# Survey on the place and role of the law in the training and research programs of ASPHER’s constituents

Dear Madam, Sir,

During the last directors’ meeting in Rennes (June 2017), ASPHER created a new working on Public Health Law (PHL) with the following goals:

1. Identify interested institutions and experts;
2. Assess the current practices within ASPHER concerning both training and research in public health law;
3. Define a core curriculum for the training of PHL at all levels (bachelor/master/PhD as well as continuing education programs) that moves from teaching what is law in PH to teaching how to use the law in PH;
4. Draft recommendation toward a systematic inclusion of public health law in the definition, implementation and evaluation of PH policies and actions;

Following its mandate, the working group PHL has prepared a survey to identify the current practices within ASPHER. This will help developing an accurate picture of the situation, with its strengths and weaknesses, as well as understanding the needs of public health schools in this field. The ultimate goal is to increase the capacities of the public health workforce to cope with an ever-changing environment and to better use the law in public health’s daily activities.

The survey was designed based on the ASPHER’s European Core Competences for MPH Education (ECCMPHE) and the Public Health Cycle. The ECCMPHE identifies various competences, intellectual and practical, divided into 6 chapters. In principle, achieving those competences requires some knowledge and skills in the legal field. We have highlighted in each chapter a few domains in which we are interested to know whether and, if so, how they are covered in your program.

It focuses on the existing law courses provided within ASPHER. It also includes a few questions on public health law research activities as it offers also important information on how public health law is integrated in the current general strategy of the concerned institutions.

If you have any question or wishes to make suggestion on this survey, please contact us. We will be happy to hear from you and improve the process.

1. **General information**
* Institution:
* Existing training programs:

Pre-graduate

Bachelor

Master

PhD

Continuing education

If you have several programs, thank you for answering one questionnaire for each program

* Number of students (total and in each program):
* Number of teachers (total and in each program):
1. **The law in the organization of your institution**
* Is there a department/institute/chair in your institution specifically interested in public health law? If so, thank you to provide its details
* How many teachers are involved in teaching legal issues?
* Among them, how many are

Professor from a law Faculty:

Lawyers:

Non-lawyers with some legal training (specify):

Others (specify):

* *Our faculty appreciates the impact of law on health (Likert scale)*
* *There are serious institutional barriers to including robust legal content in our curriculum (Likert scale)*
1. **The law in your training program(s)**
* *Do you think students at your institution receive sufficient training to understand the use of law in public health practice (Likert scale)*
* *Education on law is perceived as an important element of training for all our students (Likert scale)*

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, thank you to specify in which course(s) the issues are addressed as well as for how many hours and, if possible, provide us with the table of content of the corresponding course(s)

*1. Methods in public health*

1.1. According to the ECCMPHE, public health can be defined as “the science and art, which focuses on:

* Population health,
* Human systems and interventions made to improve health, and
* Interactions between these two systems”.

Does your program addresses legal aspects of human systems and interventions made to improve health?

1.2. Does your program address legal issues in teaching the “basic principles, methods, types and components of epidemiological surveillance systems and health services monitoring systems”?

1.3. Does your program address the main legal basis of major national and European population surveys and surveillance systems?

1.4. Concerning literature search and evaluation, does your program include the main legal databases available online at the national and European levels so the students can identify the applicable law related to simple legal issues in concrete cases?

1.5. Does your program address the main legal issues in:

1. designing and implementing a protocol;
2. designing and carrying out a health needs assessment;
3. designing a monitoring system for health service interventions;
4. designing and conducting observations-based research and action research interventions?

1.6. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the basic legal requirements in conducting a given public health project according to a protocol?

*2. Population health and its social and economic determinants*

2.1. Does your program address how the law contributes to shaping the socio-economic context, in particular in promoting favorable socio-economic determinants, for instance through:

1. human rights and constitutional law;
2. social security;
3. family law;
4. labor law;
5. anti-discrimination law;
6. data protection and privacy.

2.2. Does your program address the law as a socio-economic indicator?

2.3. Does your program address the main legal mechanisms to protect vulnerable populations and respond to their specific health needs?

*3. Population health and its environmental determinants*

3.1. Does your program address the main national and European legislation for the monitoring and control of the physical, radiological, chemical and biological environment?

3.2. Does your program cover the main legal basis to prevent and control environmental hazards that pose risks to human health and safety?

3.3. Does your program cover the main legal basis on planning and managing major incidents, such as caused by flooding, a train crash or a terrorist attack?

3.4. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the basic legal requirements in monitoring and control of a given environmental health hazard?

3.5. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the basic legal requirements to protect and respond to the specific health needs of vulnerable populations?

*4. Health Policy; Economics, Organisational Theory and Management*

4.1. Does your program address how the law contributes to, or limits the design, implementation and evaluation of health policy and strategy?

4.2. Does your program address how the law contributes to, or limits the organization and management of health systems and health services?

4.3. Does your program cover the legislation affecting health and health services?

4.4. Does your program address the legislative process, namely how law can be initiated, drafted, adopted, implemented and evaluated?

If so, does you program give your students the skills to participate in each step of the legislative process?

4.5. Does your program address the main legal and regulatory aspects of health and social services in at least one European country?

4.6. Does your program address legal issues in the evaluation of public health policies, strategies, programs and institutions?

4.7. Does your program address the basic legal framework of national, European and international organizations playing a role in the development of public health?

4.8. Does your program cover the basic legal framework of the monitoring and control of the:

1. tobacco industry;
2. alcohol industry;
3. farming and food industries;
4. chemical industry;
5. pharmaceutical industry;
6. healthcare providers;
7. insurance companies

4.9. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the main legal instruments applicable in a given public health strategy?

*5. Health Promotion; Health Education; Health Protection and Disease Prevention*

5.1. Does your program cover the main public health law concepts?

5.2. Does your program cover the basic legal framework concerning health education, health protection and health promotion in at least one European country?

5.3. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the main legal instruments applicable in a given health promotion strategy?

5.4. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the main legal requirements in writing a policy proposal?

*6. Ethics*

6.1. Does your program cover the basic legal framework in the design and conduct of research involving human participants, including research on personal data and human biological material?

6.2. Does your program cover the main legal requirement for obtaining ethical approval by the competent research ethics committee of a public health research in at least one European country?

6.3. Does you program give your students the skills to identify and apply the main legal requirements, in terms of data protection and research ethics and regulation, in designing, conducting and evaluating a concrete public health intervention?

1. **The law in your research activities**
* *Studies evaluating the impact of law are not an important part of your institution’s research portfolio (Likert scale)*

Do you have specific research program on legal issues in your school?

If yes, specify

Are you solicited for advice by your local/national authorities in the drafting of health legislation?

If yes,

1. sporadically;
2. regularly,
3. systematically?

Are you involved in health legislation evaluation in your region/country?

If yes, specify

Thank you for providing us with any references concerning the place and role of law in your school, such as program description, report on the legal activities in your school, research publication, etc. In case, your program is not in English, thank you for sharing a short summary in English.

Would you be ready for an interview by phone/skpye concerning the topic of this survey ?

We thank you again for having taken the time to answer to this survey. Your opinion is very valuable to us. Please do not hesitate to share your comments here or to contact us for more details.