

## Strategic Plan 2016-2020: ASPHER 2020

### Strategic objective 4:

#### **Developing the global dimension of education and training for public health**

##### Leads:

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**Background and rationale:** Since the end of the 1990s, globalization has come into widespread use, facilitated by the social media and growing public awareness of life-threatening problems common to all people, such as global warming, global security, forced migration, and global divides. Data on the Global Burden of Disease points to extreme discrepancies across the world. Infant mortality, malnutrition, and high fertility go hand in hand. Barriers to equitable access as well as financial and cultural barriers are high. Professional brain drain depletes the health systems in developing and transition countries.

In November 2013, ASPHER published its “*Charter on the Global Dimension of Education and Training for Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century in Europe and in the World*” setting up a road map on global leadership covering the following steps: (1) Recognition of the global dimension of education and training for public health; (2) Leadership based on an agreed long-term globally oriented strategy; (3) Strengthening of the public health capacity in the European Region and beyond leading the workforce development towards shaping an education- and training-defined, authorised public health profession in all European countries as well as in other regions of the world; (4) Development of the European schools of public health towards multilateral global coordination and cooperation in multidisciplinary professional networks.

ASPHER emphasizes the global health dimension by (1) publishing a global public health curriculum for master and CPD programmes; (2) developing a think tank focusing on global and regional public health education and training for interventions, and (3) striving to create a strong alumni network. ASPHER coordinates the work to meet the aforementioned objectives through its Section on Education for Global Health with the following being primary contacts: Ulrich Laaser (Bielefeld), Yehuda Neumark (Jerusalem) and Maksut Kulzhanov (Almaty). ASPHER addresses this work in making use to the degree possible of the experience of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), the European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA) and the World Federation of Academic Institutions in Global Health (WFAIGH).

##### Specific objectives under strategic/general objective 4 include:

#### **(4.1.) *Publish a curriculum on Global Public Health at the MPH level and an adapted version for CPD, advocate and implement it as standard for all European schools of public health;***

Only about 25% of schools of public health in Europe have a global public health teaching programme/module (see: *Bjegovic-Mikanovic V et al. Education and training of public health professionals in the European Region: variation and convergence. Int J Public Health 2013; 58/6: 801-810*). In order to support the member schools of public health in promoting the education and training on global public health, a curriculum is to be developed making use of international experience.

Visions following specific objective 4.1:

*(4.1) Develop and test a curriculum on Global Public Health; lead: **Ulrich Laaser**; communication via email and Skype; no financial resources required.*

Activity	Expected results	Deadlines
4.1.1. Development of the curriculum	Module format developed and the first version of the curriculum published in the South Eastern European Journal of Public Health for both MPH and CPD.	06/2015
	Publication of the first review based revision (ongoing since 09/2015).	03/2016
	Online version for CE to be developed for several modules (supported by SPHM, Belgrade)	12/2016
4.1.2. Testing modules of the revised Global Public Health Curriculum	Revised modules tested and improved accordingly at both MPH and CPD level; in cooperation with Robert Buckingham, Maksut Kulzhanov, and all ASPHER members interested.	12/2017
4.1.3. Promoting the use of the Global Public Health Curriculum by all ASPHER members	The Global Public Health Curriculum endorsed and applied by European SPHs for both MPH and CPD in cooperation with ASPHER Secretariat.	12/2018

*(4.2.) Establish a think tank focusing on education, training, and research for evidence-based public health interventions at the global and regional level, within the capacity of the membership network and in partnership;*

The main challenges facing the global community appear to be threefold: (1) to identify and define precisely the threats that are undermining population health and well-being along with opportunities; (2) to develop better global understanding and agreement about suitable strategies; and, (3) while achieving adequate funding is difficult enough, the real problem is implementing effective and sustainable interventions. A pre-condition for success is the qualified education and training of the public health workforce for evidence-based public health interventions at the global and regional level. A think tank approach should provide a first operational step to identify key issues for education and training as well as in research for the improvement of the global public health.

However, the capacity and experience of many schools of public health in Europe, but in particular also in Africa and the Middle East, is limited. Some of them are too small for the autonomous achievement of international standards of teaching and training. Therefore, an advice by senior experts taking form of so called ASPHER ambassadors' site visits would be supportive if not an essential element of enhancement.

Visions following specific objective 4.2:

*4.2 Establish a think tank focusing on education, training, and research for evidence-based public health interventions at the global and regional level, within the capacity of the membership network*

and in partnership; lead: **Ulrich Laaser**; communication via email and Skype; limited financial resources required.

Activity	Expected results	Deadlines
4.2.1. Setting up a think tank on <i>education, training, and research for global and regional public health interventions</i>	Think tank group arranged by Ulrich Laaser together with Robert Buckingham and Antoine Flahault.	12/2016
	Consolidated recommendations developed and agreed by ASPHER membership.	09/2017
4.2.2. ASPHER's ambassador programme	Piloting ASPHER's ambassador programme with ASPHER members in Bulgaria and Poland.	10/2015
	Finalising the guide for ASPHER Ambassadors and the organisational setting of the programme (Honours' Council, QUIDS/APHEA): Ulrich Laaser together with ASPHER Secretariat.	02/2016
	Programme schedule implemented for prioritised ambassador visits until 2020, ambassadors nominated, and required travel costs estimated: Ulrich Laaser together with Robert Buckingham and Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic.	12/2016

**(4.3.) Investigate the options for a Global ASPHER Alumni Association together with support of alumni's mobility.**

Only about 25% of schools of public health in Europe have an alumni programme although almost all have international students (see: *Bjegovic-Mikanovic V et al. Education and training of public health professionals in the European Region: variation and convergence. Int J Public Health 2013; 58/6: 801-810*). In order to secure feedback from graduates and their employers, an alumni network should be established at each school of public health, and with a global focus at the level of ASPHER. The cooperation with other alumni organisations should be investigated.

Visions following specific objective 4.3:

*Develop a Global ASPHER Alumni Association.*

Activity	Expected result	Timeframe
4.3.1. Investigating the options for a Global ASPHER Alumni Association	Consultation with member SPHs on options for an alumni programme.	2016
	Model proposal implemented	2017
4.3.2. Supporting member SPHs in setting up alumni networks	Workshop on Alumni organisation on regular basis in the context of annual deans' and directors' retreat	2018
	European SPHs with alumni networks	2019

