

# 2016 ASPHER General Assembly

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 09:30-15:30

Venue: National School of Public Health, Athens

## MINUTES

*47 full members registered for the 2016 ASPHER General Assembly (3 did not show up at the meeting). 4 proxies were registered.*

### **Opening of the meeting**

Meeting opened by Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn. She paid thanks to the host School and its staff that helped organise the event; thanks also to ASPHER Secretariat.

### **Approval of agenda**

Agenda approved unanimously.

### **Approval of minutes from the 2015 ASPHER General Assembly**

Minutes approved unanimously.

### **Acceptance of new members**

Joana Macleod presented application of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College Cork, Ireland. Application approved unanimously.

Louise Stjernberg presented application of The Swedish Red Cross University College, Stockholm, Sweden. Application approved; Ralf Reintjes from Hamburg SPH abstained.

There was no representative from the Public Health Department, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, An-Najah National University. Therefore, the application was not voted.

Suzanne Babich presented application of Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health, Indiana University, Indianapolis, United States. Application approved unanimously.

Charles Gilks presented application of Schools of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Queensland, Australia. Application approved unanimously.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

Laurent Chamabud presented the report: (i) ASPHER detailed account 2014; (ii) 2010-2015 overview; (iii) Cash flow projection & budget 2017; Other communications included short update on ASPHER FR/BE accounts clearance and ASPHER/APHEA accounts clearance.

Report of the treasurer was approved unanimously.

### **Report of the President**

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn presented the report: (i) ASPHER 2020 – implementation; (ii) ASPHER events 2016; (iii) ASPHER's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; (iv) Relevant publications. She paid

thanks to the Executive Board members and the Secretariat staff for their support.

Report of the president was approved unanimously.

### **Report of the Honours' Committee**

Anders Foldspang presented the report: (i) 8<sup>th</sup> meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, Milan; (ii) Ambassador function – overview of activities; (iii) ASPHER's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book – relevant contribution. Next meeting will be in November, in Vienna, during the EPH Conference; new (elected) chair of the Honours' Committee will be elected in 2017.

Report of the president was approved unanimously.

### **Report the Secretariat**

Robert Otok presented the report: (i) Membership survey 2015/2016 & Membership consultation 2016; (ii) ASPHER move France – Belgium; (iii) ASPHER agenda 2016-2017 (incl. ASPHER's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary schedule & agenda/partnership advancements, HRPC project and Salzburg Seminars 2016); (iv) funding proposals considered & member-led projects; Other communications included appointment of Félix Ruiz Cabré as membership and partnership lead & specific interest group meetings to meet in Vienna in November.

Report from the Secretariat was approved unanimously.

### **Elections of Executive Board members 2016-2019: Candidates manifestos**

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn thanked Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic (II terms in the board and ASPHER presidency), Laurent Chambaud (I term in the board and running for the re-election) and Yehuda Neumark (I term in the board) for their work in the Executive Board.

Laurent Chambaud (re-election) – nominated by Jerusalem SPH and Madrid SPH  
EHESP School of Public Health, Rennes and Paris, France

John Middleton – nominated by Berlin SPH and Aarhus SPH  
UK Faculty of Public Health, United Kingdom

Dejana Vukovic – nominated by Tirana SPH and Zagreb SPH  
Centre – School of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Serbia

All 3 candidates were voted by acclamation and joined the board for 2016-2019 term.

### **Elections of President-Elect 2017-2018/9: Candidates' manifestos**

Laurent Chambaud – nominated by Jerusalem SPH and Madrid SPH  
EHESP School of Public Health, Rennes and Paris, France

Katarzyna Czabanowska – nominated by Belgrade SPH and Krakow SPH  
Department of International Health, FHML, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Before voting, Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn presents shortly a proposal from the Executive Board suggesting to elect 2 co-presidents for 2017-2018/9 term, given the complementarity of profiles of the 2 candidates and the heavy and complex agenda of ASPHER requiring some great capacity and commitment from top leadership of the Association. The floor was open to comments.

- Anders Foldspang, Aarhus SPH, stated that there was no basis in the statutes enabling the elections of 2 co-presidents;

- Jeffrey Levett, Athens SPH, expressed his support to the proposed scenario pointing out at some historical developments from early 90s when the flexibility and acting in a novel way helped the Association to develop, adapting to then challenging circumstances;
- Robert Otok explained that in case the General Assembly delegates voted in favour of the proposed scenario, the statutes could be adjusted so that to allow for the election of 2 co-presidents by the end of 2016. Thus, while the legal framework must be respected it cannot stop ASPHER members to decide on what's according to them its best interest;
- Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic, Belgrade SPH, expressed her skepticism (lack of clear leadership with 2 co-presidents) but did not rule out the proposed scenario. She stated also that such a proposal should have been communicated to members in advance and not come by total surprise just before the planned elections;
- Ulrich Laaser, Bielefeld SPH, supported Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic's points of view considering the proposed scenario as difficult to implement;
- Ralf Reintjes, Hamburg SPH, followed up on Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic's point on the proposal coming by surprise and therefore being difficult to be considered now, despite reasonable argumentation. Maybe something to consider in the future – he remarked.
- Lukasz Balwicki, Gdansk SPH, joined Vesna Bjegovic-Mikanovic and Ralf Reintjes in what they said about the presented proposal not being communicated with members allowing them to consider the issue with an appropriate attention.
- Roza Adany, Debrecen SPH, emphasized that the proposed scenario did not help strengthening ASPHER's identity and the Association should therefore elect 1 president.

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn closed the discussion and ordered the elections to follow the regular way. Following the immediate feedback received it was not decided to ask members to express their opinion regarding the proposed "2 co-presidents scenario" in voting.

The voting followed over lunch.

Katarzyna Czabanowska was elected a new President-Elect of ASPHER (2017-2018/9) having received 29 votes.

### **ASPHER 2020: progress report**

Katarzyna Czabanowska presented the implementation plan for the Objective 1 agenda following a 2-page summary included in the AGA 2016 documentation. Nino Künzli and Jeannette de Boer added shortly on the undergraduate training and the continuing professional development relevant context respectively.

Report was approved unanimously.

Henrique Barros presented the implementation plan for the Objective 2 agenda following a 2-page summary included in the AGA 2016 documentation.

Report was approved unanimously.

Anders Foldspang presented the implementation plan for the Objective 3 agenda following a 2-page summary included in the AGA 2016 documentation. Feedback from members is expected a regards the EPHRF related developments:

[http://aspher.org/download/74/booklet\\_competencesephos.pdf](http://aspher.org/download/74/booklet_competencesephos.pdf).

Report was approved unanimously.

Ulrich Laaser presented the implementation plan for the Objective 4 agenda following a 2-page summary included in the AGA 2016 documentation.

Report was approved unanimously.

Robert Otok presented the implementation plan for the Objective 5 agenda following a 2-page summary included in the AGA 2016 documentation. Louise Stjernberg and Carmen Varela Santos explained ASPHER-ECDC collaboration plans; in order to map SPHs delivering training on communicable disease prevention and control and their interest in collaboration a rapid survey was conducted during the retreat.

Report was approved unanimously.

### **Short reports**

Julien Goodman reported on behalf of APHEA. He encouraged ASPHER members to take up a challenge and run for APHEA accreditation. He briefly explained also how to become a reviewer and outlined the ongoing developments. Laurent Chambaud, Rennes EHESP, and Ramune Kalediene, Kaunas SPH, shared their experience from accreditation process and reviewer work respectively.

Report was approved unanimously.

Laurent Chambaud reported on behalf of Public Health Reviews. He called ASPHER members to make an effort and to support sustainable development of the journal, published on behalf of the Association – assuming shared ownership of all members of ASPHER. He briefly explained how the journal works and informed about the past, current and future thematic issues; call for the future themes is open.

Report was approved unanimously.

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn reported from the EPH Conference – Vienna 2016 related context, providing information regarding: ASPHER plenary, Yong Researchers' Forum, ASPHER workshops submitted to regular programme of the conference and special interest group meetings to enable all members and working groups of ASPHER to actively take part in the event and advance with their relevant agendas.

Report was approved unanimously.

### **Membership consultation 2016**

Robert Otok presented the results of the consultation; 65 members answered. The key elements of the proposed membership policy and fee structure included (Figure 1):

- No change in the ASPHER statutes required; network-like and “other structures” subject to case-by-case consideration by the Executive Board in the application process;
- New fee structure proposal incl. 2 main components introduced: (i) regular service package fee scheme; (ii) enhanced service package fee scheme;
- Both (i) and (ii) apply to full and associate membership with flat rate determined by country GDP as single criterium;
- Both (i) and (ii) guarantee same membership status as regards voting rights in the General Assembly;
- Supporting membership contribution scheme introduced (voluntary and not linked to membership fees and services).

A few comments from the floor were received, in general supporting the proposal that is expected to simplify and improve the current membership and fee scheme. Charles Gilks, University of Queensland SPH, commented on the issue of the fee level proposed (2017) suggesting possible need to revisit the proposed rates in the future.

New membership and fee structure proposal was approved. 29 members voted in favour, 2

members abstained, 4 were against. Figure 1 illustrates the approved proposal/model with the fee level approved for 2017 indicated accordingly.

|                               |  | FULL MEMBERS            |                          | ASSOCIATE MEMBERS       |                          |  |                               |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
|                               |  | Regular service package | Enhanced service package | Regular service package | Enhanced service package |  |                               |
| LOW & MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES |  | €750                    | → €1000                  | €375                    | → €500                   |  | LOW & MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES |
| HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES         |  | €1500                   | → €2500                  | €750                    | → €1250                  |  | HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES         |

**SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**

- Voluntary
- No specific level of contribution
- Towards ASPHER as a whole
- Towards specific projects
- Acknowledgment in promotional material
- Not linked to membership fees & services

ASPHER Executive Board supported by the Secretariat will ensure the implementation of the proposal considering carefully detailed feedback from the consultation, also as far as the link between the fee and the benefits of membership is concerned. The new model will be evaluated in the coming year and, if needed, adjusted at the next year's General Assembly.

## Communications

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn presented the ASPHER Athens Accord text as well as a draft of the ASPHER's working paper on Migrant and Minority Health.

Both documents were endorsed; the final drafts will be developed under the leadership of Jeffrey Levett – Athens SPH (Accord), and Oliver Razum – Bielefeld SPH (MMH paper).

Robert Otok made short communication regarding the upcoming HRPC summer school organised by ASPHER in Lviv, Ukraine (18-22 July).

Ulrich Laaser invited all delegates of the General Assembly to the afternoon's satellite event of this year's retreat of deans and directors on the role of SPHs in SDG agenda.

## Closing of the meeting

Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn thanked all delegates for participation and officially closed the meeting.