

All [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) materials are freely available at aspher.org. Please be sure to take advantage of their work in your schools and disseminate them widely.

The [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) is always open to new members and new ideas to help make a difference during the Pandemic. **If you or a colleague at your School is interested to join the Task Force please let Robert know at robert.otok@aspher.org.**

Children, Schools and COVID-19: Consequences of Opening and Closing Schools



The ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force subgroup on children's issues took a deep dive into aspects and considerations related to school closures. The reports take into consideration the effects on children when schools are closed as well as the risk to children, teachers and staff when schools are open under COVID-19 conditions. They have gone beyond the immediate effects of COVID-19 itself, looking into mental health factors such as stress and burnout. Recommendations are given to help prevent transmission when schools are open and mitigate negative outcomes when schools are closed.

The COVID-19 crisis requires us to review critically the management of closing and reopening schools policies into future public health plans. It is vital to address the

psycho-social and educational difficulties endured by children as a result of lockdowns to draw lessons for future pandemics and the education professionals.

An in-depth [technical report](#): ‘Children and COVID: Closing or keep opening the schools: the consequences’ is available as well as an [ASPHER statement](#) and an [infographic](#).

Webinar: COVID-19 vaccination roll-out: Meeting the needs of hard-to-reach groups now and beyond

Europe’s hard-to-reach groups (such as the homeless, migrant and prison populations) have disproportionately borne the negative health, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19 due to the geographical and socioeconomic inequalities they experience. This means that they are crucial priority groups for vaccination. Ensuring equitable vaccine access requires coordinated strategies, so what strategies have countries put in place to ensure coverage of hard-to-reach populations? Who are the key stakeholders? How can experiences with COVID-19 vaccination inform future strategies to improve access to the health system and better meet the health needs of marginalized people?

ASPHER Young Professionals, Ines Siepmann, University of Sheffield and Shelby Fisher, École des Hautes Études en Santé Publique organized a webinar with the European Observatory held on 8 June 2021 as part of the [Build Back Better Webinar Series](#).

In addition to Ines and Shelby, speakers included: Nancy Claxton of the Red Cross, Ireland; and Andrei Baciú from the National COVID-19 Vaccination Committee, Romania. Matthias Wismar and Erica Richardson, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies moderated.

If you missed the live seminar, you can now [watch the recorded version here](#).

Also see the COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor Cross-Country Analysis:

Siepmann I, Fisher S, Wong BLH, Martin-Moreno JM. What Strategies Are Countries Using To Get COVID-19 Vaccines To People In Hard-to-reach Groups? COVID-19 HSRP Cross-Country Analysis. 04-05-2021. URL:

<https://analysis.covid19healthsystem.org/index.php/2021/05/04/how-have-additional-governement-measures-differed-in-response-to-the-recent-emergence-of-variants-of-concern-2/>

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccines

ASPHER is deeply concerned about the misleading content circulating on social media platforms on the topic of COVID-19 Vaccines. It is our responsibility to take a step forward and cross verify COVID-19 vaccine myths with facts and answer the public’s frequently asked questions.

In response, the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force subgroup on vaccination has produced a reference document of twenty-six frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 Vaccination with fact-based, referenced responses.

[Download Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Vaccines here.](#)

ASPHER COVID-19 Situation Reporting for Europe

ASPHER's produces a weekly surveillance report that we hope is complementary to other resources such as ECDC and Our World in Data, where the reader can go for more detailed information.

ASPHER is concerned about the rapid expansion of the Delta variant of COVID-19, particularly in England, and now also in Portugal. There needs to be coordinated global effort towards anticipating new variants and adapting vaccinations to meet mutating changes of the virus. ASPHER considers the G7 agreement on global vaccine supply to be inadequate and a failure of international leadership. The promise of 1 billion doses this year is less than the 2 billion already committed to COVAX by October 2021, and less than 1 fifth of the global supply needed. It remains to be seen if the G7 meeting this week will enable better global responsiveness in the continuing pandemic and in future pandemics.

Since January, the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force and ASPHER Young Professionals with HAW Hamburg, Maastricht University and Karolinska Institute have been putting together weekly COVID-19 situation reports for Europe. Find the reports updated every Friday at: <https://www.aspher.org/covid-19-situation-reporting.html>

ESMED Call for a new globally equitable vaccine strategy

Addressing the highly unequal distribution of vaccines is critically important to putting an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. The vaccine-sharing initiative COVAX was supposed to serve as a lifeline for many countries in the developing world but is failing to deliver even 25% of the doses expected. The initiative will continue to be obstructed by export bans, supply shortages, and hoarding unless extreme measures are taken to put public health first.

Out of the 832 million doses administered globally, 82% have gone to high or upper middle-income countries while only 0.2% have been sent to their low-income peers. The gap is tremendous, and it is widening. 1 in four people have received a vaccine in the high-income countries compared to just 1 in 500 for the poorer countries.

ASPHER has signed the open letter of the European Society of Medicine calling for the world's 700 million over 65s to be vaccinated. The situation seen recently in India presents an extreme case of need that cannot be met within a country and why we need international health action agencies capable of responding to need, as set out in our BMJ piece. It also shows the need for further efforts to promote internationalism in vaccination

programmes for the protection of everyone. The current scenario demands international consensus on a long-term strategy to minimize the transmission of variants, not only by rapid vaccination but also by increasing vaccine confidence. Improving accessibility to vaccine must be considered to prevent further waves.

[Sign the ESMED call for a new globally equitable vaccine strategy here.](#)

Further COVID-19 Reading

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. ECDC statement on the SARS-CoV-2 Delta variant in the EU/EEA. 23 June 2021. URL:

<http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/ecdc-statement-sars-cov-2-delta-variant-eueea>

Middleton J. The Role of Schools of Public Health in the COVID-19 Pandemic. Port J Public Health. 2020;38(suppl 1):1-3. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1159/000515721>

Signorelli C, Odone A, Gianfredi V, Capraro M, Kacerik E, et al. Application of the “immunization islands” model to improve quality, efficiency and safety of a COVID-19 mass vaccination site. Ann Ig 2021 June 11. doi: 10.7416/ai.2021.2456. Online ahead of print. (In English and Italian) URL: http://annali-igiene.it/articoli/2021/online_ahead_of_print/06/Signorelli-epub-06-2021.pdf

ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

ASPHER 2021 General Assembly



ASPHER was delighted with the highly successful ASPHER General Assembly held on Friday 4 June. **One hundred delegates representing thirty-seven countries registered to attend the event!**

We are thrilled to have accepted **seven new Full Members** and **one Associate Member** at the Assembly. Congratulations and a warm welcome to ASPHER's newest members:



- University of Milan, Postgraduate School of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, ITALY
- University of Bremen, Faculty 11 Human and Health Sciences, GERMANY
- Karaganda Medical University, Institute of Public Health and Professional Health, KAZAKHSTAN.
- University of Malta, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Department of Public Health, MALTA
- Karolinska Institute, Department of Global Public Health, SWEDEN
- Koç University, School of Medicine, Department of Public Health, TURKEY
- University of Edinburgh, Usher Institute, UNITED KINGDOM
- Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health, MONGOLIA

The 2021 Assembly saw **Prof. Carlo SIGNORELLI** of San Raffele Università Vita-Salute formally take on his duties of ASPHER President-elect. We are excited to have him taking ASPHER into the future!



Executive Board elections were held with **Mirjana KUJUNDZIC TILJAK**, School of Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia and **Carla NUNES**, National School of Public Health,

NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal elected for the first time and **Karolina LYUBOMIROVA**, Faculty of Public Health Medical University Sofia, Bulgaria elected for a second term. They will be joined by **Nadav DAVIDOVITCH**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and **Carla LOPES**, ISPUP, University of Porto, Portugal elected in September 2020 and the continuing Executive Board Members.



ASPHER would like to thank Executive Board Members stepping down this year, **Kasia CZABANOWSKA**, **Henrique BARROS**, **Robert BUCKINGHAM** and **Nino KUNZLI**. We are grateful to their many years of dedicated service!

Important decisions were taken to amend ASPHER bylaws. They will allow future ASPHER Presidents to stand for election to a second two-year term giving them sufficient time to truly implement their presidential agenda. It was also agreed that a tenth member may be co-opted to the Executive Board in order to give the opportunity for a representative from ASPHER Young Professionals to participate in a recognised way.

Reporting was heard from ASPHER President, ASPHER Treasurer, and ASPHER Secretariat as well as communications from ongoing projects, ASPHER Young Professionals and other Association business. Details will be sent to Members in the minutes from the meeting.

Call for ASPHER Award Nominations

The call for nominations for the 2021 Andrija Štampar Medal and the 2021 Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award have been extended until 15 July.

The prestigious Andrija Štampar Medal is awarded each year to a distinguished person for excellence in the field of Public Health.

[See more about the award and past medalists here.](#)

The Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award showcases the best master programmes and Continuing Professional Development courses offered by members of the Association. Three main characteristics of the programmes and courses will be assessed: impact, internationalisation, and innovation.

[See more about the award and past winners here.](#)

Please send your nominations to Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org by Thursday 15 July!

Call for Deans' & Directors' Retreat topics

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to save the dates for the 2021 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat for Monday 27 – Tuesday 28 September 2021. Once again this year's Retreat will take place online - we have postponed the Sofia, Bulgaria Retreat until 2022.

We are putting out a call to all Members to give us your input for items and topics you would like to see in the Retreat agenda. This is your chance to make the Retreat more relevant for your programme and/or showcase ongoing activities at your school!

Please send your suggestions by 15 July to Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org with cc to lore.leighton@aspher.org.

We look forward to hearing your ideas on how to make the 2021 D&D Retreat a success!

Calling all Members for the ASPHER Members Survey!

Win an opportunity to take part in the GNAPH Public Health Leaders Academy!

In the coming days, ASPHER will launch the ASPHER Membership Survey of all Member Programmes. This survey is a key consultation with members to help implement the ASPHER 2025 agenda and further improvements in the Association's membership policy including tailoring the benefits and services provided to serve members needs best.

We will be calling on the heads of our member institutions to answer the survey.

We hope that improving your experience and relationship with ASPHER will be reason enough to complete the survey. However, to further incentivise response rate, ASPHER will help support two responding deans/directors/head of faculty or department of our member institutions to enroll in an executive programme for leaders in academic public health arranged via the Global Network for Academic Public Health (GNAPH).

The Advanced Leadership Program is a year-long cohort-based leadership development opportunity specifically designed for senior academic public health leaders - deans, directors, faculty and department chairs - who have been in their position 5 years or less. Through real-world case studies, small group discussions, interactive presentations, and other immersive experiences, scholars of the Advanced Leadership Program will join a diverse cohort of experienced academic public health faculty and staff to hone their leadership knowledge, practice, and skills.

Programme scholars will also meet for three days in the United States to focus on academic leadership challenges and meet with executive coaches. The programme is designed in collaboration with the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), a global leader in executive education drawing on decades of experience in developing top leaders in academia and public health.

This is a prestigious programme worth 7500 EUR - selected individuals will be offered a scholarship through ASPHER to cover 50% of the costs.

We look forward to having you tell us the unique story of your school/organisation!

ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan Thematic Network 2021 Semi-finalist

We congratulate ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan who has been selected as a Thematic Network 2021 semi-finalist!



Thematic Networks are temporary networks of stakeholder organisations created in the EU Health Policy Platform. Their purpose is to prepare stakeholder-led and -owned Joint Statements on important EU health issues, summarising the common position of the co-signing organisations.

Rana's initiative - **Adaptation actions on climate change and health (through education and training)** - has been selected among the top five proposals that will be published in the voting poll of the [EU Health Policy Platform](#). Only the three proposals that receive the most votes in three different topics will become the 2021 Thematic Networks. The poll will open on Monday 28 June and will close on 26 July.

Rana and the other semi-finalists will present their Pitch webinars on 7 July at 11.00 CET, Brussels time. Be sure to check back at the EU Health Policy Platform for webinar registration details. The proposals are already up for vote in the EU Health Policy Platform. The three proposals with the most votes in three different topics will win the poll and might go on to become the Thematic Networks of 2021.

Register now in the [EU Health Policy Platform](#) and give Rana your vote!

Steps to register and vote: (1) Register in the EU Health Policy Platform following this link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>; (2) Create/use your EU login and fill in the registration form. (3) Once you receive the confirmation email, you will be able to access the poll and vote.

The poll is now open in the EU Health Policy Platform and will close on 26 July: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/item/item/40200>

If you have any question, please contact sante-hpp@ec.europa.eu. Or contact Rana at rana.orhan@aspher.org.

ASPHER Young Professionals Intake

Ines Siepmann, coordinator of the ASPHER Young Professionals Programme (YPP) writes to say that the YPPs just completed its application period. They will now have the difficult task of choosing the incoming cohort. The intake period was a resounding success, with a diverse array of qualified candidates!

Thank you to Ines and all our YPs for a tremendous first year of the programme! YPs truly went above and beyond, making the most of a difficult year participating with the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force, reporting for the HSRM, organising seminars, establishing the operations of the YPP, and so much more. The new cohort will have much to live up to – ASPHER looks forward to seeing what they will bring!

ASSETS: ASPHER's Mentoring Summer School

Successful candidates for the 2021-2022 YPP intake, as well as current YPs, will come together on 19-20 July for the annual ASSETS event. ASSETS 2021 will combine a welcoming of the new young professionals with engaging sessions and mentorship.

ASPHER runs ASSETS with the goal of providing mentoring from important figures in the field of public health to early career professionals through peer-to-peer learning, networking and knowledge exchange with problem-based workshops rooted in the real-life projects of the participants themselves.

The 2021 Edition of ASSETS will be online this year in an abbreviated format under the continuing direction of Prof. Jose M. Martin-Moreno, University of Valencia, Spain with support from Prof. Mirjana Kujundžić Tiljak, Andrija Štampar School of Public Health, Croatia; and ASPHER President John Middleton.

Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel



The ERASMUS+ Capacity Building project SEEPHI which began early this year has been busy working on preparatory work packages. **The project website is now operational at <https://seeephi.aspher.org/>.**

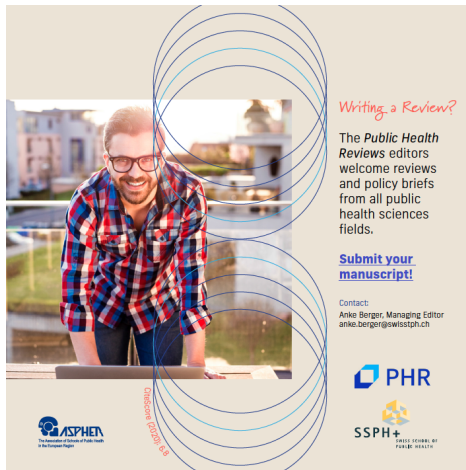
SEEPHI is an excellent opportunity to pilot a comprehensive capacity building action in a specific country context, which may be applied in a similar manner to other countries and regions wishing to improve the employability of their public health graduates and build their Public Health Workforce capacity. A key outcome of the project will be a tested protocol that may be adapted to other settings and available to all ASPHER Members.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

More will be presented on the project at the ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat and there is a meeting planned for interested parties during the EPH Conference in November.

Public Health Reviews Invites Reviews and Policy Briefs



Public Health Reviews (PHR) edited in a partnership with ASPHER by the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) is top ranking.

The new CiteScore (2020) is 6.8, and has increased by 36% compared to 2019 (5.0). The journal ranks in the 98th and 95th percentiles in the Scopus subject categories "Community and Home Care" and "Public, Environmental and Occupational Health"!

The new publisher Frontiers will acquire an Impact Factor for PHR. The already visible number of cites to PHR articles in the Web of Science would correspond to an Impact Factor 2020 of 6.4!

With this good news the PHR editors invite PhD students from around the world to submit reviews (all formats), and policy briefs.

Please [download the flyer](#), and feel free to contact the PHR managing editor in case of questions (mail to anke.berger@swisstph.ch).

Culture, Arts, Health and Wellbeing

From 21-24 June ASPHER President John Middleton joined members of WHO in a panel discussion of the role of the arts in health at the [2021 Culture, Health and Wellbeing International Conference](#).

Public health is “the art and science of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through the organized efforts of society” (Acheson, 1988; WHO).

As noted in the [2019 WHO report](#), in recent decades there has been growing research and evidence into the effects of the arts on health and well-being. A great example can be found in the Wellcome funded [SHAPER Project](#), Scaling-up Health Arts Programmes: Implementation and Effectiveness Research that is underway at ASPHER Member School University College London, working with Kings College London to upscale three known effective arts interventions (Melodies for Mums with Postnatal Depression, Dance for Parkinson’s, and Stroke Odysseys).

Many opportunities are available both to fund projects on the intersections between Culture, Arts, Health and Wellbeing as well as to showcase your own Health related Art:

The European Commission call for [Bottom-up Policy Development for Culture & Well-being in the EU](#) is now closed for 2021, but this gives you plenty of time to develop ideas for 2022.

The [“The Art of Staying Healthy”](#) Call is currently open until 19 July. It aims to develop collaboration between the arts and health sectors and to pilot arts interventions on the health and well-being of people and communities in the Northern Dimension (ND) area, which covers Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

Meanwhile, the Lancet has two calls open to receive your creative submissions in [Line of sight: Highlights 2021 photography competition](#); and Acts of humanity: [the Wakley Prize 2021](#) for essays that take place on a human scale in health-care and community settings.

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MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

Call for Abstracts: International Scientific Conference (on-line) “Public Health – current achievements and new challenges”



7 - 8 October 2021, Krakow, Poland

Students' Session

During the International Scientific Conference on Public Health – current achievements and new challenges, the session will be held for the presentations of papers submitted by students, including PhD students. One participant can submit a maximum of two papers. Only oral presentations are anticipated.

Abstract submission

Only abstracts of original research papers are invited. Furthermore, the abstract should refer to performed and not planned research activities.

Topics for the Students' Session include:

- epidemiology
- epidemic surveillance
- determinants of health
- equity in health

- lifestyle, health behaviours
- public health nutrition
- health promotion and health education
- the assessment of health programmes
- health and e-health literacy
- disease prevention
- environmental health
- climate change and public health
- health information and health communication
- digital health, e-health, health information technologies
- health economics
- health management
- COVID-19 pandemic
- global public health challenges
- other public health topics

Abstract Deadline: August 31, 2021. Submit abstracts to 30-lecieIZP@uj.edu.pl.

[Find more information and detailed instructions on abstract requirements here.](#)

Webinar: ATS and the COVID-19 emergency and not just COVID-19: Testimonials, lessons and objectives

Wednesday 30 June 2021, 2.30pm - 5.00pm CET (in Italian)

Over a year of epidemiological emergency COVID-19, still in progress, has solicited this webinar with a focus on significant testimonies from the Health Departments, Socio-Sanitary Departments, Departments of the Department of Hygiene and Health Prevention and the Department of Primary Care.

The aim of the webinar is also to define lessons from the COVID-19 epidemiological emergency concerning:

- Crisis management
- Organizational choices
- Prevention interventions in pandemics
- Preparedness and communication
- The recovery and consolidation of prevention and health promotion activities

Moderated by: Prof. Silvana Castaldi, University of Milan, Department of Biomedical Sciences for Health; and Dr. Claudio Garbelli, SITI Lombardy Section with conclusions by ASPHER President-elect Carlo Signorelli, San Raffaele Università Vita-Salute.

[Register for the webinar here.](#)

UMIT Modeling Approaches for HTA: A Practical Hands-On Workshop

8 - 10 September 2021



The workshop combines theoretical concepts with practical hands-on exercises comprising five different modeling techniques applied in Public Health and HTA. Real-world case examples from different acute and chronic diseases will be discussed.

Further information and online booking for this courses is available via www.umat.at/htads

Early Booking Deadline - Extended Until 25 July 2021.

Pecunia Project Final Workshop

The Pecunia Project coordinated by Prof. Judit Simon, at Medical University of Vienna gave its final workshop on 2nd June. This Horizon 2020 project aimed to establish standardised costing and outcome assessment measures for optimised national healthcare provision in the European Union with new standardised, harmonised and validated methods for the assessment of costs and outcomes of healthcare interventions within and across European countries.



Pre-recorded excerpts from the final workshop are [available here](#).

For more about Pecunia and the project results see: <https://www.pecunia-project.eu/>

Heidi Larson awarded Edinburgh Medal

Professor Heidi Larson from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) will be presented with the prestigious Edinburgh Medal as part of the Edinburgh Science Festival 2021. The award is in recognition of her work in recognising the importance of popular and widespread misunderstandings of vaccines and to advance public health and social wellbeing for the benefit of all.

Heidi's research focuses on how social and political factors affect the uptake of health interventions and influence policies. Her particular interest lies in risk and rumour management – from clinical trials to delivery – and on building public trust.

[Professor Larson](#), Director of the [Vaccine Confidence Project](#) (VCP) at LSHTM, said: "I am honoured to receive this year's Edinburgh Medal. The Medal reflects not only a recognition of my scientific work, for which I am very grateful, but also an important acknowledgement of the challenging information and trust environment, which needs new approaches as we continually renew the relationship between science and society."

Selected ASPHER Member Publications

Epstein R, Middleton J. It is more urgent than ever that we end the criminalisation of poverty. BMJ Opinion. 21 May 2021 URL:

<https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/05/21/it-is-more-urgent-than-ever-that-we-end-the-criminalisation-of-poverty/>

Krasna H, Czabanowska K, Beck A, Cushman LF, Leider JP. Labour market competition for public health graduates in the United States: A comparison of workforce taxonomies with job postings before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Int J Health Plann Manage. 2021. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hpm.3128>

Kuhlmann E, Batenburg R, Wismar M, et al. A call for action to establish a research agenda for building a future health workforce in Europe. Health Res Policy Sys. 2018;16:52. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12961-018-0333-x>

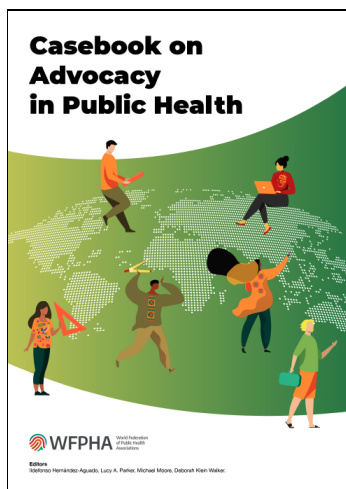
Satyamoorthy A, Brand H, van Kessel R. How to minimize negative health effects in the European Union due to the Economic recession caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. SEEJPH. 2021;16. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.11576/seejph-4492>

Treviño-Reyna G, Czabanowska K, Haque S, Plepys CM, Magaña L, Middleton J. Employment outcomes and job satisfaction of international public health professionals: What lessons for public health and COVID-19 pandemic preparedness? Employment outcomes of public health graduates. Int J Health Plann Manage. 2021. URL: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hpm.3140>

Wieczorek E, Evers S, Kocot E, Sowada C, Pavlova M. Assessing Policy Challenges and Strategies Supporting Informal Caregivers in the European Union. Journal of Aging & Social Policy. 15 Jun 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/08959420.2021.1935144>

PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

Casebook on Advocacy in Public Health



[The Global Charter for Public's Health](#) highlights advocacy as a key function of public health. However, in many countries the study, teaching, and application of advocacy to improve population health remains neglected. Increasing the capacity for advocacy can have many positive effects on population health such as stimulating the development of health policies in public and private sectors or prioritizing public health efforts higher in political agendas globally through public health evidence based research on advocacy. The Casebook on Advocacy in Public Health produced by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) serves as a tool for national public health associations and other actors to improve their

capacity of influence on national public health policies through advocacy efforts.

The Casebook establishes what is public health advocacy and emphasizes the importance of advocacy as an essential public health function by bringing together 18 cases of public health advocacy from different corners of the world. It covers a range of public health topics from tackling climate change at a global level to improving the conditions in African prisons with investigative journalism and strategic litigation. Additionally, by drawing on the similarities and differences of the various experiences included in the casebook, key issues such as gender equity, discrimination, and investment in wellbeing and health equity are raised and advocacy is highlighted as an essential public health tool to tackle these issues.

Ultimately, the Casebook aims to increase knowledge and the capacity to develop and implement advocacy strategies to improve population health at local, regional, national and international levels, as well as inspire the development of curricula and other training materials to strengthen advocacy efforts by supporting instruction, debate, dialogue and action.

[Download the Casebook on Advocacy in Public Health here.](#)

Fact-checking COVID-19 Workshop

30 June 2021, 14:00-16:00 CEST

We have all experienced, especially during the current pandemic, that information can be overwhelming. When there is an overabundance of information – an infodemic – it can be hard to clearly distinguish between good and bad information. For this reason, we are happy to invite you to the new Fact-checking COVID-19 Workshop organized by [unCoVer](#) in collaboration with [PHIRI](#).

For more information about the agenda of the meeting and the background of the speakers click [here](#).

[Register for the Fact-checking COVID-19 Workshop here.](#)

Reducing Inequalities in Vaccine uptake in the European Region – Engaging Underserved communities (RIVER-EU)



A new European research initiative has launched to improve equitable vaccine uptake in underserved communities. Funded by the Horizon 2020 Research Programme, [RIVER-EU](#) (“Reducing Inequalities in Vaccine uptake in the European Region – Engaging Underserved communities”) is a 5-year (2021-2026) project coordinated by the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG). RIVER-EU will collect evidence on

health system determinants of high and low vaccine uptake in eight specific contexts, which will be used to identify and/or develop interventions to reduce barriers to vaccine uptake in underserved communities and increase trust in the health system.

RIVER-EU will work to improve access to two vaccines, measles-containing vaccines and the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine among specific underserved communities in: Greece (refugees and migrants), the Netherlands (adolescents of Turkish and Moroccan origins), Poland (Ukrainian economic migrants), and Slovakia (Roma populations). The project will collect evidence on health system determinants of low vaccine uptake (barriers) in the five communities, as well as on high vaccine uptake (enablers) in three underserved communities in: the United Kingdom (the Bangladeshi community), Finland (the Somali community), and Israel (the Arab Israeli community).

RIVER-EU's diverse and highly-experienced consortium includes 14 project partners: University Medical Center Groningen, Public Health England, the Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health, EuroHealthNet, Connaxis, Vienna Vaccine Safety Initiative, Maastricht University, the European Academy of Paediatrics, University of Zielona Góra, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Bar Ilan University, the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, and the European Public Health Association.

The current pandemic has reinforced the central role vaccines play in protecting public health. It is fundamental to improve the responsiveness of health systems to ensure equitable access and uptake of vaccines against all vaccine-preventable diseases. If you are interested in keeping up to date with RIVER-EU's latest information and resources, please follow us on Twitter, [@RiverEUProject](#) (where the website and other public information will soon be published).

For further information, please contact: Joost Wessels, Press Officer, University Medical Center Groningen. Email: j.r.l.wessels@umcg.nl and Alison Maassen, Programme Manager, EuroHealthNet, Email: a.maassen@eurohealthnet.eu

OPPORTUNITIES

ECDC Calls for External Experts



ECDC requires the inputs of independent external expertise to fulfil its mandate and to deliver its work programme. Hence, ECDC may engage remunerated and non-remunerated external experts. The selection of external experts aims to complement ECDC's scientific expertise and to assist ECDC with expert advice on specific tasks. ECDC's external experts contribute to the scientific decision-making in the EU with their scientific input. Tasks requiring external expertise include contribution to ad hoc panels, working groups and

committees as well as the provision of opinions or advice on other technical matters (e.g. Rapid Risk Assessments or scientific guidance) or meetings (e.g. country visits or seminars).

Applications are currently open for the following expert profiles:

- Remunerated independent external experts - Infectious disease public health training specialist (Ref. No. CEI/ECDC/2021/003), [profile description](#).
- Expert to contribute to strengthening Africa CDC capacities in preparedness, surveillance, and response to health threats posed by communicable diseases (Reference CEI/ECDC/DIR/2021/002), [profile description](#).
- Expert public health emergency preparedness and response capacities and capabilities in EU candidate and potential candidates (EU Enlargement) countries and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries (Reference: ECDC/EX/2020/001), [profile description](#).

[Find more details on the selection procedure and how to apply here.](#)

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