

Spring – Summer 2019 Newsletter



by ASPHER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John Middleton's Presidential Statement from the Opening Ceremony in Erice, Sicily. 26 May 2019

Friends...Romans... ? Colleagues... lend me your ears....

I bring you greetings from Shakespeare's county, Warwickshire, in the Midlands of England, and from my University, Wolverhampton, in an area called the Black Country, the cradle of the industrial revolution and the place where I worked for most of my professional life. I bring a welcome from a new ASPHER member, Chester University, who are active in the international field of public health, in relation to trade: a vital area for us all. I also bring greetings from the United Kingdom, Faculty of Public Health, the UK professional standard setting body for public health, of which I am still President for two more weeks.

On a lighter note, I am reminded of the Monty Python sketch: 'What have the Roman's ever done for us?'

"All right, but apart from the sanitation, the medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, a fresh water system, and public health, what have the Romans ever done for us?'

'Brought peace.'"

There is no civilisation without public health.

To read the rest of John Middleton's Presidential Statement, see his blog post at:

<https://www.aspher.org/articles,4,29.html>

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER Secretariat sends you our summer greetings from the second day of our Andrija Stampar Summer Educational & Tutoring School (ASSETS) in Brussels. We are pleased with the turn out and it should continue to be an exciting week for participants and faculty alike. If you weren't able to attend or send a student this year, look forward to next year's offering.

The current edition of ASPHER's newsletter is a lengthy one, with much to report back from the memorable and well-attended Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Erice, Italy.

This summer marks a period of transition for ASPHER, with the changeover of the ASPHER Presidency from Kasia Czabanowska, University of Maastricht to John Middleton, UK Faculty of Public Health. Kasia will continue to take on the public health professionalization agenda in her capacity as ASPHER Past-President, while John wishes to look to Strategy, Governance and Partnership during his presidency. This is to include a review and if needed, revision of the ASPHER bylaws, adoption of a code of ethics, and greater emphasis on services to Member Programmes.

ASPHER will be moving from the ASPHER 2020 to the ASPHER 2025 agenda. The 2020 agenda is already undergoing review as we move toward its final year, allowing ASPHER to take stock of the past and set the Association's future direction.

Other new developments include the election of two new Executive Board Members, Mary Codd, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science (SPHPSS) at University College Dublin (which will host the D&D Retreat in 2021) and Oliver Razum, School of Public Health, Bielefeld University, Germany. As well as acceptance of eight new Member Programmes and one new Associate Member, representing a diverse set of Schools from across the European Region and beyond.

We will have one piece of continuity this year. We are thrilled that our terrific Intern, Naomi Lamora Nathan will continue to work with us as an ASPHER Fellow. Naomi has been an exceptional Intern and presence at ASPHER and you can read more about her internship experiences here in the newsletter and in her blog post at aspher.org.

There are many other interesting activities and opportunities highlighted in the newsletter and we hope you take advantage to get involved and participate. It is through the involvement of our Member Schools that ASPHER remains a strong and vibrant organization, serving and advocating for the public's health.

We always enjoy hearing from our Members, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance, have news or ideas to share, or wish to get active!

Enjoy your summer holidays!

Best wishes from the ASPHER Secretariat!

Robert, Lore, Cedric, Naomi

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, we always appreciate any comments and/or suggestions for improvements for us to consider for the newsletter - let us know!

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2019 ASPHER DEANS' AND DIRECTORS' RETREAT

Report from Erice



The weather did not cooperate for us in Erice, Sicily as we were lost in a mountain top cloud for the three days of the ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat. However, it kept everyone's attention focused indoors for the exciting Retreat Programme and many ASPHER meetings.

We had a record breaking 200 delegates representing 30 countries at the Retreat with many Member Schools and Partner Associations in attendance.

The rich scientific programme included five Plenary Sessions and six Parallel Sessions. Topics ranged from Workforce Development and Good Practices in Education to Vaccinology and Climate Change, from Universal Health Care and Public Health Law to Precision Public



Health, and from Digital Public Health to Antimicrobial Resistance. There were also sessions in both English and Italian covering work from the Italian Schools of Public Health.



ASPHER is most grateful to the Board of Directors of the Italian Postgraduate Schools of Hygiene and Public Health for hosting this year's Retreat. Special thanks go out to Carlo Signorelli and Anna Odone, as well as Gaetano Fara and Gaetano Privitera for their essential support making the Retreat in Erice such a success!

We have much to Report back from the Retreat and hope you enjoy learning more about some of the highlights.

Handover of the ASPHER Presidency



At the General Assembly, Prof. Kasia Czabanowska handed the ASPHER presidency to Prof. John Middleton presenting a [report](#) of her two-year presidency.

Prof. Czabanowska's presidency was devoted to public health workforce development and was very much appreciated by ASPHER Members. She was engaged in many activities and direction setting projects such as the Road Map for Professionalising Public Health and WHO EURO-ASPHER European Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce, ASPHER Public Health Training Academy (PHTA) Hub and also This is Public Health (TIPH) Europe campaign together with the North American Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) to support and leverage the recognition of the public health field and stimulate greater interest in choosing a career in public health.

Prof. Czabanowska is grateful to have been given the opportunity, trust and support of ASPHER members and collaborating organisations.

Prof. John Middleton assumed his position with a stirring Presidential Statement during the Opening Session in Erice. See the “Message from the President” about and the full text of his statement in his [blog post](#) on the ASPHER website.

Prof. Middleton expects to be blogging at ASPHER on a regular basis, so keep tuned to the website. Meanwhile, Prof. Czabanowska will still be closely involved with ASPHER as Immediate Past President. Prof. Middleton invited Prof. Czabanowska to continue to lead on the professionalization agenda making it a horizontal, cross-cutting theme of ASPHER activities.

Andrija Štampar Medalist announced

Gaetano M. Fara, MD, MPH, PhD was announced as the 2019 ASPHER Andrija Štampar Medalist for excellence in the field of public health. Since graduating MD cum laude in 1958, Professor Fara has gone on to receive MPH and PhDs in both Hygiene and Microbiology. He has served as a Member of the Faculty in several institutions and served as Director of the Institute of Hygiene in Milan and Rome, of the Department of Public Health Sciences in Rome and of the University Hospital Centralized Laboratory in Milan as well as Chief of the Hospital Hygiene Service in Rome.

Professor Fara's chief scientific interests are in epidemiology of infectious diseases, in environmental health, in the evaluation of vaccinations and in health organization and management. He spent time in the UK and USA working in epidemiology of viral diseases and vaccination policies. He has worked on Vaccination issues at the governmental level in Italy and with WHO Europe. At the time of the Seveso Chemical Disaster (1976) he was appointed President of the Epidemiological Committee in charge for the event and, later, Secretary to the International Seveso Steering Committee.



Currently, Gaetano M. Fara is Professor Emeritus of Public Health at Sapienza University of Rome, Department of Public Health and Infectious Diseases. He is Editor in Chief of *Annali di Igiene* and Director of the International School of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture in Erice.

In addition to hosting the Deans' and Directors' Retreat at the Ettore Majorana Foundation, Professor Fara gave a Keynote Address on "*The Contribution of Italian Schools to the Progress of Public Health in the European Region*" during the Opening Ceremony.

ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award



The 2019 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award for excellence in public health training and education went to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Fellowship Programme: EPIET & EUPHEM. The ECDC Fellowship Programme is a two-year competency-based training with two paths: the field epidemiology path (EPIET) and the public health microbiology path (EUPHEM).

After the two-year training, EPIET and EUPHEM graduates are considered experts in applying epidemiological or microbiological methods to provide evidence to guide public health interventions for communicable disease prevention and control.

Both curriculum paths provide training and practical experience using the 'learning by doing' approach in acknowledged training sites across European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) Member States.

The programme aims to strengthen the surveillance and control of infectious diseases and cross-border health threats; to enhance response capacity for effective field investigation and communicable disease control; to strengthen the European network of public health professionals; to support training and capacity building in Member States; and to facilitate multi-disciplinary cooperation.

Professor Karl Ekhdal was present in Erice to accept the award.

ASPHER Executive Board: New Members

In addition to welcoming, its new President, the ASPHER General Assembly voted in two new Members to the ASPHER Executive Board:



Mary Codd (MD, MPH, PhD, FFPHMI), Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science (SPHPSS) at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland. She has been an active member of ASPHER for the past 10 years. She is a member of the ASPHER Working Group on Doctoral Programmes and Research Capacities (report, May 2013), is hugely supportive of the ASPHER Young Researcher Forum and an advisor on the 5th Edition of ASPHER's Core Competences for the Public Health Professional. She has also served as an external examiner with APHEA. As a member of the Executive Board, she will be fully committed to supporting and advancing the mission of ASPHER with, and on behalf of, current and future members of the organisation.



Oliver Razum (Prof., Dr. med., MSc), Dean of the School of Public Health, Bielefeld University, Germany. His work is in social epidemiology with a focus on refugee/migrant health, as well as on Global Health. Oliver has been representing Bielefeld School of Public Health at ASPHER since 2006. He has been actively engaged in ASPHER's work on refugee health. As an ASPHER Executive Board member, Oliver plans to continue his engagement for the health needs of migrants, and in particular of refugees. Key concerns are safe passage and access to health care during transit; EU immigration laws; entitlement and access to health care; tackling root causes; and education and training in refugee health.

Laurent Chambaud (Treasurer) and Dejana Vukovic stepped down from the Executive Board. We warmly thank them both for their years of service to ASPHER! Henrique Barros has assumed the role of Treasurer.

New Member and Associate Member Schools

ASPHER was delighted to welcome eight new Member Programmes and one new Associate Member Programme in Erice. Membership of the schools was approved during the General Assembly. We are thrilled to expand our network to a diverse set of programmes representing regions across Europe and beyond. Congratulations and welcome to our newest Members!

Full Members

University of Nicosia Medical School, CYPRUS | [School Profile](#)

Department for Nursing and Health Sciences, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, GERMANY | [School Profile](#)

School for Health Professions, Bachelor Degree Programme in Public Health, Ashkelon Academic College, ISRAEL | [School Profile](#)

School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, ISRAEL | [School Profile](#)

School of Public Health Management, State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu”, MOLDOVA | [School Profile](#)

Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (IHMT-NOVA), PORTUGAL | [School Profile](#)

Department of Health and Community Medicine, Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg, SWEDEN | [School Profile](#)

Department of Health and Wellbeing, University of Chester, UNITED KINGDOM | [School Profile](#)

Associate Members

Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine & Health Sciences, United Arab Emirates University, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | [School Profile](#)

Keynote Addresses by Martin McKee and Gaetano Fara



In addition to hosting the Deans' and Directors' Retreat at the Ettore Majorana Foundation, Professor Fara gave a Keynote Address on *"The Contribution of Italian Schools to the Progress of Public Health in the European Region"* during the Opening Ceremony. He was followed by the Keynote Address from Martin McKee of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom: *"Nothing is True and Everything is Possible": Public Health in a World of "Fake News"*.

You can find Prof. [Fara's slideshow](#) from his Keynote in the ASPHER Repository. We are working on making all presenter's slideshows from the Retreat available online along with many pictures of the Retreat in ASPHER's [photo gallery](#). Be sure to follow [aspher.org](#) for these updates and consider making it your homepage so you don't miss out on activities and announcements!

Working Group and Project Reports

Report from the ASPHER Honours Committee

The 2019 ASPHER's Honours Committee Meeting took place during the ASPHER's Deans' and Directors' Retreat in Erice, Italy, with Vesna Bjegovic, Roza Adany, Jeffrey Levett, Ted Tulchinsky, Franco Cavallo, Anders Foldspang, Martin McKee, Jacek Sitko, Kasia Czabanowska, Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn and Jose Martin-Moreno participating.

The HC re-elected Jose Martin-Moreno as the Co-Chair for the next two years, in conjunction with Kasia Czabanowska (as the immediate Past President of ASPHER). Special thanks were expressed to the outgoing Co-Chair, Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn.

The HC expressed a desire to be more than just the committee of the village elders, offering itself as ambassadors or to assist in ASPHER's work when required, and productively mentoring new Public Health leaders. In that sense, the HC believes that Young professionals can be a great asset in support of Public Health and... Senior professionals can be a great asset in support of Young professionals...

For all these reasons, the HC promotes and supports the ASPHER ASSETS initiative: The Andrija Stampar Summer Educational and Tutoring School, which will take place in Brussels in the week that starts on 15 July 2019, and which we hope will be the beginning of an initiative that will have a huge impact on Public Health education.

European Public Health Reference Framework:

ASPHER's European List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional

Initiated in 2006 and endorsed by WHO's European member states in 2012 (see [WHO's European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services](#), p. 18), the 5th edition of ASPHER's List of Core Competences for the Public Health Professional was published in June and November 2018 as an ASPHER Publication and as a supplement to the Scandinavian Journal of Public Health, respectively. You will be able to find the SJPH supplement at the internet address <http://journal.sagepub.com/home/sjp> - and the whole history as well as previous editions of the list are available at ASPHER's homepage.

At its meeting on the 27th May, during the Deans' & Directors' Retreat in Erice, the Council of ASPHER's European Public Health Framework (EPHRF) agreed to make a proposal to the ASPHER Executive Board to initiate production of the 6th edition to the ASPHER Executive Board, so that it can be published by the end of 2020. Repeated scrutiny is a prerequisite in the short- and long-term continuous development and quality control philosophy of the list. Thus, the 5th edition (2018) was developed from the 4th edition (2016) based on scrutiny by and advice concerning adjustment from external experts within methodology: epidemiology and biostatistics; population health: sociology, environmental health; interventional systems and processes: health economics; leadership and systems thinking; nutrition; communicable disease control.

As concerns the development of the 6th edition, the intention is to ask for advice concerning adjustment from external experts within health promotion, public health law, public health ethics. Moreover, an overall scrutiny from the point of view of academic education in political science is also intended, and public health nutrition shall be reviewed again, the many developments in the field considered.

There have been suggestions to translate the list into other languages than English. ASPHER's administration will take care to ensure the quality of the legal background for such positive development.

Anders Foldspang
Chair, the EPHRF Council
Past President - ASPHER

Kick-off of the new ASPHER Working Group on Economic Evaluation in Healthcare in Europe (EEHE)

The ASPHER Working Group on Economic Evaluation in Healthcare in Europe (EEHE), which was established in Erice, had its kick-off meeting on 2nd of July, 2019. Representatives of 12 European countries joined to discuss the workplan and outline the group roadmap. The group will be coordinated by Maastricht University.

The ultimate goal is to establish the current status, future needs and good practices in teaching healthcare economic evaluation in Europe. The focus will be on both course content and educational approaches, also, encompassing exchange of best practices and know-how.

The work will start by charting the current system of teaching economic evaluation, and assessing the gaps. The ambition is to develop new teaching standards and a model curriculum.

It is expected that the participation in this working group will enable institutional ASPHER members in Europe to review, renovate and expand their teaching and training material in the area of healthcare economic evaluation.

For further information or to take part in the EEHE Working Group, contact:
Milena Pavlova, e-mail: m.pavlova@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Public Health Law Working Group: Putting Legal Epidemiology into Practice

Legal epidemiology is an emerging discipline. It aims at the scientific study of the relation of law and legal practices to population health. It is built on evidences that the law is one of the most effective social determinant of health.

The focus of the May 2019 ASPHER Deans' and Directors' retreat in Erice, Sicily was on the development and training of public health workforce. A full session was dedicated to legal epidemiology and to the sharing of experiences of legislation being used as a public health intervention instrument. Evidence-based examples were provided to highlight how

national laws contribute to decreasing health-related risks (vaccination, tobacco control...), promoting access to healthcare in conformity with human rights and strengthening countries' IHR(2005) core capacities to prevent, prepare, control and respond to the spread of diseases across countries. The role of social scientists, including but not limited to economists, lawyers, political scientists, in the process of translating evidences in sound public health policies was highlighted and recommendations were made that they be fully recognized as part of the public health workforce.

The public health law working group also recommended to further integrate social sciences to the core public health workforce curricula. In this regard, minimal core legal capacities should be delineated and corresponding courses integrated to core public health workforce training programs. Their purpose would be to ensure that all core public health workforce professional understands legal epidemiology to ensure a leadership role in better using the law in public health.

A transdisciplinary model, where public health and social sciences experts work together to promote health, requires common understanding, methodological tools such as the emerging field of legal epidemiology and common trainings. In this respect, the three-day course "[Better health faster: Using Law and Policy Effectively in Public Health](#)", during the SSPH+ Lugano Public Health School, August 29-31, 2019 offers an opportunity for all these professionals to learn to work together.

Beyond the Erice retreat, Prof. Dominique Sprumont also participated in July 2019 at a meeting at WHO headquarters in Geneva on the legislative needs of the countries in implementing the IHR(2005). Using the legal epidemiology approach was recognized as essential to achieve the broader objective of universal health coverage. ASPHER could play an important role in this process both in providing training and contributing to the research and public health interventions in the field.

For more information or to participate in the PHL Working Group, please contact: Dominique Sprumont: Dominique.Sprumont@unine.ch.

[Undergraduate Programmes in Public Health Working Group](#)

A meeting was held which focused on the status of undergraduate programmes among ASPHER member schools (and beyond). There was much interest in surveying ASPHER member schools and non-ASPHER members to identify the existing programmes for undergraduate students. This updated survey would build upon the ASPHER survey conducted in 2010. Globalizing the curriculum is recognized as a high priority and a current inventory of resources can lead to collaborations between programs to further promote options for undergraduates for public health careers.

Erasmus funding could be sought as well for future collaborations. The importance of English language programmes was stressed for maximal access to scholarly materials and resources.

Please contact Suzanne Selig: sselig@umflint.edu, if you would like to join this effort and/or have an interest in promoting undergraduate public health programmes.

The ASPHER V4 Working Group strongly supports WHO CoP

Knowledge transfer and information sharing is an integral part of public health capacity development. Successful international cooperation, in particular cooperation of neighbouring countries, is an important approach. The working group of V4 (Visegrad) countries, established in 2016 as one of the working groups of The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), is focused on public health capacity development in V4 countries. Strong V4 cooperation is needed to cover current European public health problems and to strengthen awareness of the importance of public health leadership in the European context.

The ASPHER V4 Working Group (WG), co-chaired by Dr. Alena Petrakova, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and Robert Otok, ASPHER Director, supports the Coalition of Partners (CoP), established by the WHO Regional Office for Europe to develop and implement a joint Agenda for Action focusing on the enabling functions of public health services.

The ASPHER V4 WG is in particular involved in testing of the recently developed Rapid assessment tool, which is important for final preparation and implementation of a Road Map for further professionalization of the public health workforce in the WHO European Region. This topic was discussed in details by the representatives of public health experts from all four V4 countries at the 4th V4 Public Health Conference, held in April 2019 in Debrecen, Hungary. Further work on this task continues in all V4 countries and its results will be discussed by the ASPHER V4 WG at the upcoming public health international meetings and next steps will be discussed at the WG meeting in November 2019 at the 12th European Public Health Conference in Marseille, France.

For more information or to participate in the V4 Working Group, please contact:

Alena Petrakova: alenapetrakova@gmail.com.

Looking Forward: Deans' & Directors' Retreat 2020 - Sofia, Bulgaria

The ASPHER Deans' and Directors Retreat is planned for Sofia, Bulgaria in 2020, where Karolina Lyubomirova and the Faculty of Public Health, Medical University Sofia will be hosting us from Sunday 31 May to Wednesday 3 June.

We thank everyone who responded to our survey and gave us feedback from the 2019 Retreat. Overall response was very positive, but we take some constructive criticisms. As a result, we are planning for Sofia to be a more intimate Retreat experience with a larger share of the time focussed on what is needed by the Heads of Schools for running Programmes in Public Health. The ASPHER Executive Board has initiated a task force for annual Retreat organisation, which will be composed of current, past and future Retreat Chairs with support from the presidency and the secretariat.

Beyond Sofia, Mary Codd at the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science at University College Dublin, Ireland will host the Deans' & Directors' Retreat in 2021.

ASPHER NEWS

ASPHER 2020 - Advancing and Evaluating the Agenda

ASPHER is beginning the process to evaluate the [ASPHER 2020 Strategic Agenda](#) this summer, while taking the opportunity to further advance the Agenda through 2020. The 5 strategic objectives for 2016-2020, include:

Strategic objective 1: Improving quality of academic programmes and CPD for public health;

Strategic objective 2: Strengthening research capacity among all members;

Strategic objective 3: Setting up a public health profession for public health services in Europe;

Strategic objective 4: Developing the global dimension of education and training for public health; and

Strategic objective 5: Strengthening governance, management and sustainable development of ASPHER.

Send a message to robert.otok@aspher.org if you have any feedback regarding the ASPHER 2020 Strategic Objectives or wish to get involved as we head into the final year of the Agenda.

ASPHER's Andrija Štampar Summer Educational & Tutoring School (ASSETS)

ASPHER's [Andrija Štampar Educational & Tutoring Summer School](#) (ASSETS) is taking place this week in Brussels from 15 -21 July.

ASSETS offers an exclusive educational mentoring programme tailored to initiate such fruitful learning experiences. Instead of a classical school with multiple lectures presented to a passive audience, we intend to give to the students the necessary prominence while at the same time they get the inspiration and support of mentors. The idea is to ask each participant student (professional or aspiring public health professional) to bring a schematic idea, about a practical experience, project, master's thesis or doctoral thesis outline... within the public health and/or health system scope that can be presented in class in front of the experts and their peers.

For the ASSETS Course Programme click [here](#).

For more information and to book your place visit the site of ASPHER's [Public Health Training Academy/Hub](#) (PHTA) or contact Cedric: cedric.slock@aspher.org.

Naomi Limaro Nathan Internship

My internship with ASPHER was part of my two-year master's program, an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree Programme in European Public Health with a specialization in "Health Economics and Governance of Health Systems in Transition". The Internship as designed is an opportunity to gain practical experience relevant to both studies and professional work field. And also helps the student to learn discipline and principles of working ethics as well as particular to the program, help students to prepare their masters' thesis.



I had the privilege of spending these 3 unforgettable months, supporting the secretariat of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) in Brussels, Belgium to achieve its organisational goals. Coming to intern with ASPHER, I didn't know exactly what to expect but I was excited that the work of ASPHER directly deals with shaping the career path "Public Health" I have chosen.

I had the amazing powerhouse of the secretariat (Robert), guide me through tasks and activities and provide me with the best advice towards my professional development. And, with the help of Lore and Cedric, I got integrated fully into the everyday work of the secretariat, which enabled me to contribute and provide support when needed.

I had the opportunity to get in contact with ASPHER members, work towards enhancing their membership experiences, contribute to projects, attend events, especially the Deans' and Directors' Retreat where I met most of the members of the ASPHER network. I can confidently say I had the best internship experience, were I got all the support, direction and enablement I needed to function, make use of my skills, acquire more, believe in myself and most importantly the limitless possibilities that I can push for towards my career trajectory.

I am now looking forward to future opportunities with kicking off the pilot of the ASPHER Fellowship Programme and growing professionally in this field of Public Health.

More of my reflections and details elaborating the 3 months of my internship can be found in my blog series: "Public Health Young Professional Journey with ASPHER - Internship to Fellowship" via the link: <https://www.aspher.org/articles.4,30.html>

War is a “man-made public health problem”: ASPHER stands with the Turkish Medical Association

ASPHER has issued the following statement in solidarity with members of the [Turkish Medical Association](#) who have been convicted of “inciting hatred and hostility” and sentenced to prison in Turkey. For a pdf version of the statement please follow the link [here](#).

ASPHER considers war as a “man-made public health problem”.

Wars and armed conflicts have devastating consequences for the physical and mental health of all people involved, for the social life within and surrounding the war-affected regions, and for the health of the environment. Wars destroy health infrastructure, undoing years of health advancement, and severely compromise health systems’ capacity to respond to the direct and indirect health consequences of fighting. Millions of people have been internally displaced or forced to flee their countries due to armed conflict. Forced migration creates further physical and mental health problems during transit, in enforced encampment, and due to restricted entitlement to health care in countries hosting refugees.^{1,2,3} The disastrous effects may last for generations to come. In short, war is a man-made public health problem.

In January 2018, following the Turkish government’s announcement of a military operation in Afrin, Syria, The Turkish Medical Association (TMA) issued a public statement, declaring that “war is a man-made public health problem”.⁴ Eleven present and former members of the TMA’s central council were subsequently arrested and released after one week in custody. They were then put on trial, and on 3 May 2019, they were sentenced to 20 months in prison with the charge of “inciting hatred and hostility.” One member was further charged with “terrorist propaganda”, with an additional 19 months in prison for their social media activity.⁵



ASPHER recognizes the unequivocal evidence that war is a man-made public health problem. ASPHER is committed to direct the attention of the public and of policymakers to the irrevocable damage armed conflicts inflict on population health. Consequently, ASPHER stands in solidarity with the convicted TMA members.

References

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- 3 Razum O, Barros H, Otok R, Tulchinsky TH, Lindert J. ASPHER Position Paper on Refugee Health. Eurohealth 2016; 22: 36-8.
- 4 Turkish Medical Association. War is a public health problem! http://ttb.org.tr/haber_goster.php?Guid=28de85da-00e5-11e8-a05f-429c499923e4Date: Jan 24, 2018 (accessed May 27, 2018)
- 5 Devi S. Turkish doctors sentenced to jail for statement on war. Lancet 2019; 393: 2024.

The German Public Health Association [supports](#) the ASPHER Statement.

TRAIN4M&H Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop



Following the MIG-H event in Ljubljana, ASPHER is continuing its participation in [migration health training actions](#) with the EU funded TRAIN4M&H. The Stakeholder Dissemination Workshop for the project

was held in Brussels on 25 June, bringing together participants from 27 countries from across the European Region representing diverse professions and institutions including the European Commission, National Ministries, Police Commissions, Schools of Public Health, NGOs and others. ASPHER participated with President John Middleton taking part in an Expert Panel and moderating the question and answer session. Robert Otok served as an Expert Advisor to the Panel Discussions.

As part of its role in the action, ASPHER will host a web platform with training material developed as a result of both projects. It will be set up as a dynamic online environment and reference point for up-to-date training resources on migration and health. The online platform will serve to disseminate MIG-H/TRAIN4M&H among all ASPHER members, but will also allow you and other contributors to upload and share your relevant content based on international, country and local experience and actions. The platform, which has been developed by the French School of Public Health (EHESP) is still in the testing phase and awaiting approval by the European Commission. We will be sure to let you know when it is available!

We expect that the platform will contribute to the development of the Public Health Training Academy/Hub as a Europe-wide continuing professional development scheme for the public health workforce. ASPHER plans to utilise it as a model for training content related to other projects, such as Human Rights in Patient Care (HRPC) and the InfAct Joint Action.



A call is out to all ASPHER Members to share their programmes and activities related to migration health. If you have best practices to share, email robert.otok@aspher.org.

World Federation of Public Health Associations General Assembly

ASPHER Intern, Naomi Limaro Nathan represented ASPHER at the World Federation of Public Health Associations ([WFPHA](#)) General Assembly (GA) in Geneva in May. The general assembly was graced by both full and associate members of WFPHA from all over the world. Key highlights during the GA include: the election of Governing Council (GC) member that would represent Young Professionals, this is indeed a great step towards the involvement of Young Professionals in the matters of public health.

Another highlight was the discussion surrounding the upcoming Rome 2020 - World Congress on Public Health. The chair of the events presented their strategies to ensure that all public health professionals from around the globe are included and have a chance to attend the event, specifically highlighting young people, as the future of public health. Other organisational matters were discussed including new working groups and members and reports.

Naomi had the opportunity to present the ASPHER Governance structure at the WFPHA Transformational Leadership Workshop, sharing the best practices of ASPHER to the members of the WFPHA.

72nd World Health Assembly

WHO's 72nd World Health Assembly ([WHA](#)) was held from 20-28 May in Geneva at the Palais des Nations. ASPHER Intern, Naomi Nathan attended as part of the Medicus Mundi International (MMI) (Non-state actors) delegation via the Maastricht Center of Global Health.

Naomi reflected on the event in a podcast [episode](#) of "[Talk Public Health](#)" with her colleague, Nikita Charles Hamilton, intern with the IANPHI Secretariat at Santé Publique France.

Naomi reports that the experience provided her with insight into global public health issues, particularly health workforce, health financing and governance which are her areas of interest in public health.

Two highlight points for improvement, from her reflection on the event were:

The continuous emphasis on the dire need to involve "young people" in public health processes as the future workforce. However, she was dismayed by the low representation of young public health professionals at the WHA and lacks clarity on **how** "young professionals" will be involved and enabled to contribute to these issues. In her opinion, young public health professionals need to be given an opportunity to be present at events like the WHA as it clearly provides insights to the reality of their career path.

Secondly, she noted a lack of clear communication and knowledge translation in public health. She saw how public health professionals tend to remain in their bubbles, **not knowing how to effectively translate and communicate messages to other sectors/lay people**. As a young public health professional, she would like to point out that it is necessary for clear communication and knowledge translation skills to be highlighted in students' educational and practical experiences in order for them to collaborate across sectors and effect change as they enter their careers.

Listen to what these future public health leaders thought about the WHA in their podcast at: <https://youtu.be/QwrVtcmuRc8>.

4th V4 Public Health Conference

ASPHER was present at the V4 conference where Kasia Czabanowska the immediate past president gave a keynote on professionalization of Public Health workforce in the Visegrád Four (V4) countries. The presentation was followed by a workshop organised by WHO Euro Division of Public Health Services and ASPHER involving a rapid assessment of the PH workforce professionalization measures in the V4.

For more about the conference events, see the V4 Public Health Conference [website](#).

European NPHI Directors' Meeting and Joint IANPHI-WHO Technical Meeting

ASPHER was also present at the European IANPHI conference in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova in April 2019 presenting and discussing the potential use of the competencies framework. The meeting was followed by the Joint WHO-IANPHI technical seminar: Establishing national public health institutes through mergers – where are we now? The participants discussed the potential use of the Core Competencies Framework for Public Health Workforce in the European Region.

2019 ASPPH Annual Meeting



The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health ([ASPPH](#)) held their [Annual Meeting](#) from 20-22 March in Arlington, Virginia, USA. ASPHER President, Kasia Czabanowska and ASPHER Director, Robert Otok were on hand to further partnership between the two associations.

Both Kasia and Robert discussed leadership advancing joint efforts with ASPPH for the workforce professionalization agenda - including professional credentialing and other activities. Some exciting developments originated during the meeting and were confirmed such as the launch of the [European TIPH campaign](#) to encourage careers in public health - THANKS TO ASPPH FOR ITS SUPPORT!!!

ASPHER delegates attended the global engagement committee meeting discussing directions for developing and strengthening global communities of schools of public health. Anna Odone joined the event on behalf of ASPHER Executive Board Member, Carlo Signorelli to present the plans for the [World Congress on Public Health - Rome 2020](#) which provides great platform to bring SPHs together from around the Globe.

Finally, but not least, Robert Otok also contributed to the session on migration providing his perspective as a representative from Europe. Including ASPHER's work in the Mig-H and Train4M&H projects as well as other relevant efforts.

European Public Health Week



For the first time, the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) organized the [European Public Health Week](#) from 13-17 May to celebrate healthy populations. 145 events were held in 35 countries over the course of the week.

ASPHER Intern, Naomi Nathan helped coordinate ASPHER's participation in EUPHW, including the kick-off event on 13 May which was held at ASPHER's headquarters at the University of

Maastricht Brussels Campus where experts came together from several countries to discuss public health. We had beautiful weather for the event which included a "walkinar" across Brussels' Parc du Cinquantaire to fit with the theme of the day: Becoming, being and remaining physically active.

Students of many ASPHER Member Schools across Europe also participated in EUPHW related activities. ASPHER enthusiastically looks forward to EUPHW- 2nd Edition (2020) and is happy to collaborate more towards promoting public health in Europe.

For a summary of the activities from EUPHW visit:

https://eupha.org/European_Public_Health_WEEK_2019



CALLS FOR ASPHER MEMBERS

THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH (TIPH) European Campaign



ASPHER is launching a new This is Public Health-Europe campaign challenge to communicate the message of the importance of public health. The overall objective is to enhance the visibility of public health and opportunities for careers in public health careers for the benefit of our populations. Such an effort should also increase the level of interest among potential students to pursue public health education/training to reinforce the current public health workforce.



ASPHER is sounding the rallying cry to build awareness by launching a locally-driven campaigns during the 2019-2020 academic year. We're challenging students, faculty and administrators at schools of public health around Europe to develop communications campaigns that help raise awareness about public health and how it affects our lives – and winners of the proposal process will receive small grants to execute their ideas.

Four universities reflecting the geographic distribution of the European region will be selected to develop and execute a grassroots campaign to raise awareness of public health in your community between September 1, 2019 and May 1, 2020.

The campaign is being made possible through a partnership and support from the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH): www.aspph.org.

For information or questions, contact Robert Otok at robert.otok@aspher.org

ECDC-ASPHER Webinar Series 2019-2020

CALL FOR EXPERT PRESENTERS: apply by 30 September

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and ASPHER are launching a joint webinar series to address innovative, prevention and control strategies in the area of communicable diseases.

We are putting out a second [call for expert presenters](#) to be part of the series. If you would like to participate, please send a title, short description and related publication to the ECDC Virtual Academy before September 30th 2019. Submit your webinar topic proposal by filling out the application [here](#). Please share this announcements with any of your colleagues that might be interested. This Webinar series will be announced in the ECDC webpage.

This series of webinars will address a number of topics in a logical sequence covering innovative, prevention and control strategies in the area of communicable diseases in particular in the areas of risk assessment, public health surveillance outbreak investigation and risk communication.

Aim: Reach all professionals spread across the EU territory interested in scientific fields related to infectious diseases prevention and control with Inspiring and innovative methods and strategies.

Format: Publicly open webinars with 30 min presentation + 30 min question session facilitated by the ECDC public health training section.

The Webinar series starts end of October 2019 and runs every two weeks until March 2020.

Benefits for participants:

1. Become aware of the scientific state-of-the-art methods and strategies
2. Update existing knowledge
3. Expand the professional network

Public Health Reviews – Join the Editorial Board

As ASPHER's Society Journal, *Public Health Reviews* is looking for ways to best serve the ASPHER community. We are looking for candidates from member schools who would like to join the Journal's Editorial Board and participate as Associate Editors. Help shape the direction of the journal to meet the needs of the ASPHER community and the field of Public Health in Europe.

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.

Look forward to more exciting developments in our next newsletter as we work to restructure the Editorial Board.

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

Updating the ASPHER Website and School Profiles

We are continually 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. We will be updating member competency profiles with this information as well your answers to the [Core Competences Survey](#), see below.

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!

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ASPHER Surveys

ASPHER survey mapping profiles of major PH core competences in European schools and departments of public health

We would like to remind you of ASPHER's short survey, to map profiles of major PH core competencies in European schools and departments of public health.

The survey aims to provide a systematised overview in terms of main categories of public health core competencies, focusing on strengths and arranged according to:

1. ASPHER's European List of Core Competencies for the Public Health Professional, and:
2. WHO Europe's list of Essential Public Health Operations (EPHOs).

The survey should take only 5-7 minutes to complete. Your feedback is essential to update the ASPHER website and other Association operations. We would appreciate it very much if you could take a few minutes of your time to contribute your answers to the [survey](#).

ASPHER Ethics in Public Health Education and Training Survey

Public health ethics is a core public health competency and there is growing recognition of its importance in decision making, policy and practice.

ASPHER, in collaboration with other colleagues, is carrying out a brief survey of the Schools of Public Health and other bodies involved with education and training in public health ethics in Europe to better understand current activities, views and perspectives on the issue. This understanding will assist in considering options for further development of education and training in public health ethics.

We should be grateful if you could assist in completing the following online questionnaire through the link below. This will take no more than ten minutes to complete. If possible the questionnaire should be completed by a designated lead on the issue, programme director, or other suitable members of your faculty.

The survey can be accessed via your computer, tablet or mobile phone at:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ASPHER_ETHICS

If you require any further information or clarification please contact Dr Frances Butcher at frances.butcher@oxsph.org.

Public Health Education and Social Accountability Study

ASPHER would like to invite you to collaborate in a study entitled: "Public Health Education and Social Accountability in Europe"

Public Health education and training has the ability to provide the enabling environment for socially oriented public health professionals who are highly involved in activities that benefit the community. This study would try to measure the correlation between public health education and training and the direct impact of public health professionals on their respective communities and health inequalities in the European region.

If you are interested in taking part in this study, what is required of you is to appoint a contact person to coordinate the research at your institution, who will be responsible for sending the link to the questionnaire for the research population.

Several schools have already expressed their interest, but if your school would like to participate in the pilot, please contact Robert Otok as soon as possible. The survey will be distributed more widely in the autumn.

For more information, see the announcement [here](#). For questions or comments regarding the study contact:

Nadav Davidovitch, Head SPH, Ben Gurion University, Israel. Email: nadavd@bgu.ac.il;

Keren Dopelt, SPH, Ben Gurion University, Israel. Email: dopelt@bgu.ac.il;

Robert Otok, ASPHER. Email: robert.otok@aspheer.org

The InfAct Health Information Capacity Survey

CALL TO PARTICIPATE:

The InfAct - Joint Action on Health Information project is collecting information based on the opinion of Public Health experts aimed at characterizing existing capacities and training needs for the use and management of health information by public health professionals in EU Member States and associated countries.

The survey aims at characterizing existing capacities and training needs for the use and management of health information by public health professionals in EU Member States and associated countries. Considering the objective of the survey and the need to gather elements for the creation of a flagship training program in health information, a qualitative, exploratory and expert opinion based approach is proposed.

InfAct has designed a special version of the Survey intended for ASPHER Members and is calling for participants. They ask that each participating Institution should designate a focal point responsible for gathering the information and completing the survey.

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

If your institution is interested in participating, please mail Lore Leighton: lore.leighton@aspher.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 5th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health



The 5th International Conference on Law Enforcement & Public Health, [LEPH2019](#), will be held from 21-23 October 2019 in Edinburgh, Scotland under the overarching theme of Collaborative Leadership.

These international Conferences bring together police, prosecutors and other law enforcement personnel, public health researchers and practitioners working on the widest range of issues, and local government representatives; they marry the latest research with innovative and collaborative practice, at operational, managerial and policy levels. Amongst other topics, one of this year's major themes is Law Enforcement and Public Health education, Including LEPH PhDs.

ASPHER's President, John Middleton will be delivering the EUPHA sponsored lecture on public health and law enforcement entitled, "If public health problems are multidisciplinary - why do we train for them separately?" He is keen to hear from Schools of public health in the European Region who have been active in joint training initiatives and education on these issues so he can use these as examples of good practice in his presentation. If you would like your work to be highlighted please contact John at: president@aspher.org.

12th European Public Health Conference and Young Researchers' Forum, Marseille

This year's EPH Conference will be held in Marseille, France from 20-23 November 2019. The theme is "Building Bridges for Solidarity and Public Health". The conference is to be held in collaboration with the International Digital Public Health (DPH) Conference Series.

The full parallel programme of workshops, oral, pitch and poster presentations is online. The track of the DPH Conference will be published after the summer. For more information see the conference [website](#).

12 Annual Young Researchers' Forum

The annual Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) will be held on Wednesday 20 November. The YRF event for 2019 is a merge of the YRF day traditionally organised by [ASPHER](#) in partnership with [EUPHA](#) as part of the EPH conference and University College London (UCL) Digital Public Health PhD Track day, previously held as part of the DPH conference, bringing together audiences from digital health and applied public health.

Abstract submissions for YRF are already closed, but we encourage everyone to come attend the event to meet and support the next generation of public health and digital public health professionals.

For more information visit the YRF [webpage](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM ASPHER MEMBERS

SSPH+ Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management

Course seats available 26-31 August

At the [Lugano Summer School](#), public health professionals, researchers and graduate students learn together through mutual exchange in a stimulating and beautiful environment. The Lugano Summer School places health, disease, and health systems thinking under one common framework of coherent concepts and practical implications. The focus on public health policy, economics and management combined with the diversity

of students and facilitators has provided for a rich learning environment for over two decades so far. The education obtained and networks created serve as an opportunity to reduce and prevent the gap between public health theory and practice.

SSPH+ Lugano Summer School in Public Health Policy, Economics and Management still has a few seats available for their courses from 26-31 August:

Design, assessment, and implementation of policy, plans, and interventions for mental health ([course flyer](#)): students acquire competences for mental health policy and interventions with Emiliano Albanese, University of Geneva, School of Medicine (CH) and Benedetto Saraceno, Director, Lisbon Institute of Global Mental Health, NOVA University, Lisbon (PT)

Better Health Faster: Better Using the Law in Public Health ([course flyer](#)): Learn how to better utilize the law in Public Health! An international faculty (Switzerland, Colombia, USA, Cameroon) will provide an interactive approach to the latest knowledge in public health law research and its application.

For more information see: <https://www.aspher.org/events,138.html> or <http://www.ssph-lugano-summer-school.ch/>
Contact: info@ssph-lugano-summer-school.ch

News from UMIT – University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology, Austria

The Department of Public Health, Health Research Services and Health Technology Assessment at UMIT – University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology, Hall i. T., Austria shares their news:

New MPH degree program

UMIT would like to announce, their new Master of Public Health (MPH).¹ Students will receive a multidisciplinary modern qualification in Public Health according to ASPHER criteria. The MPH program conveys practice-oriented competences in current qualitative and quantitative methods of health research.

Apply now! Application deadline: September 2019.

For more information see: www.umat.at/mph

10th Anniversary of the HTADS Continuing Education Program – Special Deals

UMIT is celebrating the 10th anniversary of their **International University Continuing Education Program** at the Center of Excellence in Health Technology Assessment & Decision Science (HTADS) of the Public Health Department at UMIT. They are always

¹ subject to the accreditation of the AQ Austria

developing new courses on current topics in public health and population decision science and are currently offering special anniversary deals.

See the full announcement at: <https://www.aspher.org/events,137.html>.

For more information on the courses or the HTADS Program, please contact the HTADS team via htads@umit.at or +43 (0)50 8648 3901 or visit the website: www.umit.at/htads.

New University Professor: Dr. Daniela Schmid

UMIT welcomes the new University Professor: Dr. Daniela Schmid, who was appointed Full Professor and Head of the Division for Quantitative Methods in Public Health and Health Services Research at the Institute of Public Health, Medical Decision Making and Health Technology Assessment (Dept. Chair Prof. Dr. Uwe Siebert), effective June 1, 2019.

Her research interest is in the development and application of statistical modelling for epidemiological and clinical questions, and the development of targeted risk reduction programs for chronic disease prevention. Schmid earned a M.Sc. in Epidemiology from Ludwig Maximilian University Munich, a Ph.D. in Nutrition from Technical University of Munich, and a habilitation in Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (qualification as a university lecturer) from University of Regensburg. Schmid is the Academic Course Coordinator of the new Master's Program in Public Health (MPH) at UMIT¹ with a focus on quantitative methods, clinical epidemiology, and medical decision analysis headed by Prof. Dr. Uwe Siebert which starts in October, 2019 (<https://www.umit.at>).

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ASPHER PARTNERS AND BEYOND

IV International Summer Course on Public Mental Health: "research in public mental health and resilience"

The summer course on public mental health is taking place 7-11 October 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania during the [1st Public Mental Health Conference](#), where EUPHA is co-organiser.

The objective of this course is to develop research competences in public mental health and resilience that will enable elaborating a research idea and preparing a research paper.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding on resilience in mental health;

Research skills in resilience and adversities;

Skills to write and publish a scientific paper.

For more information, see: <https://pmhconference.eu/school> and register at: <https://pmhconference.eu/school/registration>

Workshop on “Social media for Public Health professionals”

EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) is organising a two-day workshop on “Social media for Public Health professionals” for the weekend of 31 August - 1 September at the National Institute of Public Health in Prague, Czech Republic.

Social media has become a primary communication tool globally and within communities. It can be both a source of information, for example for infectious diseases surveillance, or a tool for Public Health authorities to communicate quickly with the public, e.g. to relay public health messages during unusual events/outbreaks. Currently there are different social media platforms however their singularities and functionalities are not always well known to epidemiologists and public health microbiologists.

For more information and the provisional programme, see:

<https://epietalumni.net/activities/ean-workshops/social-media-for-public-health-professionals/>

16th World Congress on Public Health 2020 - Registration open

Public health for the future of humanity: analysis, advocacy and action

Low Cost Registration is open until 30 November 2019 for the 16th World Congress on Public Health to be held in Rome from 12-17 October 2020.

The theme of the Congress, Public Health for the Future of Humanity: Analysis, Advocacy, and Action, reflects our firm commitment that we, in the global public health community, have an obligation to respond to these new circumstances. We must make visible the threats to health, some of which are already emerging. We must challenge and hold to account those with the power to make a difference. And we must act, making real our commitment to health in all policies.

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), Italian Society of Hygiene, Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI) and the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) are pleased to invite you to the 16th World Congress on Public Health. Co-chairs of the Congress are Walter Ricciardi and Carlo Signorelli.

For more information see: <https://wcp2020.com/>



European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE)

Early bird registration is available until 30 August for ECDC's ESCAIDE Conference to be held in Stockholm from 27-29 November.

Join a global discourse on infectious disease prevention and control; listen to renowned speakers, learn about best practices, explore innovations, present your research and network!

For more information see: <https://www.escaide.eu/en>

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](#).

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

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