

Autumn 2018 Newsletter



Pictured: Canal, Ljubljana

by ASPHER

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER hopes that everyone is off to a good start for their academic year. As usual the Association has been busy and we are happy to send you our updates and news with you here in the Autumn Newsletter.

Big changes have occurred at the ASPHER offices. Fèlix Ruiz Cabré has moved on to new responsibilities with University of Maastricht and **Lore Leighton** and **Cedric Slock** have joined Robert Otok in the Secretariat Team. Lore continues to manage *Public Health Reviews* while taking on new responsibilities for core ASPHER projects

and services. Meanwhile Cedric will be developing the ASPHER *Public Health Training Academy*. The ASPHER office has also moved, along with the University of Maastricht, to a new building. It is just around the corner from the old location, so we won't be hard to find.

The current newsletter highlights key information concerning ASPHER involvement at the **EPH Conference in Ljubljana**, including a schedule of all key ASPHER conference and pre-conference events. As well, please find details on planning for the **2019 Deans' and Directors' retreat in Erice**, Italy. We are opening up opportunities for contributions from Member Schools this year, so please see more below about how you can get involved.

ASPHER is keeping up with an active agenda of projects and activities related to public health workforce development, training and education. We feature many of these as well as other news of interest, including member and partner activities. Indeed, the newsletter is coming to you from Ashkelon, Israel where we are currently engaged in lively meetings with associate Israeli schools who are seeking to improve student preparation and employability in the public health workforce.

The next newsletter will be distributed before the winter holidays. You can expect to find out more about what will be happening for the 2019 ASPHER agenda. We will also be reporting back from the conference in Ljubljana and current ongoing activities, University of Maastricht and ASPHER's visit to Ashkelon Academic College, the Salzburg seminars on Public Health Law, and Human Rights in Patient Care, as well as exciting developments regarding *Public Health Reviews* and the *ASPHER Public Health Training Academy*.

Please enjoy this edition of the ASPHER newsletter and don't forget to share your news with lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next issue or on the ASPHER website activity log. Finally, as you see we are experimenting with a new format of the ASPHER newsletter. Thus, we would appreciate any comments and/or suggestions for improvements for us to consider - let us know!

.....

11th EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The [11th EPH Conference](#) is fast approaching and will take place from **29 November - 1 December 2018 in Ljubljana, Slovenia**. Information on all pre-conference (Wednesday 28 November) events as well as information about registration and travel can be found in the latest conference [newsletter](#).

While you are at the conference, please be sure to drop by and visit us at our stand in the exhibition area! We welcome ASPHER members to join us in exhibiting material at the ASPHER stand or to share the exhibition area for even greater visibility. If interested, please contact the ASPHER secretariat for details: robert.otok@apher.org.

ASPHER will be taking part in several conference and pre-conference events that we would like to highlight including:

Tuesday 27 November

09:00 – 17:00 WHO EAP-PHS Coalition of Partners Meeting (pre-conference)

Wednesday 28 November

09:00 – 17:00 WHO PHS-EAP Coalition of Partners Meeting (pre-conference)

09:00 – 17:00 Working together for a people-centred health workforce (pre-conference)
<https://ephconference.eu/2018-pre-conference-programme-117>

09:00 – 17:00 Migrant Health Training and Dissemination Workshop (pre-conference)
<https://ephconference.eu/2018-pre-conference-programme-163>

12:30 – 17:00 Young Researchers' Forum (pre-conference)
<https://ephconference.eu/2018-pre-conference-programme-173>

17:30 – 19:30 ASPHER Executive Board Meeting (closed meeting)

ALL DAY ASPHER information booth (exhibition area)

Thursday 29 November

08:30 – 09:00 Presentation of the 5th edition of the European List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional (ASPHER information booth)

09:00 – 10:00 European Public Health Reference Framework Council Meeting (closed meeting). Contact person: Anders Foldspang (anders.foldspang@gmail.com)

09:00 – 10:30 Global public health and European initiative: Can we do better? (workshop)

09:00 – 13:00 TRAIN4M&H Consortium & Interim Meetings (closed meetings)

- 10:15 – 11:30 Baltic–Nordic–UK Schools of Public Health Network Meeting (closed meeting). Contact persons: Anders Foldspang (anders.foldspang@gmail.com)
- 14:10 – 15:10 The organization and financing of public health services in Europe (workshop)
- 15:30 – 16:30 ASPHER Honours Committee Meeting (closed meeting). Contact person: JM Martin-Moreno (dr.martinmoreno@gmail.com)
- ALL DAY ASPHER information booth (exhibition area)

Friday 30 November

- 09:40 – 10:40 Public health resources – core capacities to address the threat of communicable diseases (plenary session)
<https://ephconference.eu/2018-plenary-1-eurohealthnet-145>
- 11:10 – 12:10 Innovative approaches to health workforce training to develop new competences (oral presentations)
- 13:40 – 14.40 ASPHER Working Groups (closed meeting). Contact person: Robert Otok (robert.otok@aspher.org)
- 16:20 – 17:50 To lead or not to lead: the added value of women leaders in public health (round table)
- 16:20 – 17:50 Developing a competent and sustainable public health workforce: how to make it happen? (workshop)
- ALL DAY ASPHER information booth (exhibition area)

Saturday 1 December

- 09:40 – 11:10 Put the PRO back in the public health professionals: PROactive and PROsilience (round table)
- 09:40 – 11:10 Political landscapes and options for public health (skills building seminar)
- 11:40 – 13:10 Improving maternal health in low-resourced West-Africa: Call for European contributions (round table)
- ALL DAY ASPHER information booth (exhibition area)
-

ROAD TO ERICE: 2019 ASPHER Deans' and Directors' Retreat - Call for abstracts



Pictured: Old Town, Erice; Venus Castle, Erice

The 2019 ASPHER Deans' and Directors' Retreat will be held from **Sunday-Wednesday 26-29 May 2019 in Erice, Italy**, under the leadership of prof. Carlo Signorelli. It will be hosted by the Board of Directors of the Italian Public Health Schools, in collaboration with the Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI).



Planned **Plenary Sessions** at the Retreat will address cutting edge issues facing public health today. Themes follow here along with their assigned Italian coordinators. Stay tuned for the international session coordinators who will be decided on by the time of the upcoming EPH Conference in Ljubljana.

1. *Precision public health: competences needed to translate genomic data into population health benefits*
Italian coordinator: P Villari
2. *The digital transformation of health in Europe: data-driven innovation in prevention*
Italian coordinator: G Privitera
3. *The new era of vaccinology: the training of professionals as a tool to counter vaccine hesitancy*
Italian coordinator: F Vitale

4. *Championing the fight against antimicrobial resistance: training, best practices and concerted European actions*
Italian coordinator: S Brusaferrò
5. *The need for climate and health education*
Italian coordinator: F Donato
6. *Schools of Public Health contribution towards the Universal Health Coverage agenda*
Italian coordinator: W Ricciardi
7. *Using law and policy effectively for public health – training perspective*
Italian coordinator: R Siliquini

There will be also a plenary session based on the ASPHER presidency agenda on the topic of *Public Health Workforce Development and Professionalisation* that will complement the above. It will take stock of key advancements in the area that the Association is part of and actively stimulates.

Moreover, in response to members' feedback, ASPHER is adapting the organization of the Retreat, giving member schools the opportunity to participate with presentations on a wide variety of topics. In addition to proposals for any of the Plenary Sessions, we are also encouraging presentations for **Short Communication Sessions** in the following topics:

- *Migration and Health*
- *Health Impact Assessment - Environmental health, Urban health*
- *Mental Health*
- *Home and Hospital Hygiene*
- *Public Health Workforce & Leadership*
- *Miscellaneous*

To participate, ASPHER is putting out a call for abstracts to all member schools. All candidates will be submitting on behalf of their schools and should thus have the agreement of the school's director. To be considered, any abstracts submitted must have relevance to training, education, or workforce development.

Abstracts must be submitted to Anna Odone (odone.anna@hsr.it) and Lore Leighton (lore.leighton@aspher.org) by 15 January 2019.

.....

PROJECTS: Public Health Workforce Development and Professionalisation

Meeting of the Coalition of Partners, Ljubljana

The third meeting of the [Coalition of Partners](#) (CoP) is to take place the **27-28 November** ahead of the EPH Conference, in Ljubljana. The meeting will include representatives from countries throughout the European Region and will be used to disseminate information on **three key actions** to work toward the public health workforce professionalisation, including:

- 1) *Core Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce in the European Region (Eco-FPHW)*;
- 2) *Handbooks for Public Health Professional Credentialing and Accreditation Systems in the European Region*; and
- 3) *A Road Map towards Professionalisation of the Public Health Workforce in the European Region*.

This meeting follows up on the CoP Expert Meeting held at Imperial College London in June 2018, which brought together participants from a variety of backgrounds (ministries of health, national institutes, accreditation and credentialing bodies, schools of public health, public health organizations) and selected peer reviewers who provided feedback to strengthen the documents to make them more useful to end-users and stakeholders and harmonize the distinct products. ASPHER and its collaborators make continuous efforts to consult on the development of the CoP deliverables by involving key groups of stakeholders and taking advantage of key forums and partnerships.

ASPHER President Kasia Czabanowska's Active Promotion of the Workforce Professionalisation Agenda

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH)

ASPHER President Kasia Czabanowska will be joining an upcoming ASPPH webinar this autumn to discuss initiatives to address public health competencies around the globe. The webinar will address ASPPH's Global Health Committee's two-year initiative to develop the just-released [Global Health Concentration Competencies for the Master of Public Health \(MPH\) Degree](#). ASPPH's Competencies complements similar initiatives in Europe such as [ASPHER's List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional](#), now in its 5th edition.

The webinar will be an excellent opportunity for Kasia to present on the **European Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce (Eco-FPHW)** produced under CoP. The Eco-FPHW aims to develop a European wide Core Competencies Framework for Public Health relevant at all workforce levels, (i.e., individual or organizational levels; entry, administrative, operational or leadership levels; and political, policy, management or advocacy levels). It should serve as a tool for assessment and appraisal of critical capacities and capabilities and behaviour (indicators) for specific areas of public health practice and can be used for credentialing, workforce policy and planning, continuing professional development needs, staffing and resource management, within the context of the essential public health services and operations.



Please stay tuned to the ASPHER website to find out when the webinar will be made available!

International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI)

On 4-7th November the [IANPHI annual meeting](#) was held in London. It brought together National Public Health Institute directors from countries all over the world, as well as representatives from the World Bank and the World Health Organization. ASPHER was represented by President Kasia Czabanowska who participated in the Global Security and Public Health Workforce Development panels. Prof. Czabanowska strongly emphasised the added value of the collaboration between IANPHI and ASPHER in relation to building the capabilities of the public health workforce in the context of need.

European Observatory - Health Systems and Policy Monitor (HSPM) Annual Meeting

ASPHER had a great opportunity to present progress on the **Public Health Workforce Professionalisation Road Map** to [HSPM members](#) during their annual meeting in Krakow, Poland on 11-12 October. The PHW Professionalisation Road Map is a tool in development under CoP that aims to help countries navigate a unique pathway to professionalisation.

Robert Otok and Cedric Slock from the ASPHER office presented on the context and idea for the visualisation of the project in front of HSPM expert teams from 30+ countries. Very promising follow up actions were identified to secure further development and optimization of the Road Map tool for sustainable use by countries and relevant expert groups operating at the European level. It will be presented at the CoP pre-conference meeting in Ljubljana

The OBS-HSPM meeting was also a great occasion to meet some of the ASPHER members involved in the network and colleagues from the [European Observatory](#).

EuroNet MRPH in Valencia and Young Forum Gastein

Robert Otok took part in the summer meeting of the European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health ([EuroNet MRPH](#)) and ran a workshop during this year's [Young Forum Gastein](#). EuroNet MRPH constitutes a network of European National associations of Public Health training programs, including medical and non-medical residents. The Young Forum Gastein initiative offers scholarships to promising young health professionals and enabling them to become a part of the European Health Forum Network, Gastein. Both organizations strongly represent a young generation of public health professionals.

The two meetings served as platforms to consult yet another CoP deliverable, a **Handbook for Managing Public Health Professional Credentialing**. The topic proved to be highly relevant to both groups with important conclusions reached, showing the complexity and variety of different perspectives on the issue of credentialing.

Exciting times lie ahead regarding this development and we will make sure to move it forward in close collaboration with our members, their students and graduates, as well as with young professionals' networks such as these.

Moreover, synergy between different efforts undertaken in the area globally adds to the promising outlook for professional credentialing in public health as with ASPPH's [Certified in Public Health \(CPH\)](#).

Interesting Reading

The European Observatory and WHO/Europe have recently published reports on [Organizing and Financing Public Health Services in Europe](#) along with [Country Reports](#) as part of their Health Policy series and edited by Bernd Rechel, et al.

Also as we look to the EPH conference in Slovenia, you may want to read the report by the National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia on [Public Health Workforce Development in Slovenia and Wider](#), edited by Matej Vinko

Birt, Foldspang & Otok recently published [“Meeting the population health challenge: what should you know, and what should you be able to do?”](#) in the October 1 Issue of the *European Journal of Public Health*. It discusses the complexities of challenges a public health professional must be ready to address.

For our members able to read Bulgarian: Kasia Czabanowska was interviewed for the September Issue of the Bulgarian Journal of Health Policy and Management for a piece entitled “ASPHER is the Voice of Public Health in the European Region”. It is great to see ASPHER making an impact there, especially when we consider that Sofia will be hosting the 2020 Deans’ and Directors’ Retreat.

.....

PROJECTS:

Migrant Health Training Actions

Migrant Health Training and Dissemination Workshop (MIG-H)

The [Migrant Health \(MIG-H\) Training project](#) is a comprehensive training package on communicable diseases and mental health issues for frontline health, police and related professionals. The project is coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ, with technical lead by the Migration Health Division (MHD) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office in Brussels, and in collaboration with ASPHER, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The MIG-H Training developed and piloted training modules for health professionals and law enforcement officers working with migrants and refugees in ten countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Norway, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain.

A dissemination workshop is planned during EPH pre-conference activities, Wednesday 28 November from 09:00 – 17:00. The workshop will feature presentations of the training modules and evaluations and panel discussions bringing together interdisciplinary government experts from selected MIG-H pilot countries.

ASPHER has a few places remaining and support for our members to join the MIG-H workshop in Ljubljana. This session will link to a larger follow up action on training coordination on migrant health across 30+ countries scheduled for 2018/2019, and we very much hope that ASPHER members take advantage of our involvement in this project.

Interested individuals should send email to robert.otok@aspher.org by 17:00 CET Tuesday, 13 November confirming their interest and availability along with a bio and a few words on why they would like to join the MIG-H workshop.

.....

ASPHER NEWS

Anders Foldspang Retirement Address: From 60 to 120 and the 5th edition of ASPHER's European List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional

On Friday 21 September 2018, former ASPHER President 2006–2007, Anders Foldspang celebrated his retirement from Aarhus University. ASPHER's director, Robert Otok was honored to be invited to speak at the event. The text of his address is available on the [ASPHER blog](#). Anders has kept busy going into retirement with the recent publication of [ASPHER's European List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional, 5th Edition](#) and we expect to continue to see his active involvement in public health for years to come.

President Elect, John Middleton's speech to the ASPHER 2018 Dean's and Director's Retreat, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, June 20th, 2018

On 20 June 2018, John Middleton (President of the UK Faculty of Public Health) addressed the ASPHER Dean's and Director's Retreat in the John Snow Lecture Hall at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His candidacy for ASPHER's President Elect (2019–2021) was met with unanimous approval. The content of his speech is available at [ASPHER's blog](#).

Public Health Reviews' Publication on Folic Acid Affects Policy Change on Mandatory Flour Fortification in the UK

In January of this year, a [review by Wald, Morris & Blakemore](#) published in *Public Health Reviews* set off a new call for mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid in the UK. On 14 October, the British newspaper, The Guardian reported that UK ministers have backed a plan that will require all flour to be fortified with folic acid within the next few weeks. Sir Nicholas J. Wald was quoted as saying “If this is officially confirmed, the UK is taking an important step in preventive medicine and helping to avoid disability or termination of pregnancy.” Click on the [link](#) to go directly to the paper, or read more on [ASPHER's blog](#).

Public Health Planning for Brexit

With no Brexit deal in sight, Public Health entities are making their own plans for continued collaboration in health and trade with Europe. The UK Faculty of Public Health has been developing strategies including their [“Blueprint for a Post-Brexit Relationship with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control”](#) and their statement on health in trade in their [“Response to the Department for International Trade’s Four Consultations on Post-Brexit Trade,”](#) which ASPHER was proud to support. See more about public health challenges that are being raised by Brexit and plans that are underway to face them on [ASPHER’s blog](#).

Written Statement on ‘Advancing public health for sustainable development in the WHO European Region’

ASPHER is joining as a co-signatory to [EUPHA’s written statement](#) on ‘Advancing public health for sustainable development in the WHO European Region’, which was an agenda point of the 68th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe held in Rome, Italy, on 17–20 September 2018.

The Written Statement strongly supports the central thesis of the document ([EUR/RC68/17](#)) that public health is at the heart of sustainable development and submits a series of comments on the paper.

Among the comments, EUPHA notes that “the most important public health investment question is ‘What are the costs of not investing in health systems and public health?’ In recognition of this the Statement supports “the call for action to strengthen and invest in the public health workforce, as described in action point 8,” and recommends “investing in the public health workforce according to the UN High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, and the Working for Health: Five-Year Action Plan.”

Further recognition is made of “the need for multisectoral approaches to tackle the complexity of public health. Public health requires practitioners to collaborate with various stakeholders from different sectors”. As well as for inclusion of “interprofessional education in all health care students’ curriculum”.

.....

CALLING ALL ASPHER MEMBERS

Updating the ASPHER Website and School Profiles

We are working to update and improve ASPHER's website to serve you better. One of our goals is to include **profiles for each of our member schools** in the [ASPHER Directory](#). This can include background on the school as well as the programmes offered. We are calling on you to provide a profile, ideally both in English and your local country language. You may register to receive administrator permissions to update your school's page directly or you can send your school's profile and related materials to lore.leighton@ashper.org.

Additionally, ASPHER's website contains a [document repository](#) where we can add documents including: your school's brochure; courses and programmes; education and training materials; as well as other material.

We also welcome all suggestions for how we can put ASPHER's site to better use for your school, faculty and students!

Public Health Reviews - Call for Papers

As ASPHERS' Society Journal, Public Health Reviews is looking for ways to best serve the ASPHER community. We hope that by keeping the Journal open access the articles can serve as a resource for your schools and your students. But we also want to be a repository for state of the art initiatives in education and training and to showcase research from ASPHER member schools. To this end, **we have an ongoing open collection devoted to [Public Health Education and Workforce Training](#). If your school has a novel programme or new approach, we invite you to submit your work for [publication](#).**

Additionally, we are currently looking for review papers on the topics of: **food, nutrition and micronutrients; vaccination and infectious disease; public health law; and migration and training.**

Please contact Lore Leighton (lore.leighton@ashper.org) with any questions.

.....

OPPORTUNITIES

Europubhealth+ applications now open

[Europubhealth+](#) has announced that online applications for the 2019 intake of their European Joint Master Degree in Public Health are now open. The best students selected to join the course will be awarded full excellence Erasmus Mundus scholarships (up to 46,000€ each) to fund their EPH+ studies. Moreover, the consortium will be able to award additional scholarships to the best applicants coming from specific geographical regions: Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean region. **Applications must be submitted before 8 January 2019.** This is a great opportunity, a two-year full time programme that will allow you to study in at least 2 different European universities in up to 3 languages.

ASPHER was happy to join the meeting of the Europubhealth+ consortium in early July organised by the EHESP School of Public Health in Rennes on the occasion of the graduation ceremony. It was an impressive and encouraging event, clearly showing how the Programme generates true leaders to take public health to the next level globally with a European perspective.

It should be highlighted that all schools in the Europubhealth+ consortium are ASPHER members!

.....

MEMBER EVENTS

First Congress on Occupational Health and Employability Expertise with an International Conference on EPSILON project, 07 - 08 November, 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

The Faculty of Public Health at the Medical University Sofia is organizing a [First Congress on Occupational Health and Employability Expertise with an International Conference on EPSILON project](#), 07 - 08 November, 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria. The Purpose of the Congress is to ensure health and sustainable employability through academic training, legislative changes based on scientific evidence and activities on chronic and occupational disease prevention, for health promotion, innovative practices and prevention of the youngest and older workers, for helping people on light duty and disabled people responding the challenges of the changing workforce as well as its social protection and security. During the congress the results of an international EC funded project will be presented. For more details on the project and what will be presented, see the [Members' Events page](#).

VI International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances, 8-9 April 2019, Maastricht, Netherlands

The [VI International Conference on Novel Psychoactive Substances](#) (NPS) will be held on 8th - 9th April 2019 at the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands. The series aims to share knowledge and strengthen collaboration on NPS among multidisciplinary professionals at the international level. The conference is jointly organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), University of Hertfordshire, University of Maastricht.

Early registration and submission of abstracts are open until 1 December 2018.

.....

ASPHER PARTNERS AND BEYOND

EuroNet MRPH: An Interview with Robert Otok

ASPHER is now partnered with the European Network of Medical Residents in Public Health ([EuroNet MRPH](#)). EuroNet recently interviewed Robert Otok about ASPHER for a feature in the Teaming Up section of the September 2018 Issue of their newsletter, [EuroNews No 15](#).

World Federation of Public Health Associations' Global Charter for the Public's Health

In 2015-16 the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), developed "[A Global Charter for the Public's Health](#)". The Charter provides new insights into the direction of public health and provides guidance for both 'services' (a group of core services - Protection, Prevention and Promotion) and 'functions' (a group of enabler functions - Governance, Advocacy, Capacity and Information).

The Global Charter has already been introduced in several universities worldwide. The WFPHA will be working with ASPHER to more systematically incorporate the Charter into further universities and medical schools' curricula in Europe in both Bachelor and Master level programs.

Invitation to join "Public Health Advocates"

Public Health Advocates is a recently started email-list/Google-Group for early-mid career public health advocates with currently around 80 participants.

- Why? To connect, to learn from each other, to become more effective advocates. Because "advocacy" is a skill which can be learned, but which is rarely part of formal public health education.
- Who? Early to mid career public health professionals who define themselves as "advocates" (which can e.g. mean to be regularly in the media or to be part of a campaign or NGO). Participants are from different countries and focus on different issues (e.g. tobacco control or climate change).
- What? In this group, participants can share different kind of information, experiences and questions. E.g. articles about advocacy skills, stories about

effective advocacy campaigns and questions about how to get covered by the media.

- How to join? Joining the email-list is without obligations and can be cancelled at any time. If you are interested, just contact florian.stigler@medunigraz.at. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Partner Organizations

Don't forget to visit our partner organizations' websites and newsletters to see what they are up to! [EUPHA](#), [EPHA](#), [EPH Conference](#), [ASPPH](#), [IANPHI](#), [EuroNet](#).

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
ASPHER Brussels | T: +32 2 735 0890 | S: aspherskype | E: office@office.org