

**Notes of the UK Nordic Baltic Network Meeting
29/11/18 European Public Health Conference, Ljubljana,**

There was broad support for the proposal of developing such a network, building on previous positive experiences of collaboration. This would allow schools to develop their specific strengths in teaching and research while providing the broad curriculum required to meet international accreditation standards for the MPH and associated specialist training in public health.

Agreed that: ASPHER would undertake a simple mapping exercise to ask schools to highlight their areas of strength, where they could share expertise, areas they felt were underdeveloped and where they would like to collaborate.

Early attempts at collaboration had run into difficulty because of the differences in funding and fee paying models that existed in different countries/institutions. The case for collaboration would need to be clear to institutions, professional bodies and governments.

To address the professional and institutional requirement to demonstrate the quality of education and training provided:

Agreed that: Increased student satisfaction would be expected and could be measured

Agreed to: Link explicitly to ASPHER workplan, specifically projects designed to improve the quality of education and training in line with best practice

Mapping should identify specific competencies where expertise can be offered by institutions and practical exchanges developed. Such exchanges should also provide opportunities to demonstrate student participation in research and publications, and to increase overall research participation and publications.

Agreed to: develop links through existing ERASMUS and similar programmes

Several existing European studies also provide courses in research methods, research and data governance etc. and partner with related studies that are not part of the specific EU project. The Longitudinal studies established in the UK countries that are sister studies to European studies of Ageing provide one example.

Agreed to: Identify specific projects (research, service development, public health policy and practice) that could provide opportunities to develop and test the network.

Agreed to develop links with the various public health summer schools in the Region

To demonstrate relevance to governments, ASPHER already has a formal relationship with WHO Europe that should facilitate joint working

Agreed to link with APHEA and WHO Europe Coalition of Partners to identify areas for collaboration

Agreed that proposals for institutional collaboration should be developed.

Agreed: To hold a workshop at the Deans and Directors retreat in 2019 to develop these ideas further