

Granada, February 16, 2021

Dear friends,

At this time when the world is experiencing a severe Public Health crisis, the Regional Government of Andalusia has returned to its intention to dissolve the Andalusian School of Public Health and incorporate this into a newly to be created Institute, disregarding key activity in Public Health and Health Management.

The Andalusian School of Public Health (EASP) is an institution of recognized prestige both at National and International levels and is part of the Regional Government of Andalusia (Spain). It has been working since 1985 in **training (more than 20.000 professionals, managers, patients and citizens each year), consultancy, international cooperation, research and creation of collaborative spaces and networks** that facilitate knowledge management, public health and good health systems governance. It is an entity that defends the rights and participation of patients and works actively to establish alliances with scientific and academic organisations, not for profit entities, public centres, social groups and patient associations.

What distinguishes this institution is its capacity to generate and disseminate knowledge in the area of Public Health and Health Management, and its contribution to knowledge transference to health care systems and population health. Specifically, EASP combines academic work with research in these contexts, identifying existing needs, factors that determine people's health, wellbeing and life quality. Furthermore, it focusses on quality and efficiency of health systems, enabling the transfer of knowledge to its **consultancy area**, which promotes the design and implementation of health models in all public policies.

Since 1994, when It achieved its first competitive bid in the European Union, EASP has been participating actively in **International Health**. From this moment on, it has supported the creation of collaboration and knowledge transference processes, sharing efforts and projects among professionals from different countries and more than 50 institutions. In the European context, EASP coordinates the Spanish participation in the Joint Action (JAHEE) in which 25 member states participate, aimed at contributing to the achievement of a greater equity in health outcomes in all countries, and at reducing inter-country heterogeneity in approaching health inequities. Its preferred geographical areas in international work are Ibero-America, the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, the Maghrib region, Portuguese-speaking African countries, as well as Eastern European countries.

All this work has been recognized by international bodies such as the World Health Organisation that designed EASP as a Collaborating Centre. Furthermore, EASP is a member of the **principal international associations of public health and health management schools**. In 2017, it renewed its designation as WHO Collaborating Centre in Integrated Health Services based on Primary Care.

The Andalusian School of Public Health has **alliances with Spanish and international institutions and Universities (more than 70 collaboration agreements)**. Among them, since 1988 there has been an agreement with the University of Granada (Spain) with which EASP offers 14 postgraduate Public Health and Health Management degrees. Among these degrees the Europubhealth Master can be highlighted as the official degree within the University of Granada, provided by the Andalusian School of Public Health in collaboration with five other European institutions, in the framework of the European Commission Erasmus Plus Programme.

With a trajectory of more than 35 years, the Andalusian School of Public Health, located in Granada is a key institution that positions this city as the **capital of health innovation** and **first-rate health care reference**.

On December 30, 2019, the Regional Government of Andalusia presented a Law Proposal that suggested the creation of a new Health Institution and the "extinction and dissolution" of the EASP. This Law Proposal was put on hold on February 6, 2020 in the Andalusian Parliament, calling on the Regional Government to "guarantee that the EASP continues to preserve its identity with the current organic regulations and functions".

During mid-February 2021 the Regional Government of Andalusia proposed a **Draft Bill of the Creation of the Andalusian Health Institute** in which the need for adapting the juridical form of this institution was included. This would mean:

- **The end of the identity of this School, of its activity, of the integrity of its functions and knowledge cycle (research, consultancy, training) in Public Health and Health Management, an identity mark of this institution,**
- **The end of all alliances created during our time would become extinct, e.g., to be a WHO Collaborating Centre,**
- **An attack to the city of Granada, as the head office of this Institute would be the city of Seville.**

As a collective of professionals of this School we are approaching you because we consider it necessary to promote and push the work that institutions such as EASP are developing on a global level. Therefore, **we ask for your support to this endeavor that the Regional Government of Andalusia should reconsider its position and that this institution should continue developing its work preserving its identity and integrity.**

If you or any of the institutions and organisations you represent would like to show your support, you can do so by using the following methods:

- **Send contributions to the Draft Bill via the following e-mail: consultas.previas.csafa@juntadeandalucia.es, by March 5, 2021.**

More information in the following links:

<https://juntadeandalucia.es/organismos/saludyfamilias/servicios/participacion/normativa/consulta-previa/detalle/211531.html>

<https://noalaextinciondelaeasp.org/proyecto-de-ley/>

<http://www.parlamentodeandalucia.es/webdinamica/portal-web-parlamento/pdf.do?tipodoc=bopa&id=143794>

- Signing the support declaration in change.org:
<https://noalaextinciondelaeasp.org/manifiesto/>
- Showing your support in social networks using the hashtag #NoalCierredelaEASP, by means of videos and support messages.

We thank you in advance for your attention

EASP Works Council, in representation of its professionals