

July 2020 ASPHER Newsletter



Photo: King Leopold II, African Museum, Tervuren, Belgium. Photo credit: Robert Otok

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Many European countries are enjoying a tentative truce with COVID-19. I hear in Vienna cultural life is returning. The audiences are socially spaced, but the orchestras can't – no problem, we'll just test them before each performance. A standard not yet afforded to British nursing homes. Countries which acted swiftly and decisively, lockdown, tracked and traced, quarantined the sick, put on public face masks can enjoy their respite. I am taking the unusual step of presenting a separate [personal blog piece about the United Kingdom experience](#). [Look on our works, ye Mighty, and despair!](#)

But for all of us, our time for regrouping, recovery, relaxation is short. [New cases of the coronavirus rose in Europe last week](#), for the first time in months. There were notable increases in cases in Sweden, Armenia, Republic of Moldova, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Kosovo. There have also been outbreaks in Poland, Germany, Spain and Israel in schools, coal mines and food production settings. Germany saw new daily cases rise from around 300 to over 600 last week, after an outbreak in a slaughterhouse. In response, [the Guetersloh area](#) reimposed lockdown conditions. Hans Kluge, Director General of the World Health Organisation in Europe exhorts our governments to use this period for [preparation, not celebration](#). Indeed we must plan for the worst, while hoping for the best. There has been a narrow nationalism in our approaches to this pandemic – we [have to reach out internationally](#). The human social and economic catastrophe is still unfolding. We must recognise that the pandemic is expanding [in the Americas and Africa particularly](#). According to Chris Murray of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, there will be [a second wave from September](#) in northern hemisphere countries. This is based on the statistical significance observed between pneumonia admissions, seasonality and COVID-19 deaths, along with increasing population mobility through the summer.

The ASPHER COVID-19 task force will shortly be publishing a statement on what we believe our schools and governments should be planning for this winter. There is a perfect storm awaiting – [second wave COVID-19](#) on the back of colder temperatures and crowding indoors, a flu season we should expect to be more severe, a pandemic of backlog untreated or poorly controlled mental and physical illness and new lockdown induced illness and economic collapse especially severe for creative industries, tourism and everyone affected by a crash-out Brexit. Oh, and layer on crop failure and food shortages and civil unrest. The UK pandemic response has been a [catalogue of error, incompetence and negligence](#). ASPHER task force member Ralf Reintjes elegantly highlights the difference in [track and trace between Germany and UK](#). There have been wilful failures to take up EU offers to share and partner on everything from [ventilators](#) to [vaccines](#). The biggest threat to public health though is the impending economic catastrophe, with the UK government committed, by accident or design, [to a crash out Brexit](#). This will be catastrophically damaging to Britain and a threat to prosperity and health for most EU countries and beyond.

The ASPHER COVID-19 task force is also about to embark on a [survey of our member schools about what your plans are for the autumn semester](#) – will you be returning,

physically distanced? Will you be maintaining your new found online lecturing? Or converting to more online? Please answer this survey. It will be short, and it will have a short turn around – please help us to help you.

Our members and we in ASPHER are massively over-committed on the COVID-19 front. However, it is vital that we create breathing space to focus on our own vision for the future. ASPHER is still consulting on our strategy for 2020-2025. This will finally be agreed at the General Assembly in September. Three major elements are how we as schools address climate breakdown, inequality, discrimination and all forms of racism, and how we behave in our communities as corporate citizens. All of these are being discussed this week in our strategy consultation – with presentations from Maastricht, Bielefeld and Beersheba. A cross cutting theme of the strategy will be our commitment to involving young professionals. I am particularly grateful to Naomi Nathan, Ranjeet Dhonkal and Rana Orhan for their tireless work on our behalf.

Since my last blog, the BLACKLIVESMATTER campaign has exploded. ASPHER's commitment to anti-racism was always going to be part of our new strategy, but we have brought forward our statement, and this will be published in the International Journal of Public Health and on the ASPHER site, where you will be able to add your signatures. We believe anti-racism is not just about what we teach students- it is about our behaviours as schools, in our recruitment of staff and students, in our recognition and celebration of ethnic diversity and recognition of black scholarship. As someone said to me in the most excellent Andrija Stampar School conference [‘Better Future for Healthy Ageing’](#) earlier this month, ‘the UK is racially rich’. That is absolutely how we should see diversity – a richness, an asset, our cultural wealth.

Enjoy your summer,

Professor John Middleton
President, ASPHER

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MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

ASPHER Secretariat was very pleased with our [2 June Deans' & Directors' Virtual Retreat event](#). We experienced a few small technical issues, but overall it ran very smoothly. We were thrilled to be able to reach so many of you through this online event and expect to increase our online presence for future in-person Retreats. Most of all we would like to thank all our participants and contributors who made the afternoon such an engaging experience! The 2020 Virtual Retreat continues this week with the Members only [ASPHER 2025 Strategy consultation meeting](#) this Thursday 2 July from 13:00-15:00 CEST (Brussels time). See the meeting agenda below. Members should have received an email with Zoom meeting login information. If you missed that email, please contact Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org.

We will also be coming back after the summer break on Thursday 10 September for the 2020 [ASPHER General Assembly](#). Make sure to save the date and check the [Retreat webpage](#) for further updates. With the expectation that the ASPHER 2025 Strategy will be adopted in September, ASPHER is taking part in and consulting with the [WHO Europe's proposed European Programme of Work](#) in order to look for and create synergy with our future directions.

We are pleased to bring you the two programme highlights in this newsletter. The [EHESP School of Public Health and their mobilisation efforts to combat COVID-19](#) and [TIPH Europe Campaign highlights from Israeli Schools!](#) Congratulations to these Member Schools and all our Members on your hard work!

The Secretariat has also been very excited by the activation of ASPHER's in recent weeks. We are especially proud of the young professionals who have stepped up and contributed! It is an inspiration to us and very promising for the 2025 agenda.

Keep the momentum going! Thank you to all and please enjoy the July newsletter.

Very best wishes and good health,

Robert Otok, Lore Leighton, Naomi Nathan
ASPHER Secretariat

Please don't forget to share your news with lore.leighton@aspher.org to be included in the next regular issue of the Newsletter or on the ASPHER website activity log. **We are planning to start publishing more regular monthly newsletter reports which will better ensure timely release of your announcements to the ASPHER Membership!** 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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ASPHER 2020 DEANS' & DIRECTORS' VIRTUAL RETREAT

Reporting from 2 June Virtual Retreat event

ASPHER was very pleased with the 2 June Virtual Retreat Event and we hope you enjoyed the programme! Conditions which forced us to go online this year had the unexpected benefit of allowing us to reach a much wider audience than would be usual and we will take the lesson forward on planning for future in person events that can also benefit from online engagement. If you missed out on the live stream on 2 June, you can still [watch the recording version](#).

ASPHER 2025 Strategy consultation meeting 2 July, 13:00-15:00 CEST

The 2020 Retreat is not over yet and we are looking forward to hearing from the Membership on 2 July for the 2025 ASPHER Strategy Meeting from 13:00-15:00 CEST (Brussels time). This will be a participatory meeting for Members only. You should have received an invitation to register for the Zoom conference, if not please contact Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org for login and password instructions.

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and introduction by John Middleton, ASPHER President

ASPHER 2025: Vision and Values - with interventions from the School of Public Health, University of Bielefeld and the School of Public Health, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

ASPHER 2025: Strategy Outline - including core mission and enabling areas, with corresponding strategic objectives, activities and outputs, and the proposed timeline.

ASPHER 2025: Next generation: students and alumni - by young professionals

ASPHER 2025: Membership policy - including the proposed fee scheme and membership benefits and services offer.

Closing and the next steps

ASPHER 2020 General Assembly

We will hold the ASPHER General Assembly online on Thursday 10 September 2020. Please note this meeting date in your agenda!

Always check back to the [ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat webpage](#) for the most up to date information.

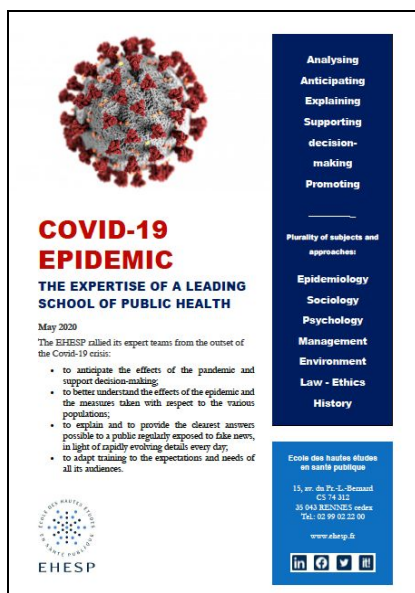
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COVID-19 NEWS

ASPHER COVID-19 Initiatives from our Members and Partners

Each month over the coming months, ASPHER will be featuring a more in depth look at COVID-19 actions taken by select Member Schools. This month we hear from the EHESP School of Public Health, Rennes. If your school has an interesting initiative related to COVID-19 let Lore know at lore.leighton@aspheer.org.

Ecole des Hautes 'Études en Santé Publique: Mobilisation of the EHESP School of Public Health to combat COVID-19



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, the EHESP School of Public Health, its students and its faculty have taken part in the national and international effort to fight the epidemic by mobilizing its teams and fields of expertise in public health.

“We invested a lot to be able to carry on “as before”. It is not necessarily a heroic act. It is essential behind the scenes work. Society was kept afloat by the commitment of each and every person, there where they were. The duty of students volunteering for establishments was also to train, and most did so while putting in a lot of effort. I have never had so many attendees in online classes. This commitment to ensure training reached the same level as for previous years should be highlighted. I heard them talking about how they were worried their year would be considered less qualitative.

They did everything in their power to ensure this wasn't the case.” (Professor at EHESP)

EHESP produced a bulletin (available in [French](#) and [English](#)) summarising the actions and research work carried out to testify to the mobilisation of the EHESP School of Public Health.

The analyses produced by experts and researchers in multiple fields (epidemiology, sociology, psychology, management, environment, health economics, law, ethics or history) have notably enabled us to:

- increase and disseminate knowledge on the impact of the health crisis on the health system and populations,
- provide management support to public decision-makers,
- participate in the fight against misinformation.

During this period, EHESP's support to its partners, particularly in Europe and Africa, confirmed its integration into an international public health network.

The adaptation of its distance learning courses combined with the production of educational content dedicated to health professionals has also given the School the opportunity to develop its pedagogical expertise while exploring new ways of working.

This [bulletin](#) is also an opportunity to show the singularity, role and need of a School of Public Health through the scope of its research and teaching fields.

ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force

ASPHER has convened a [COVID-19 Task Force](#) to facilitate relevant networking necessary to respond to the pandemic emergency. The task force holds biweekly meetings and is working to identify priority areas related to the COVID-19 emergency and aftermath where ASPHER and Schools of Public Health may play a role. If you or a colleague from your school would like to get involved please contact Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org.

Inequalities and Vulnerable Populations

[Ethical and Professional Guidance for Public Health Academics and Professionals - Discussion paper](#). *How should we evaluate Country-level Rapid Reviews of Pandemic Impacts on Health Inequalities and Vulnerable population groups?*

We are encouraging all ASPHER's affiliated Schools of Public Health to consider the Guidance and to continue to offer expert advice, and support investigations and research into COVID-19 related health inequalities and impacts on vulnerable populations.

We have written to European public health agencies to promote comprehensive country-level rapid reviews during the summer of 2020.

ASPHER would like each affiliated School of Public Health in Europe to **nominate a key contact for the summer of 2020** who would feedback on their School's activities, expert perspectives and any engagement with regional or national governments in regard to health inequalities and vulnerable populations.

We would also like your feedback on the Guidance discussion paper by the end of July 2020. Please email this to Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org.

Attention! Survey on Reopening of Schools

The ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force subgroup on Schools Reopening, led by Ralf Reintjes of Hamburg HAW, will be reporting on the reopening plans and procedures of our Member Schools. As Schools and Programmes of Public Health, ASPHER Members can offer critical insight and guidance from their own plans and understanding of the epidemic to all Universities and Institutions of Higher Education.

Time is of the essence for this reporting and the Schools Reopening subgroup will be launching a survey for ASPHER Membership in the coming days. We know that many schools will be shutting or reducing activity soon for the summer break, but we ask that you please keep an eye out for our notice to you when the survey is ready and to please respond with the shortest delay possible.

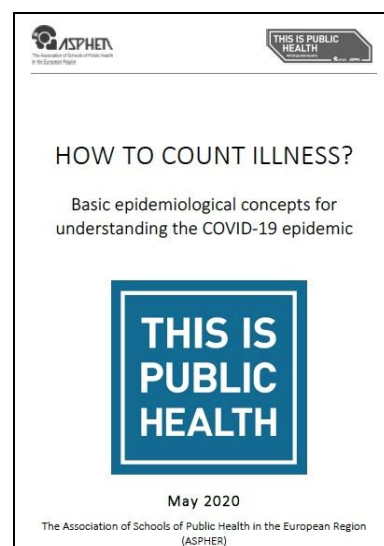
Call from the Contact Tracing and Surveillance Apps subgroup

The Contact Tracing and Surveillance App subgroup of the ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force is compiling information on Contact Tracing and Disease Surveillance Applications in use in countries across 53 countries of the European Region. They are calling on all ASPHER Members to validate what is in use in your home countries. [Please check their table](#) and let Henrique Barros at henrique.barros@ispup.up.pt know if the information for your country is correct and complete.

Handbook of Basic Epidemiological Concepts

How to Count Illness: Basic epidemiological concepts for understanding the COVID-19 epidemic is a useful handbook of epidemiological terms aimed at giving journalists and the general public a better understanding of what we mean when public health talks about COVID-19.

Translations to several languages are currently underway and will be posted in the coming days. [Download the English version now](#) and check back over the next days for translations.



Mask use by Children - new translations!

The ASPHER Statement on the Use of Masks by Children issued from ASPHER, the [European Academy of Paediatrics](#) and the [Institute of Health Sciences, Catholic University Portugal](#) provides recommendations on masks use by age group and comes with a useful infographic.

The Statement has now been translated into French, German, Portuguese and Spanish! [Download the original English version and the translations here.](#)

COVID-19 Testing in Politico

ASPHER President, John Middleton was interviewed by Politico for an article, [The 'hard slog' of waiting for a coronavirus vaccine](#). Politico reached out to ASPHER after publication of the [ASPHER Statement and Technical Report on COVID-19 testing](#). John contributed to the section on Mass Testing, telling Politico that “politicians have seen it as a beauty contest

– how many tests are done – without a proper understanding about the results”, but he added that “the good news is that the technology is improving, and better, more rapid tests are coming along”.

Kompetenznetz Public Health COVID-19

ASPHER is an International Partner in the [Kompetenznetz Public Health COVID-19](#). This German language Competence Network on COVID-19 is an ad hoc consortium of more than 25 scientific societies and organisations that are active in the field of public health. They bring together their expertise in research methods, epidemiology, statistics, social sciences, demography, and medicine. The Kompetenznetz represents several thousand scientists from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

The goal of the Network is to provide interdisciplinary expertise on COVID-19 for the current discussion and for decision making in a quick and flexible manner. The site compiles and processes scientific evidence and disseminates it in a way that is easy to understand. Depending on the topic and audience, different formats are used such as statements, papers, or method summaries. The information provided is primarily aimed at government agencies, institutions, and political decision makers.

ThePandemicon: crowd-sourcing translations of public health guidance for minority-ethnic residents

An increasingly common problem for national health authorities in Europe is that some of the residents they serve may not have the language skills necessary to fully comprehend important health advice communicated to them. Furthermore, in many European countries, many minority-ethnic residents have lower-than-average levels of education, increasing the chances that they will not be reached with information that is communicated in written form, or which uses language that is overly technical or 'bureaucratic'. Finally, a generational gap exists in media consumption which has only widened with the advent of mobile-only platforms such as TikTok and Snapchat and mobile-first platforms such as Instagram. However, few if any national health authorities have developed anything like a comprehensive communications campaign in multiple languages and delivered on multiple platforms and media with the specific aims of reaching minority-ethnic residents.

As an attempt to overcome these issues, ThePandemicon is building a crowd-sourced, video-based site with content related to everyday behaviour during the Covid-19 epidemic. The video format allows for transmitting non-written information translated into several languages, and is shareable on various social media platforms, increasing the chance that harder-to-reach residents will actually encounter the message, hopefully increasing the chance of ultimately changing behaviour.

Based on the initial availability of volunteers, a pilot was launched which included videos in Turkish, Ukrainian, and English. The project termed "ThePandemicon", a portmanteau of pandemic and lexicon is available in its early prelaunch pilot format at www.thepandemicon.com.

If you wish to have more information or to be involved with ThePandemicon, please contact Anders Foldspang at anders.foldspang@gmail.com.

UCL-Lancet Lecture 2020: Global Health Preparedness in the Face of Emerging Epidemics

Monday, 13 July: 15:00-18:00 BST

Jointly hosted by UCL Grand Challenges, UCL Institute for Global Health, and *The Lancet*, this online lecture will present key emerging lessons on global health preparedness as the world faces the COVID-19 pandemic, and implications for the future of global health. The Keynote Lecture will be delivered by Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate: Global Director, Health, Nutrition and Population Global Practice of the World Bank and the Director of Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents, based in Washington DC.



[Be sure to register here.](#)

New SchARR Webinar Series on Health Research



**The
University
Of
Sheffield.**

The SchARR Mini Master Class in Health Research series began on June 25th with Dr Julie Balen and a talk titled; Change and continuity in the global health system. Monthly lectures will continue with experts based in The School of Health and Related Research

This entry-level masterclass will explore and uncover aspects of global health through an interdisciplinary and reflective lens. Taking a broad and inclusive view, we will highlight key issues in global health in the pre-pandemic phase and, together, examine how COVID-19 impacts upon local, national, regional and global level priorities in health. While the full scale of the still unfolding pandemic remains unknown, discussions will centre around major direct and indirect effects of the virus as well as the intended and unintended consequences of various control measures employed across different settings throughout the world. Is coronavirus a "tipping point" in global health and, if so, how can we make it an opportunity to build a better, more inclusive, equitable and adaptive system?

[Learn more here.](#)

MCI: EU-HEM COVID-19 Lessons Learned Webinar Series

An open online lecture series jointly organized by the EU-HEM consortium representing the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Bologna, the University of Oslo, and MCI the Entrepreneurial School.



After having focused on crisis management in most European countries we are now entering a second phase of the pandemic without permanent lockdowns, with increased mobility in and between countries and with new national, European and global public health approaches. While we are re-opening our social life we have started this COVID-19 lecture series to reflect on selected lessons we have learned and probably will have to learn.

[Please find links to all the recorded webinar videos here.](#)

UNESCO Global Health & Education Webinar Series: Health promotion responses to the COVID-19 pandemic

On 22 June, UNESCO Chair Global Health and Education hosted a webinar on *Health promotion responses to the COVID-19 pandemic* with speaker, Stephan Van den Broucke, Vice-Dean of the Catholic University of Leuven and Vice-President for Scientific Affairs of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE).

The purpose of the webinar was to highlight the contribution of health promotion to the COVID-19 pandemic by answering the following three questions: (1) What can health promotion contribute in terms of management of the pandemic?; (2) Fake news, understanding complex issues, health knowledge: how to develop the capacity of each individual to take charge of their own health?; (3) There will probably be several waves of COVID-19 outbreaks or other pandemics. What are the health promotion recommendations for a sustainable response to the pandemic and for the future?

[Videos and other materials from the webinar are available here.](#)

Find the full list of webinars from the UNESCO Global Health & Education Series and where to find out about upcoming webinars [here](#).

ASPHER COVID-19 Resource Webpage

ASPHER continues to maintain a [COVID-19 Resource Webpage](#) with links to Members' initiatives, relevant sources for COVID-19 information, and COVID-19 and Infectious Disease online training material.

Please let us know how your school is responding so we can link to your initiatives and materials (both in English and local languages). By sharing our Members' activities, we hope to help spread Best Practices and promote collaboration between Schools and countries.

Please also send any relevant links for information or training materials in your country or elsewhere so we may make the resources as comprehensive as possible.

Contact Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org with any relevant material or links.

Calls for your blogs and videos: ASPHER calls on Members to share their COVID-19 experiences

ASPHER would like to showcase our Members' COVID-19 work, experiences and reflections with a series of videos. We would like to have short, informal videos that can be from anyone at your school - directors, faculty, student or alumni. We're not looking for professional quality videos, just what you may film with your mobile phone or other electronic devices.

All videos will be posted at aspher.org and disseminated widely with the TIPH Brand so we can showcase involvement of SPHs to combat and COVID-19 and its related effects. Please contact Robert at: robert.otok@aspher.org, if interested.

Another way our Members are sharing their COVID-19 activities is through the ASPHER Blog. The ASPHER blog is a terrific forum to quickly publish and share accounts of your activities, best practices and opinions or highlight new publications. Members may publish posts through their accounts or contact Lore at lore.leighton@aspher.org with your material.

Calling on ASPHER Members - Looking forward: What happens next?

ASPHER believes Schools of Public Health will have a critical role to play in the aftermath of the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. From contributing to the dialog on how to best and most safely emerge from current lockdowns, to training the current and next generation of public health professionals on how to respond to the next disease outbreak, to synthesizing and understanding the vast amount of data currently being generated for various sources, to contributing to a more health literate public. We are currently working on a position paper or statement to address how we see the way forward.

ASPHER would also like to have your input on key questions:

- How is the wider public health workforce in your countries - including SPHs graduates and students - involved in responding to the current pandemic?
- How are their role and efforts recognized and possibly incentivized?

- Do you think the current situation provides an opportunity for strengthening the position of schools and training of public health and higher recognition of the public health workforce? Perhaps this is already taking place? If so, give examples.

Please send your replies and relevant reflections to Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org.

Selected Publications

Devakumar D, Selvarajah S, Shannon H, *et al.* Racism, the public health crisis we can no longer ignore. *Lancet* 2020;395(10242): e112–e113.

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)31371-4](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)31371-4).

Larsson N, Mangonge G, Kujawski W, Delcourt H, Leighton L, *et al.* Pandemics and the Built Environment. Technical Report. iiSBE 2020.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.24866.04808>.

Lopes H, McKay V. Adult learning and education as a tool to contain pandemics: The COVID-19 experience. *Int Rev Educ* 2020.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11159-020-09843-0>.

Reintjes R. Lessons in contact tracing from Germany. *BMJ* 2020;369:m2522.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m2522>.

THIS IS PUBLIC HEALTH (TIPH) EUROPE CAMPAIGN



Each month for the ASPHER newsletter we will be featuring one of the This is Public Health (TIPH) European Campaign winners. We hope these features will be an inspiration to all our Members to draw upon for how your schools can make use of the TIPH Campaign and contribute to the recognition and visibility to public health and the work of SPHs. This month’s featured campaign we are bringing to you comes from Israel.

Israel’s “This Is Public Health” Campaign: “Making Public Health the Students’ Choice”

By Dr. Yael Bar-Zeev, Coordinator of TIPH Campaign, Israel

“Making Public Health the Students’ Choice” is the focus of the Israeli “This Is Public Health” campaign. The campaign, led by Hebrew University’s Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine, is a nation-wide collaboration between public health schools and programs at five universities and colleges - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev,

Tel-Aviv University, Haifa University, Ashkelon Academic College, and the Israeli Medical Association of Public Health Physicians.



The Israeli TIPH campaign aims to increase the numbers of students applying to study in a public health program - mainly BA and MPH, and to increase interest among medical doctors to undertake a residency in Public Health. The campaign also seeks to strengthen current collaborations between schools of public health (SPH) in Israel, and strengthen the public health workforce in the country and the region.

Our activities focused on creating a social media campaign, primarily through Facebook and Instagram, which are the leading social media platforms in Israel. To generate engagement and interest, we created a series of videos featuring students from different schools and professional backgrounds and public health practitioners, researchers and lecturers. Students shared their reasons for choosing to study public health, what attracted them to the field, and what they gained from their public health education and training. Public health professionals described what public health means for them, and highlighted successes and challenges over the years. Each video included subtitles in Hebrew, English and Arabic.



The social media TIPH campaign led people to a designated landing website that was created for this project: <https://phi.org.il/>. Those interested in receiving further information about studying public health, were invited to leave their details to be contacted by the relevant partner institution.

In total, 16 different videos were created to date. Ten featured Arab and Jewish students of diverse socio-cultural and professional backgrounds (e.g., nursing, pharmacy, healthcare administration), studying in various degree programs, including BA in Public Health, MPH, and PhD. Two students were medical students who are also completing an MPH and considering a future Public Health residency. Six videos featured public health professionals from the governmental and NGO sectors, professional agencies and

academia. All videos can be viewed (with English subtitles) at this link: <https://phi.org.il/english/>. The campaign included several promoted posts on our [Facebook page](#), [Instagram account](#) and [Twitter account](#).

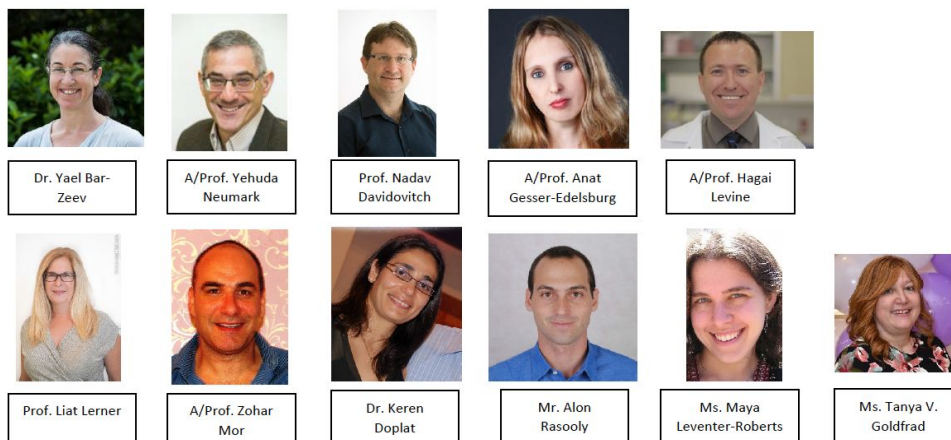
To evaluate the ongoing TIPH campaign, we collected baseline data on the number of MPH applicants and successful applicants in the participating SPH over the previous 3 years; number of BA applicants to the Ashkelon Academic College; and number of applicants for a residency in public health.

Due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, registration for the 2020-2021 academic year has been extended until the end of August 2020. In addition, the campaign's launch, originally scheduled for early March, was postponed to mid-June, due to the ongoing pandemic. We will be tracking overall engagement with the content of the campaign, including number of followers for the social media accounts, number of link clicks, likes, shares and comments, overall and for each post individually, as well as the number of people requesting further information from each School.

One immediate positive outcome of the strengthened collaborations between the TIPH partners was an initiative that produced a series of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic webinars. Topics included:

1. The scientific basis for coping with the SARS-Cov-2 pandemic and other outbreaks: the contribution of Schools of Public Health, and academia [5th March, 2020]
2. Health Promotion during the pandemic: challenges and opportunities [3rd May, 2020]
3. Promoting physical activity during the pandemic, [10th May, 2020]
4. Special populations coping with the pandemic [14th May, 2020]
5. SARS-CoV-2 testing, surveillance and policy [22nd June, 2020]

In addition, the campaign will be highlighted at the Public Health Annual Conference, a collaboration between all of the Schools of Public Health and the Israeli Medical Association of Public Health Physicians, scheduled for the 20th of July, 2020.



Through the Israeli TIPH Campaign, we hope to inspire many future students to make Public Health their professional career choice, and join us in improving health for all!

Make use of the TIPH label for your COVID-19 Actions and beyond!

What and who makes up Public Health is often not well understood by people outside of the field. We at ASPHER believe that the COVID-19 crisis has presented us with a unique moment in time for public health to make itself more visible and show the world what Public Health is really about and how action is taken to protect the health of the population.

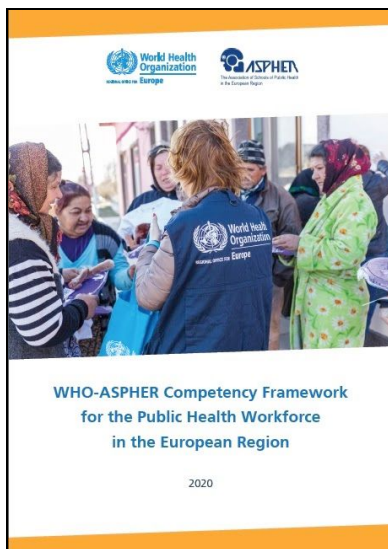
If Public Health is to emerge stronger from this crisis, we must be able to have influence with decision makers, advocate for better funding for education and training, and recruit the best and the brightest of our young people to careers in Public Health. But in order to do so our actions must be recognized!

We therefore encourage our Member Schools to label their COVID-19 actions with the This is Public Health (TIPH) Europe brand.

Official TIPH campaign logos are available [here](#). And don't forget to use the hashtags: #ThisIsPublicHealth, #TIPHEurope, #ASPHERcampaign, #ASPPHgoesglobal

REGULAR ASPHER BUSINESS

Announcing the WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for the Public Health Workforce



Good training is vital in our efforts to educate new generations of public health professionals who will improve and protect the health of the people we serve, and the health of our environment and planet. So, it is essential for us to define the skills and competencies needed for this life saving work. ASPHER is thus immensely proud to announce the publication of the [WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for Public Health Workforce in the European Region](#), which is a result of strong collaboration between ASPHER and the WHO Regional Office for Europe Coalition of Partners to Strengthen Public Health Services in the European Region.

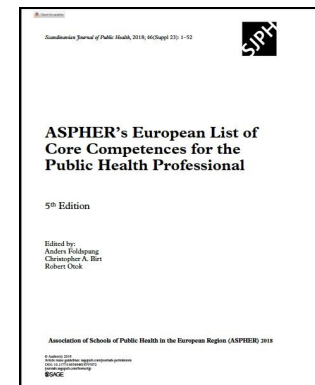
The Framework was developed to meet the need of member states to build public health workforce capacity. The Competency Framework can be usefully applied in numerous

situations such as: developing measures to strengthen education and performance, assessing existing capacity and capability and identifying training requirements, capacity-building, analysis and monitoring, ensuring appropriate numbers, mix and

distribution of staff and skills for public health teams in various contexts and arguing for sustainable investment to support workforce development, planning public health workforce, including recruitment, retention, productivity and skill mix of public health professionals and teams, developing accreditation and credentialing systems, developing job descriptions, interview questions, performance evaluation and quality assurance systems; and in fostering collaboration across disciplinary and organizational boundaries.

The Framework is a crucial document that will inform and guide the teaching, training and research, of all the schools of public health in Europe not just in curriculum, but within the context of the profession as a whole, in the philosophy and values of public health and in codes of conduct. ASPHER is particularly grateful to our Immediate Past President, Professor Kasia Czabanowska for her tireless work on professionalisation and the Competency Framework.

The Framework complements advancements of [ASPHER's European Core Competences List for the Public Health Professional](#), historically led by ASPHER Past President, Professor Anders Foldspang. The List is a useful practical source book providing detailed content for public health teaching and curriculum for our member schools of public health. The two pieces of work are synergistic; both vital for our work in leading high-quality public health training and assuring the values, ethics and development of our profession.



The Framework and the List represent core business of central importance to ASPHER's mission. Both aspects of ASPHER's competencies work will be carried forward over the ASPHER 2025 Strategy period by Executive Board Member, Professor Mary Codd, for which she will truly be standing on the shoulders of giants.

The WHO-ASPHER Competency Framework for Public Health Workforce is a living document and a major resource for schools in Europe and we believe, a reference for public health training globally. We encourage you to use the Framework, share with your professional networks and inform us about your experiences using this tool.

WHO Europe's proposed European Programme of Work



[WHO/Euro has launched an online consultation on its proposed European Programme of Work \(EPW\) entitled "United Action for Better Health"](#). The EPW sets out the future priorities for WHO's Regional Office for Europe building on the mandate that the WHO's Regional Director for Europe received from Member States after his election last year.

The consultation is designed to gather feedback from all actors on how the EPW can be implemented successfully.

Achieving health and well-being is a whole-of-society endeavour, requiring the support of individuals as well as national and local institutions, international partners and the wider community, including civil society, academia, stakeholders and the private sector.

Anyone who would like to contribute to the consultation is encouraged to take part and support WHO/Europe in leaving no one behind while strengthening trust and health leadership. This is increasingly relevant during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Calling on people to take part in the consultation, WHO's Regional Director for Europe, Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, said, "*Your replies will be invaluable in mapping our collective journey in the months and years ahead, delivering health and well-being to the people of Europe*".

ASPHER will be taking part in the consultation to look for and create synergies within the ASPHER 2025 Strategy.

ASPHER Statement on Racism and Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has unmasked structural racial inequalities. ASPHER member schools need to act against racism now.

Racism and discrimination are public health issues, globally and in Europe. They are contributing factors to the COVID-19 crisis. As public health researchers and practitioners, we must be aware of this. We need to take the necessary actions to address racism and discrimination in order to attain health equity.

An ASPHER *Statement on Racism and Health: Racism and discrimination obstruct public health's pursuit of health equity* has been submitted to the [International Journal of Public Health](#) and should be available later this week.

ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award 2020 Nominations

This yearly award, in which all ASPHER members are invited to participate, will showcase the best master programmes and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses offered by members of the Association. Three main characteristics of the programmes and courses will be assessed: impact, internationalisation, and innovation. These characteristics will be assessed by a panel of independent experts. The aim of the award is to promote excellence in public health education and training across Europe by encouraging ASPHER member schools to share their best practices and success stories.

Nominations may also be made for COVID-19 related training programmes.

Click [here](#) for more information and a list of former winners. Send your nominations for the Good Practice Award to Robert at robert.otok@aspher.org by 17 July 2020.

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OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The Global Network for Academic Public Health

On 15 May 2020, ASPHER met with representatives around the World to launch the Global Network for Academic Public Health! Now more than ever it is clear that we must come together globally to address the complex challenges to the health of our populations and planet.



After the Panel Discussion during the [ASPHER Virtual Deans' & Directors' Retreat](#) event on 2 June the Network will be advancing on this global governance initiative with a meeting on 9 July. Participants will include key partners from ASPHER, [Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health \(ASPPH\)](#); [Asia-Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health \(APACPH\)](#); [Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa \(ASPHA\)](#); [Latin American Alliance for Global Health \(ALASAG\)](#); and Arab Public Health Association (ArPHA) .

We'll be sure to report back on developments in the August newsletter!

The EUROPUBHEALTH+ Master programme celebrates the end of the academic year online.

In the context of the COVID-19 sanitary crisis, the students of the European Master in Public Health EUROPUBHEALTH+ are following a 3-week integration module on global health online this year, instead of attending it on the campus of the EHESP School of Public Health (France) as usual. Thanks to various collaborative online tools, the 69 students of 32 nationalities have been able to follow a common programme delivered in English around "border health". They have been working in groups on developing innovative and sustainable public health interventions answering an hypothetical international request for proposals. Their work has been led by an international teaching team of professors and public health experts based in France, the USA, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, the UK and Spain. A clever mix of live sessions, video recordings and discussion forums has allowed all

participants to fully invest themselves in the programme regardless of their time zone and personal life organization during this unprecedented period.

The programme will end with an online Career Fair involving many public health professionals and Alumni from different continents, and an online Graduation Ceremony for 2nd year students on Friday 3rd July 2020.

The [Europubhealth+ Master programme](#) is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree delivered by a consortium of 8 universities and schools of public health in Europe, all members of ASPHER. It has been supported as a Master of Excellence and co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union since 2006. It has now trained more than 350 students from 80 different countries.

CAPHRI Newsletter



In their June Newsletter, Maurice Zeegers, scientific director CAPHRI reminds us that *“Our aim is to foster a diverse and inclusive academic community where staff feels at home. Also in our research, we aim to contribute to the reduction of inequity and to build a healthy society for everyone. We believe that innovations take place when people from different backgrounds, perspectives and capabilities meet and converge (taken from our mission statement). Anti-racism is a struggle that everybody must join.”*

[Read more about ongoing work at CAPHRI in their newsletter here.](#)

Share the ASPHER newsletter!



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
ASPHER Brussels | T: +31 (0) 433 884 398 | S: [aspferskype](#) | E: office@aspher.org
| [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) |