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## October - November 2021

### ASPHER Newsletter



Image: Three Dancing Maidens, Den Brandt Park, Antwerp

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

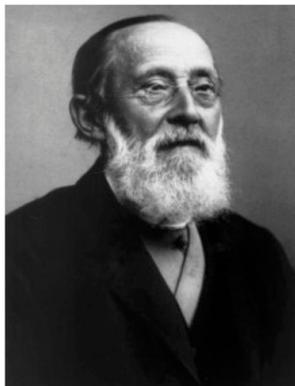
## President's Message Part 1

Greetings friends and colleagues. Since my last message in September, I have been busy travelling around Europe presenting at scientific business meetings on ASPHER's behalf. Virtually. I have been to the [Sorbonne](#), [Krakow](#), [Bielefeld](#), Dublin, [Madrid](#), Israel (twice) Brussels, [Stafford](#) and Coventry, UK. Virtually. Courtesy of [myclimate.org](#), I calculate I have released 4.822 tonnes of carbon in my journeys. Virtually. I have no idea what 4.822 tonnes of carbon dioxide looks like. I am told I can off-set it with a donation of 125 Euros. We are all going to have to think very carefully about the actual journeys we make, and how we do business in future. We all want to return to more meetings in person, but the pandemic has shown us we can do more, and better business virtually, and we can do less damage to our shared environment. ASPHER will continue to develop its [own corporate citizenship](#) in carbon management. We academics must break our fossil fuel addiction too.

### Rudolph Virchow 1821-1902

**“ Medicine is a social science and politics is nothing else but medicine on a large scale.**

Rudolf Virchow



Last month saw the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Rudolph Virchow. The great physician, pathologist and pioneer of social medicine straddled the scientific worlds from the cell to the social. He spelled out his famous ‘*medicine is politics*’ quote in *Die einheitsrebungen in der wissenschaftlichen medicin* (1849) ‘*For if medicine is really to accomplish its great task, it must intervene in political and social life. It must point out the hindrances that impede the normal social*

*functioning of vital processes, and effect their removal*’. Never was this truer, than today, and rarely has it been paid more lip-service.

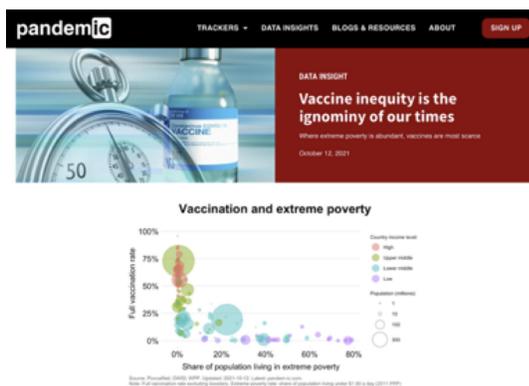
### COP-out 26? Anger, disappointment, betrayal

This month we have seen the COP26 in Glasgow agree to add only a bit more fuel to the fires consuming our planet. We have yet again seen the Global North pleading concern to protect their future generations whilst allowing present generations of the Global South to face extinction. My thoughts on the achievements of this Conference of the Parties can be found in the companion blog [‘Shames of our time](#)’.



ASPHER continues to develop its work [on climate change and health education](#). We launched our new [Climate and Health Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#), on October 25<sup>th</sup> and will launch our European Union Health Policy Platform on [Climate and Health in Europe](#) on November 25<sup>th</sup>. [Details can be found later in this newsletter](#).

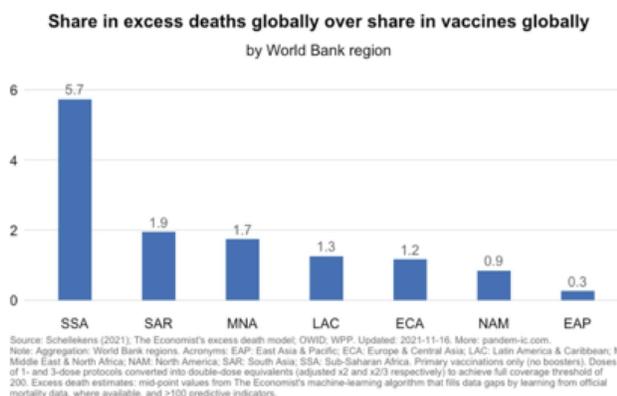
## COVID-19 Vaccine TRIPS waiver-still needed



The parallels with [COVID vaccine availability are striking](#). Again the rich world refuses to meet legitimate calls from the Global South to make available the technology to expand capacity for vaccine production to save lives in the poorer countries now, whilst protecting global health for all for the future. Again, a problem not made in the South, causes catastrophic disease and death in the South. Again, a problem requires support for actions by the Global South, but they will not get it from the Rich World.

<https://pandem-ic.com>

ASPHER has joined with the Global Network for Academic Public Health and the World Federation of Public Health Associations [in calling for a Vaccine Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights waiver](#), to enable vaccines to be produced across the globe, and enable a truly effective response to be mounted to the COVID-19 pandemic.



You can catch up with my comments this month from the ASPHER Task Force, in the companion blog feature: [‘Vaccines work, but with COVID-19 they cannot work alone’](#).

Our work with the Global Network for Academic Public Health continues. We have published [a statement on the role of schools of public health](#) in education and training in the post-pandemic era and a call for investment in our schools and in the development of the public health profession, systems and services, at global, national and local levels. We urge our members to [use this statement widely](#) in your lobbying and influence on funders, Health and Educational ministries and politicians.

## Thank you all

I would like to give my thanks to the ASPHER Secretariat for their tireless work on our behalf. I would also like to thank the [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](#) for their continuing energy and commitment to our COVID related materials. The [UCCAIDE project team](#) on updating competencies for applied infectious diseases epidemiology has delivered its

report to ECDC, following a final survey which nearly 300 of our experts and colleagues took part in. Many thanks to everyone who has been involved in this vital work. I would also like to thank all our members who presented or took part in the European Public Health conference, virtually in Dublin last week. I am particularly grateful to our young professionals who were an inspiration in the opening plenary. We owe it to them to create a [career structure and profession of public health](#) in which they can develop to their full potential, and most importantly, to enable them to save some lives and improve the health of the people we serve, and the planet we share.

## President's Message Part 2: Shames of our time: Climate breakdown

### A COP26 special message from ASPHER President

#### COP-out 26? Anger, disappointment, betrayal.

This month we have seen the COP26 in Glasgow agree to add only a bit more fuel to the fires consuming our planet. We have yet again seen the Global North pleading concern to protect their future generations whilst allowing present generations of the Global South to face extinction. If we do not understand where this will lead, we need look no further than [the Poland/Belarus border](#). The migrants trapped on the border there are refugees from war in the Middle East, but they [are victims of climate breakdown](#).

#### EU agrees new sanctions against Belarus over border crisis

Sanctions to target 'people, airlines, travel agencies and everyone involved in this illegal push of migrants'

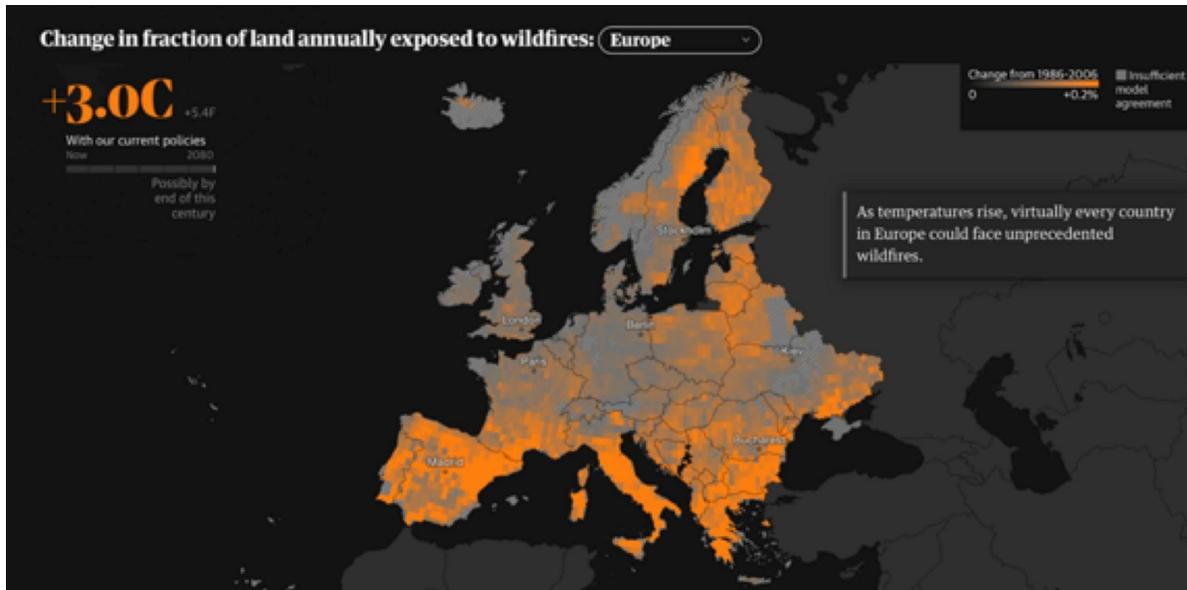


Police stand guard on the Polish side of the border with Belarus as people attempt to cross the border. Photograph: BELTA/Reuters

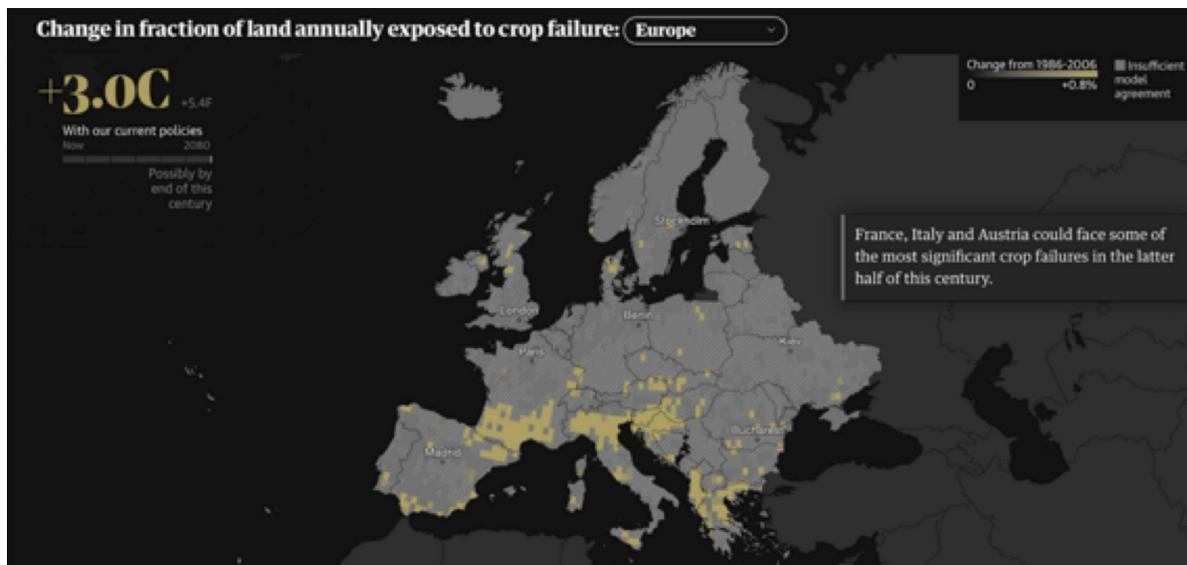
Severe drought and the spread of deserts reduced agricultural production, created mass migration into cities, worsened food shortages that fuelled the food riots which led to the 'Arab Spring' and following conflicts. The next waves of displaced people will be climate breakdown migrants. [200 million by 2050](#), if nothing is done to cool down the globe.



Climate change [is happening now, big time](#), the climate is breaking down, call it '[Code Red](#)', call it [runaway bus](#), call it [blah blah blah](#). We have been given [the warnings this summer](#) – doing nothing is not going to make it go away. The [projection of burning Europe to 2080](#) is alarming.



And crop failure looks like this:



There is a huge difference between [a 1.5 degree and a 2 degrees](#) rise in global temperature as signed up to in the Paris agreement. We are heading [for a 2.4 degree rise](#) in global temperature, when we need [to be no more than 1.5 degrees](#). A billion people are at risk of [extreme heat](#) under the COP26 provisions. There are no requirements to reduce carbon pollution from [aviation](#) or [shipping](#), despite the green washing. No-one seems to be alert to devastating negative feedback loops with carbon sinks like [the Arctic tundra](#) leaking carbon and methane into the atmosphere through melting ice and forest fires. [The Amazon](#), also is now a source of new carbon dioxide, through burning and deforestation. We are putting a Band-Aid on a broken leg. Leaders of rich nations [flew into the congress](#), continue to [explore for oil](#) and [subsidise fossil fuels](#), and [cry crocodile tears](#) when [India refuses to phase out coal](#).

Figure 1. Annual CO2 emissions

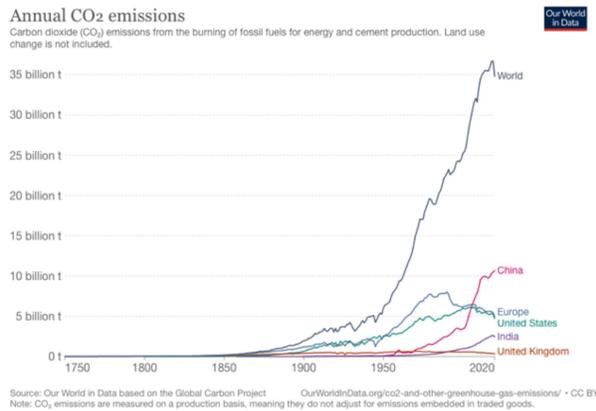
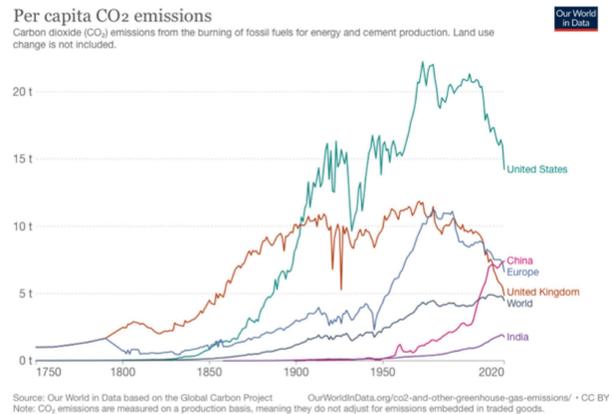


Figure 2. Per capita CO2 emissions



On one measure, China and India are huge contributors to global carbon pollution (Figure 1: annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions). The second figure is per capita emissions. On this measure Chinese and Indian contributions are still huge, but dwarfed by the USA, and matched by Europe and the UK. ASPHER shares the feeling of outrage, injustice and betrayal expressed by many voices of the non-governmental sector, like [Asad Rehman of War on Want](#). For low-income countries, the noise from the North is 'Do as I say, not as I do'. The inequalities in energy use must be challenged, and the poorer nations need financial support to help them reach a renewable future, without having to go through our fossil fuel past. Poorer nations rightly aspire for a better quality of life for their people. They will get it through fossil fuel, or they will get it through renewables. A '[Just Transition](#)' is possible and needs to be delivered for all our sakes.

### President's Message Part 3:

### Vaccination works? But in Covid-19, it can't work alone

This autumn, I have been greatly exercised by vaccination. I was delighted to be able to present my thoughts to forums in France, Spain, in Israel (twice) and [in the UK](#). For a meeting of [the Grand Colloque European](#) on training, research and education for the



*Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.*

Louis Pasteur

Europe of Health, at the [Sorbonne](#), I paid homage to Louis Pasteur, Father of immunisation. He said, 'Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world.' This is timely and bitter-sweet in the light of the incredible international success of science in creating new vaccines for COVID-19, and the darkness of our failure to vaccinate the world. ASPHER, has been joined by the Global Network for Academic Public Health

and the World Federation of Public Health Associations in calling for a [Vaccine Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights waiver](#) to enable global capacity to be built to [produce vaccines for the continuing pandemic](#).

My presentation for the Spanish Forum of Vaccination and Public Health, Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain, on the 18th of October, 2021, was delivered via video recording now available [here](#). It covered my thoughts on [a lifetime in implementing vaccination programmes](#), 26 of them over 27 years at local level, with much [experience on measles](#). My thoughts progressed through to current lessons for COVID-19 vaccination programmes.

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### Ten points about COVID-19 and vaccination

Here are ten points I think hold true on our present state of knowledge of vaccination and COVID-19, mainly from the European experience. You may disagree—please discuss. It is not an exhaustive list and there are many other questions still to be answered.

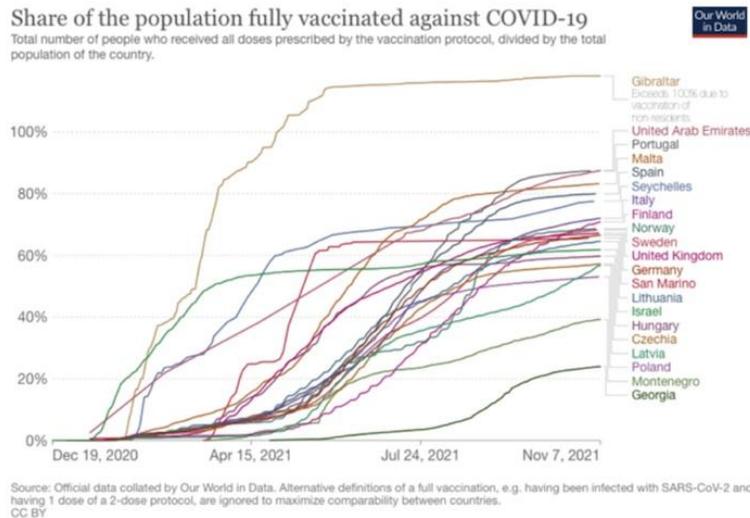
1. Vaccination is still the best hope we have in reducing the virus to very low levels, and prevent deaths and disability from the disease. Countries which have [the highest rates of vaccination](#) have seen an encouraging [levelling of their cumulative death rates](#) through this year.
2. It is still too early to see collective ('herd') immunity even in countries where there is a very high level of vaccination, or where there have been persistent waves of infection, [as in Iran](#).
3. Reinfection occurs, [especially with the delta variant](#).
4. [Vaccine efficacy declines](#).
5. There is still [a high level of efficacy from vaccines](#) against delta variant, although less than with early variants.
6. There are areas of low [vaccine uptake within countries](#) and with social mixing, these weaken a country's ability to suppress the virus.
7. In the UK there are areas where [confidence in vaccine is being improved](#) through by support from local public health teams and community support, but more investment is needed in local action.
8. Vaccines prevent serious illness as measured by hospital admission and death but we do not know if they prevent debilitating illness—'persistent' or 'long COVID'?
9. Vaccines are not preventing transmission. The virus spreads even [in fully vaccinated households](#).
10. Social mixing without masking enables the virus to find new unprotected, vulnerable people to infect and harm. Every time the virus finds a new host, new mutations will occur, and new potentially more vaccine-resistant variants will be formed, in the ['new variant factories'](#)

So vaccination is not the sole answer.

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## The European Vaccination Stakes

Malta, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Italy and Scandinavia have now overtaken UK and Israel in [the Vaccination Stakes](#). The United Arab Emirates (a valued ASPHER Associate Member) continue to excel in vaccination coverage (Figure 1).



France, which had a high level of vaccine hesitancy, has climbed up to a comparable level of coverage to the UK, partly because the French are using vaccine passports. In some Eastern European countries, health systems have been less well prepared to implement mass vaccination, or lost out in the chaotic [EU central purchase](#) earlier this year. The [systematic disinformation supplied on an industrial scale by Russia](#) and other Eastern European countries has now backfired badly on them as they have become [victims of mass vaccine hesitancy](#) (Figure 2). There are very high rates of COVID-19 infection in Eastern Europe and deaths consequent on low rates of vaccination. ASPHER will continue to offer our support to colleagues battling to grow vaccine confidence in their countries.

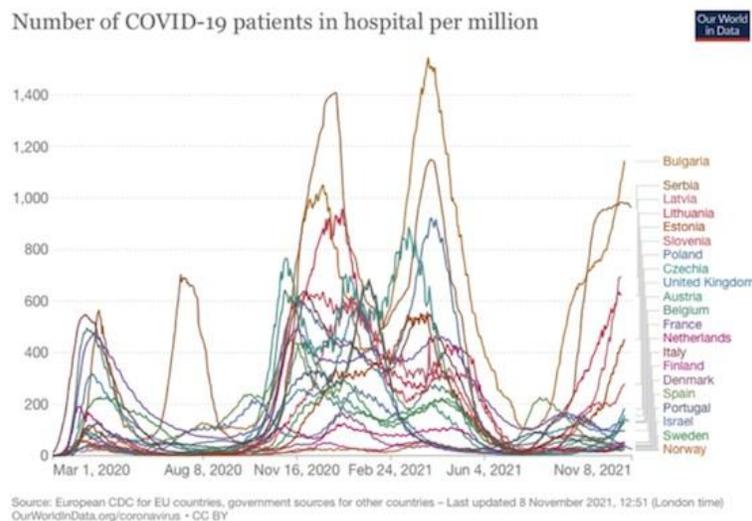
**Percent of adults who would accept or probably accept vaccine, March 23**



Across Europe, there has been too much political attraction to single technological fixes—testing, vaccination, vaccine passports, contact apps. We need to keep reminding ourselves of the [‘Swiss-cheese model’](#) — using everything we’ve got at the same time to prevent viral

spread. Many European countries which are now enjoying high levels of double vaccine coverage, [kept their social measures in place](#). Masks have continued to be a requirement in public enclosed spaces in France, Portugal, Spain. Germany requires FFP2 masks in enclosed public spaces, and vaccine passports. Gatherings in public places have been strictly limited in Portugal and Spain until recently, despite high levels of vaccine cover. France, Ireland, Montenegro and Israel are other examples of countries requiring vaccine passports.

As we go into the winter, health services in most European countries are experiencing rising [pressures in hospital admission](#) (Figure 3). Even in well-vaccinated Portugal, hospitals are [failing to cope with other care needs](#), and grappling with [staff burnout](#).



I fear, for my country, [the deadly indecision and incompetence](#) will go on too long and too far. The [world's scientific community is watching](#) what happens when COVID is allowed to run wild in the UK.

Despite all the warnings from [ASPHER's winter planning papers](#), it appears we are all about to [make the same mistakes again...](#)

[Living with COVID](#) does mean masking up in enclosed spaces, meeting outdoors when possible, working from home if we can; and if we can't do without our night-time entertainment it means vaccine passports. Vaccination, or evidence of a recent negative test are small price to pay for 'normality'. Many nations now have more than 80% of their populations doubly vaccinated, so only a minority should be unhappy to have to show evidence of vaccination. It is now also clear that many countries including Netherlands, Ireland, Luxembourg, Denmark, Greece, Norway, the Baltic states are re-applying non-pharmaceutical measures to support their vaccine

**The BMJ** @bmj\_latest

Every four hours, as many deaths are occurring in the UK as New Zealand has had for the whole pandemic.

@doctorblooz says the government must act this week, or be faced with much tougher decisions and less popular choices as the winter kicks in

blogs.bmj.com  
Government indecision is still costing lives in the UK - The BMJ

protections and outbreak controls. It is surprising how rapidly these changes came about- a month ago many countries were relaxing in [‘peak vaccination protection’](#) confident that their pandemic was nearly over. I hope, for many, their realisation that they must re-impose social control measures, will not have come too late, for the collapse of their health care, for preventable deaths and suffering from non-COVID conditions.

Professor John Middleton  
President, ASPHER

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

We open our newsletter this month with a photo referencing the children’s game of [Ring around the Rosie](#). It is debated whether or not the rhyme associated with the game has its origin in outbreaks of bubonic plague, but with today’s Covid pandemic, ASPHER is assured that our members are putting in every effort to make sure our populations and health systems don’t ‘all fall down’!

ASPHER secretariat has been very busy this autumn with ongoing projects, including the wrap of the UCCAIDE project to update core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology for ECDC. This was alongside key meetings where we were able to catch up with ASPHER members at the [Deans’ & Directors’ Retreat](#), the [Young Researchers’ Forum \(YRF\)](#), and [European Public Health \(EPH\) Conference](#), as well as many other [member](#) and [partner](#) events.

It was fabulous to meet with all members and see the Association crowd in such a good mood for the 2021 Deans’ & Directors’ Retreat. We appreciated learning about our members’ contributions to combat Covid-19 while still keeping up on other important aspects of the public’s health. There was time for celebrations with congratulations to the UK Faculty of Public Health on receiving the [2021 ASPHER Deans’ & Directors’ Good Practice Award](#)! ASPHER will be following up from individual Retreat Plenary sessions for future actions as we advance with partners in Europe and build on the Association’s position globally working within the [GNAPH](#) – a Global Network of ASPHER-like networks from around the globe. More to come in the next newsletter!

Building upon the sessions at the Dean’s Retreat, we had two great ASPHER co-led round table sessions at the EPH Conference on the role of schools of public health in Covid-19 with contributions from ASPHER member programmes at: the Andalusian School of Public Health (EASP); Aarhus University; French School of Public Health (EHESP); Ben Gurion University; Lithuanian University of Health Sciences; Institute of Public Health, Porto (ISPUP); University College Dublin; Palacky University; Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan; and University of Copenhagen.

We feel fortunate at ASPHER to maintain eager involvement by ASPHER past presidents. [Jeff Levett](#) (1992-93), who continues to comment on current events in ASPHER blog and Ulrich Laaser (1994-95) who is involved in plans for the upcoming One Health agenda of

ASPHER. Meanwhile, Jose Martin-Moreno (2000-01) and Anders Foldspang (2006-07) are key contributors to the [ASPHER Covid-19 task force](#). Honorable mention also goes to former Executive Board Member and 2008 Andrija Stampar Medalist Ted Tulchinsky, who was the driving force behind the [SEEEPHI](#) action. They are exemplars of the ASPHER spirit, bridging generations and building a strong and vigorous membership network!

If you were able to follow Plenary 1 of the EPH conference, you know that ASPHER is also the voice of a new generation of leaders in public health with contributions from our Young Professionals Programme. ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan is making exceptional efforts in ASPHER [Climate and Health initiatives](#). The [YRF](#) in [Krakow](#) was a great success, showcasing the original research of students, alumni and young faculty from our member programmes. We look forward to opportunities to repeat the new YRF format at other member school events!

The ASPHER network keeps growing and we are extremely pleased to welcome the Department of Public Health, School of Health Sciences, University of Skövde as ASPHER's newest provisional member. We are thinking ahead to exciting developments for 2022 to respond to the wide membership and dynamic and rich agenda and have increased our office capacity with the addition of [Tatiana Caftea](#). Amongst other items, Tatiana will be working to update and improve the interactivity of [Members' profiles](#) at ASPHER.org. Help her out by filling the [ASPHER Members Survey](#) if you haven't already! We warmly welcome Tatiana and we expect you will be hearing from her and getting to know her soon!

Please enjoy the rest of the newsletter and be sure to keep in touch as we prepare for the holiday season!

All the best from ASPHER Secretariat,  
Robert, Lore and Tatiana

## New Team Member in the ASPHER Secretariat



We would like to introduce our new team member in the ASPHER Secretariat, Tatiana Caftea. She is joining the team as the part-time Administrative Assistant.

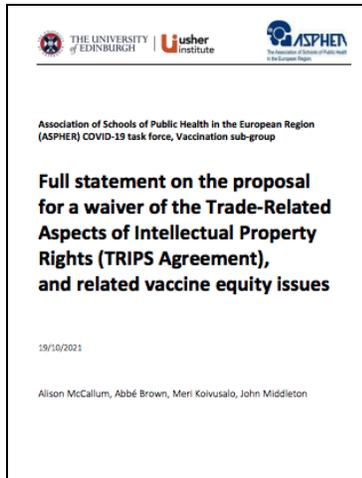
Tatiana is a graduate of the Babes-Bolyai University (Romania) and the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands) in the field of European Studies. She is currently also working as an Events Officer at Maastricht University Campus Brussels. You can reach Tatiana by email on [tatiana.caftea@aspher.org](mailto:tatiana.caftea@aspher.org).

**Please don't forget to share your news, publications, comments & suggestions with Lore at [lore.leighton@aspher.org](mailto:lore.leighton@aspher.org) to be included in the next regular issue of the [newsletter](#) and on the ASPHER website [activity log](#).**

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## ASPHER COVID-19 NEWS

### Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and vaccine equity



In a global pandemic vaccine equity means that all countries should be able to immunise their populations regardless of their income, pre-existing infrastructure or economic development. The current situation, however, favours high income countries. As a result, people who live in low- and middle-income countries are significantly less likely to have access to vaccination than those in high-income countries. This is the case even for people in the highest clinical risk groups and for essential health and care workers. Where populations whose overall health is poorer, exposure risk greater because of poverty, overcrowded housing and limited social protection and where the health system is less able to respond to a surge in need for acute hospital and intensive care, that inequity is multiplied. Failure to reduce transmission

through vaccination and other means increases the level of virus circulating in communities and increases the risk of that new vaccine resistant variants will emerge.

ASPHER supports the September 30 proposal to WTO for a TRIPS waiver ([IP/C/W/684](#)), which focuses on categories of intellectual property that are relevant to the production, supply, and access to COVID-19 health products and technologies.

Read the ASPHER [full statement](#) and [summary statement](#) on the proposal for a waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), and related vaccine equity issues.

### The Impact of COVID-19 on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Europe



The family and intimate relationships should be a place of safety, but for many, violence and trauma occur even within this context. Intimate partner violence can take many forms and can include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and a range of controlling behaviours. Over the past year and a half, in a world in a constant state of emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, increases in sexual assault and violence, particularly against women, have been reported.

Read more about the IPV and the European Union's new measures in tackling this issue in the article [‘The impact of COVID-19 on intimate partner violence in Europe’](#) by representatives of ASPHER and ASPHER Young Professionals

at Karolinska Institute (Sweden), University of York (UK), Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany).

## Country reporting

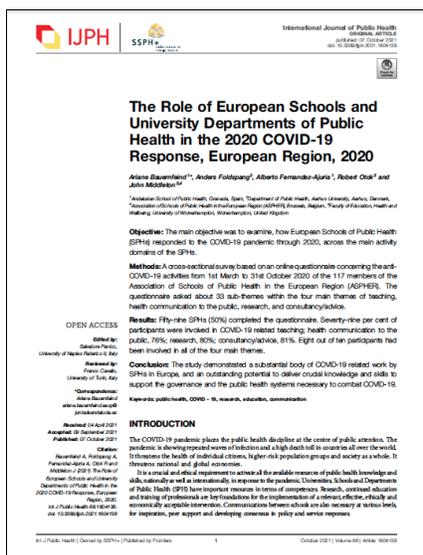
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the rapid spread of the virus in almost all countries has resulted in considerable disruption of public health at a global level. The pandemic has cost over two million lives up to the moment and the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has surpassed 200 million.

It is important to raise awareness of developments across the countries of the European Region. The [ASPHER COVID-19 Task Force](https://www.aspher.org/covid-19-situation-reporting.html) and ASPHER Young Professionals are now producing weekly COVID-19 Situation Reporting across Europe.

New updates are each week:

<https://www.aspher.org/covid-19-situation-reporting.html>

## The role of European schools and university departments of public health in the 2020 COVID-19 response



The article: [‘The role of European schools and university departments of public health in the 2020 COVID-19 response’](https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.1604138), by Ariane Bauernfeind, Anders Foldspang, Alberto Fernandez-Ajuria, Robert Otok, and John Middleton, has just been published in the *International Journal of Public Health*.

The article shows what public health is and what public health can yield in a pressing pandemic situation. It analysis the results of a survey, which started in spring 2020, and demonstrates a large and varied number of anti-COVID19 interventions by the public health university departments, comprehensively covering the public health discipline - in education/training, research, communication to the public, and giving advice to decision makers at local, regional and national levels.

The study demonstrated that the European public health university departments and academic schools of public health have a large potential, which can contribute to the combat against a pandemic like COVID-19.

Bauernfeind A, Foldspang A, Fernandez-Ajuria A, Otok R, Middleton J. The Role of European Schools and University Departments of Public Health in the 2020 COVID-19 Response, European Region, 2020. Int J Public Health. 2021.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.1604138>.

## Further COVID-19 Reading

Farrugia B, Calleja N. Early warning indicators of COVID-19 burden for a proslient European pandemic response. Eur J Public Health. 2021;31;iv21–iv26.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckab154>

Middleton J. Government indecision is still costing lives in the UK. BMJ Opinion. October 2021: <https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2021/10/25/government-indecision-is-still-costing-lives-in-the-uk/>

Saddik B, Elbarazi I, Temsah MH, et al. Psychological Distress and Anxiety Levels Among Health Care Workers at the Height of the COVID-19 Pandemic in the United Arab Emirates. Int J Public Health. 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/ijph.2021.1604369>

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## ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat

ASPHER was pleased to meet with many of our members for the **2021 ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Retreat on 27 & 28 September**. We had over 200 registrations, representing 80 member schools from 39 countries. If you missed out on the Retreat, Plenary sessions are available now to watch. Unfortunately due to technical difficulties, we were unable to record Plenary 1:

### **Plenary 1:** Education & Health

Keynote: [Hans Kluge, Regional Director at WHO Regional Office for Europe](#)

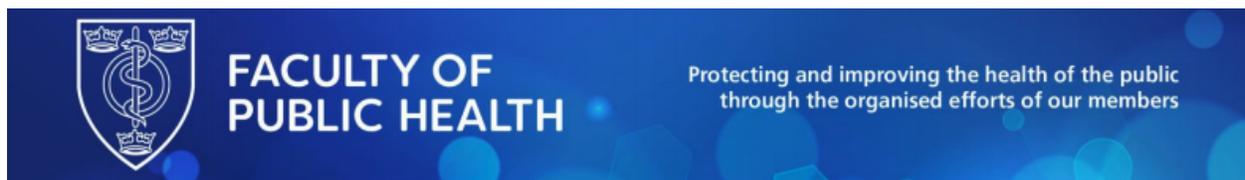
Keynote: [David Atchoarena, Director of UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning](#)

### **Plenary 2:** [Professionalisation](#)

### **Plenary 3:** [Planning for an outbreak of health](#)

### **Plenary 4:** [Global governance](#)

## ASPHER Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Award



### **Congratulations to ASPHER's 2021 Deans' & Directors' Good Practice Awardee: UK Faculty of Public Health Specialist Training Programme!**

The Faculty of Public Health (FPH) is responsible for overseeing the quality of training and professional development of public health consultants in the UK. We set and maintain the professional standards in the discipline, primarily through the formulation of the training

curriculum and the examinations that trainees need to pass to become fully-fledged senior public health specialists. The curriculum and the training programme are uniquely designed to produce globally literate public health leaders through the acquisition of knowledge, application of that knowledge, performance as a specialist and finally performance as a public health leader.

This yearly award, in which all ASPHER members are invited to participate, showcases the best master programmes and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses offered by members of the Association. Three main characteristics of the programmes and courses are assessed: impact, internationalisation, and innovation.



[Learn more about the UK FPH Specialist Training Programme here.](#)

[Watch ASPHER President-elect Carlo Signorelli present the Good Practice Award.](#)

## 2021 ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum

**The 2021 ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum (YRF) was held on Friday, October 8th, 12:45-16:10 as part of the 30th Anniversary of the Krakow School of Public Health – Jagiellonian University Medical College.**

Well done to all who participated with presentations of their original research! We most especially congratulate the 2021 best presentation winner, **Alejandro Gonzalez Aquines** with his study on *Health Corruption in Western and Central-Eastern European Countries during the COVID-19 pandemic: a mixed-method research*. As the selected winner, Alejandro enjoyed a free entry to the EPH Conference.

This was the first edition of the YRF to be held online and offered via an ASPHER member event. If you are interested to make YRF part of your event, contact ASPHER Secretariat.

## 14th European Public Health Conference 2021

**ASPHER was pleased to host several sessions with our Members and Partners at the [14th European Public Health Conference](#) from, 10-12 November 2021.**

If you missed any of the sessions, recorded videos are now available (for registered EPH Conference participants only). ASPHER events included:

**Pre-conference:** Developments in Economic Evaluation in Healthcare with EUPHA-HTA, ASPHER WG on Economic Evaluation in Healthcare. Recorded video links: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#)

**Plenary 1:** Public health practice, training and workforces for the future - Lessons from the pandemic (ASPHER, WHO EURO, European Observatory). [Recorded video link](#)

**Round table:** Preparing the climate and health workforce in Europe (ASPHER, EUPHA-ENV). [Recorded video link](#)

**Skills building seminar:** How to integrate social identities in public health education – an intersectional approach (Bielefeld University, ASPHER). [Recorded video link](#)

**Round table:** The role of European schools of public health in the 2020 COVID-19 response (ASPHER). [Recorded video link](#)

**Round table:** The Why, the How, and the Tensions in the response of European SPHs to the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic (ASPHER). [Recorded video link](#)

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## ASPHER NEWS & EVENTS

### Global Governance Updates

GNAPH Declaration: Global governance for improved human, animal, and planetary health: the essential role of schools and programs of public health



Since March 2021, the world’s leaders have expressed a desire to “build back better,” reflecting a desire to see an enhanced post-pandemic world and the need to improve and protect health by being better prepared to respond to future pandemics.

**The Global Network for Academic Health (GNAPH) has released the statement: '[Global governance for improved human, animal, and planetary health: the essential role of schools and programs of public health](#)'.** It lays out the role of schools and programs of public health in the current pandemic and in developing standards and competence for better public health as well as the public health knowledge and skills shown by the pandemic to be in need of massive expansion. It ends in an official declaration of what is required for better global governance for health.

The leaders of the GNAPH present this Declaration for consideration by our members, partners, and colleagues. We also present it for a wider audience of decision makers and funding bodies at global, regional, and national levels. We hope our member schools and programs of public health will use the declaration in their evidence to national governments, and health and education ministries, to make the case for enhanced public health education and increased public health workforce capacity. ASPHER is at your disposal to help with your efforts!

## GNAPH Declaration at G20 Public Health Workforce Laboratorium and WFPHA Pandemic Treaty meeting

On 20 October, GNAPH had two major opportunities to present the declaration on ['Global governance for improved human, animal, and planetary health: the essential role of schools and programs of public health'](#) to international stakeholders.

### G20 Public Health Workforce Laboratorium

The GNAPH Declaration was presented on 20 October by ASPPH President and CEO Laura Magaña to the [G20: Public Health Workforce: a Laboratorium](#) for improving training in prevention, preparedness and response to health crises. ASPHER thanks Laura for representing GNAPH and the vital interests of schools and programmes of public health at this key international forum.

### WFPHA and Global Health Centre for Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Meeting

ASPHER President John Middleton was in attendance at the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) and Global Health Centre [meeting on the Pandemic Preparedness Treaty](#) on 20 October, where he was able to share the GNAPH Declaration and its call to the World Health Assembly Special Session on the Pandemic Preparedness Treaty to ensure that there is a clear and substantial commitment to investment in education and training for public health built into the new treaty.



## Climate and Health Updates

### ASPHER Climate and Health Competencies for Public Health Professionals in Europe

On 25 October, ASPHER launched the [ASPHER Climate and Health Competencies for Public Health Professionals in Europe](#). This list will support public health schools to implement education and training for public health professionals to understand the basics, be able to communicate knowledgeably, and form partnerships and alliances in multidisciplinary settings with experts in the area of climate and health.

A special [webinar](#) was held to launch the Climate and Health Competencies featuring an introduction from ASPHER President John Middleton, and presentations on the state of climate and health education in Europe by ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan and the work of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education (GCCHE) by GCCHE Director Cecilia Sorensen. ASPHER members from EHESP, France; NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal;

University of Groningen, the Netherlands; Medical University of Gdansk, Poland; and University of Edinburgh, UK shared their experiences.

[Watch the launch webinar here.](#)

[Download the ASPHER Climate and Health Competencies for Public Health Professionals in Europe set here.](#)

## ASPHER Fellow Rana Orhan: Reflections from COP26



The long-awaited COP26 came to an end almost two weeks ago. In Glasgow, Scotland, almost 40,000 delegates got together to discuss needed steps to mitigate climate change. This was the year that health got a strong voice. As one of the most prominent advocates said to me in the Shilling Brewing Company – the place where health advocates came together every evening to debrief and connect: “It is good to see so many people from the health field here.”

It was, indeed. I attended the COP26, not from the inside like many others, but from the outside. Being in Glasgow during the first week got me to search for, be directed to and find some interesting events happening throughout the city. There are two of them that I will not forget soon. The first one is the panel organised by Dominic Hinde, an inspiring Lecturer at the University of Glasgow. Dominic has a background as a journalist and is pursuing an academic career as a multi-disciplinary researcher in climate change and the role of media. The panel got together three scholars with different backgrounds: Sam Walton (literature, Bath Spa University), Lewis Coenen-Rowe (arts and humanities, Creative Carbon Scotland), and Naveeda Khan (anthropology, Johns Hopkins University). The talk focused on the diversity of debates surrounding COP26. It made me realise, first, how cool people from other disciplines are, second, as someone with a public health background, how much there is still to learn from them. In the past years, we have talked about breaking silos many times. This is what that looked like.

The other moment that made an impact on me, is while walking along with the march organised by Extinction Rebellion – a non-violent grass-roots organisation active in many countries. I was invited by an activist from the Netherlands. The march attracted thousands of citizens, active and not active in the organisation.

**This is just an excerpt, [read the rest of Rana’s reflections on the ASPHER blog!](#)**

## ASPHER Signs the #HealthyClimate Prescription Letter

In the lead up to COP26, ASPHER President John Middleton has signed the #HealthyClimate Prescription Letter, an initiative by the health professional organisations

to the Climate Conference in Glasgow (COP26). The letter calls on national governments and their representatives at COP26 to take all the necessary action to avert the climate crisis and save millions of lives.

[For more information and to sign the letter.](#)

The signatories of the #HealthyClimate Prescriptions have created resources to support outreach to decision makers, the public, and other health professionals. See below the links to these toolkits, which will be updated periodically:

[Toolkit for organisations](#) | [Toolkit for individuals](#)

## ASPHER Members Survey

ASPHER is asking all our Members to fill out the [ASPHER Members Survey](#). This survey is a key consultation with members to help implement the ASPHER 2025 agenda and further improvements in the Association's membership policy including tailoring the benefits and services provided to serve members needs best.

This survey should ideally be answered by the head of the member institution. If not available, a delegated representative in a leadership position is also acceptable.

**ASPHER hopes that you take time to provide your honest and thoughtful feedback as we tried to put the survey together in a way to trigger engagement. Please tell us the story of your school or organisation! We have extended the survey deadline so that we may hear from as many Members as possible.**

## SEEEPHI Project



Work for the ASPHER Capacity Building Project, **Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel (SEEEPHI)** is well underway with the two preparatory [work packages](#) collecting data on field qualification analysis in the Israeli public health system and competency profiles of the Israeli schools and programmes of public health.

In recent weeks, SEEEPHI has published a concept paper '[The Future Public Health Workforce in a Changing World: A Conceptual Framework for a European-Israeli Knowledge Transfer Project](#)' and presented the project to the ERASMUS office in Israel and at the Israel country meeting at the EPH Conference. The consortium had also been hoping to take part in the annual conference of the Israel Association of Public Health Physicians in October, but due to Covid restrictions the conference has been moved to March 2022.

Learn more about SEEEPPI and the consortium team from the [SEEEPPI website](#) and from the [SEEEPPI newsletter](#)!

Bashkin O, Dopelt K, Mor Z. The Future Public Health Workforce in a Changing World: A Conceptual Framework for a European–Israeli Knowledge Transfer Project. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2021, 18, 9265. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18179265>



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

Sharing European Educational Experience in Public Health for Israel (SEEEPPI): Harmonization, employability, leadership and outreach (618578-EPP-1-2020-1-BE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP) is co-funded by the EU ERASMUS+ Key Action 2: Capacity Building in the Field of Higher Education

## Vaccinations: Saving Lives in Millions by Prof. John Middleton, ASPHER President

**23 October 2021**

This presentation by the President of ASPHER was done for a Spanish forum of vaccine manufacturers and public health specialists. It charts - in 18 short minutes - a life in service of public health working on vaccination programmes in two local authorities - Coventry and Sandwell in the West Midlands of England from 1983-2014. It goes right through to [ASPHER's COVID vaccination work](#) and the [vaccine TRIPS waiver](#) lobby.

[Watch full video here](#) | [The slideshow is available here.](#)

## PH Workforce: development, competencies and professionalization by Prof. Kasia Czabanowska, ASPHER Immediate Past President

**26 October 2021**

The event was organised by the Institute of Public Health, United Arab Emirates University.

[For more information.](#)

## Jeffrey Levett proclaimed Hon President of World Philosophical Forum



During the recent 12th Symposium in Dialectical Philosophy (October 7-9, 2021) of the World Philosophical Forum (WPF) Jeffrey Levett (ASPHER President, 1992-1993) was proclaimed Honorary President of WPF taking up the vacant position of the late Evangelos Moutsopoulos, Academician.

The World Philosophical Forum draws attention each year to the early warning system of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists whose doomsday clock is an indicator of the probability of a manmade global catastrophe.

The Forum was founded in Athens Greece 2009 in the homeland of philosophy by the Russian philosopher Igor Kondrashin as an independent international non-governmental, non-profit organization. Its aim is to protect the interests of humanity and act on behalf of mankind in order to attain a better future for all Earthlings and their respective societies.

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## MEMBER NEWS & EVENTS

### Fulda International Days

**In-person event, 1-3 December 2021**

The International Days at **Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany** are planned for providing a platform for facilitating and deepening the exchange about Fulda's Bachelor's programme International Health Sciences and other pertinent degree programmes in the field of public and population health with both university and practice partners. The workshop will combine the critical appraisal of activities and the progress made during the last two years with an intensive exchange about future possibilities and options for deepening the academic and practical cooperation in view of current and future global health challenges.

For more information and a full programme, [see here](#).

### Institute of Public Health UAEU Webinar

**Virtual event, 23 November, 2021, 16:00 (CET)**

Prof. Syed Mahboob Shah from **Institute of Public Health, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, United Arab Emirates University** will deliver a speech on the topic: "From reducing high maternal & child mortality to NCDs burden in Himalaya's: Prevention first".

More information is available [here](#)

### Krakov 30th Anniversary International Scientific Conference

The year 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the School of Public Health, which was a joint project of the **Jagiellonian University** and the **Medical Academy in Krakow**. To honor this event in a special way, the Institute of Public Health organised a two-day international scientific online conference, devoted to public health issues and the challenges related to the current global epidemiological situation.

ASPHER was pleased to take part in the event on 7-8 October with several Executive Board Members contributing. The conference also hosted the first virtual [ASPHER Young Researchers' Forum](#).

For more information about the jubilee conference and to view the full programme please [follow this link](#).

## Fulbright Distinguished Lecture 2021 with Professor Devi Sridhar Virtual event, 19 November 2021

Preventing the Next Pandemic: What have we learned about international health collaboration and what needs to change?



Congratulations to Professor Devi Sridhar, Professor of Global Public Health at the **University of Edinburgh**, for her Fulbright Distinguished Lecture on 19 November. In a thought provoking seminar, she addressed the historical roots of international cooperation in health and the subsequent creation of the World Health Organisation in the aftermath of World War II. The WHO's existence is rooted in outbreak management across borders. And yet in the hyperconnected world of 2020-21, global cooperation broke down illustrated by divergent & nationally-driven strategies on COVID-response, vaccine nationalism and hoarding by rich countries, and tense political fractures over the origins of COVID-19. Can we rectify these gaps and do better moving forward?

## Course: Introduction to Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis Online, 9-11 December 2021

**Public Health, Health Services Research and HTA - UMIT TIROL:** This 3-day virtual hands-on workshop provides an introduction to conducting systematic reviews, evidence synthesis and meta-analyses. The course will cover how to formulate an answerable research question, perform a literature search, extract data, assess study quality and risk of bias, perform a meta-analysis and report results. The course will be interactive and practical, with a mixture of lectures, hands-on tutorials and computer exercises.

[For more information and to register.](#)

## UK Public Health Science:

A National Conference Dedicated to New Research in UK Public Health  
Virtual event, 26 November 2021



What is the impact of junk food advertising restrictions on public transport on food and drink purchases? What are the challenges and opportunities of using social media to measure population mental health? How did scientific advice feed into COVID-19 policy making in the UK?

These are just three pieces of research that will be presented at Public Health Science: A National Conference Dedicated to New Research in UK Public Health.

This multidisciplinary conference aims to showcase exceptional talent in the UK public health research community and will present work spanning all aspects of public health and using a full range of methodological approaches. The core of the event will be comprised of oral and lightning presentations of peer-reviewed abstracts.

Full programme is available [here](#).

Please fill in the [registration form](#) to attend the conference.

## Selected ASPHER Member Publications

Correia T, Daniel-Ribeiro CT, Ferrinho P. Calling for a planetary and one health vision for global health. *One Health*. 2021:100342.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2021.100342>

Kalbus A, Boenecke J, Holt M, Powell S, Reintjes R. Exploring Trends and Differences in Health Behaviours of Health Sciences University Students from Germany and England: Findings from the “SuSy” Project. *Public Health Rev*. 2021.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2021.1603965>

Namer Y, Wandschneider L, Middleton J, Davidovitch N, Razum O. How can Schools of Public Health Actively Promote Peace? *Public Health Rev*. 2021.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3389/phrs.2021.1604459>

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## PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

### The International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) Roadmap for Action on Health and Climate Change



The IANPHI launched the IANPHI Roadmap for Action on Health and Climate Change at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, during a side event titled "[The Untapped Potential of National Public Health Institutes as Key Climate Actors](#)".

The roadmap highlights and advocates for the existing and potential key role of national public health institutes (NPHIs) in climate adaptation and mitigation, and how they contribute to climate policies, research and action.

The [IANPHI Roadmap is available for download here](#) in English, Arabic, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

## EuroHealthNet's Strategy 2021-2026



EuroHealthNet is launching its new [Strategic Development Plan](#), which sets out the principles and priorities which will guide their work over the next five years, as well as a new website and brand.

The focus of the new strategy is on:

- The application of the equity lens across health and other policies and measures; supporting the 'economy of wellbeing', as well as a 'whole of society' approach.
- Novel ways to promote health and prevent diseases. Making solutions attractive and sustainable, whilst contributing to the transformation of health and social protection systems.
- The social, economic, environmental, cultural, commercial, behavioural, and political determinants of health, which allows us to be agile and responsive to the diverse threats to health equity.

## 2nd General Assembly of PHIRI: Fostering Population Health Research in a (post)Pandemic Europe

**Virtual event, 30 November 2021**

PHIRI, the Population Health Information Research Infrastructure, is implementing a research infrastructure to facilitate and generate the best available evidence for research on health and well-being of populations as impacted by COVID-19. PHIRI invites all its consortium partners and key national and international stakeholders to its 2nd General Assembly.



The event will showcase key outcomes of the project and put these outputs into perspective in order to fuel and promote an active discussion around three main themes that are at the core of PHIRI: Crisis preparedness & rapid policy and research response; Research questions on the impact of COVID-19 on population health and future scenarios; A common vision on the future of facilitating the secondary use of health data.

[Register now!](#)

## The European Health Data Space From a Civil Society Perspective



As a policy initiative, the European Health Data Space (EHDS) aims to provide a common framework across EU Member States for the sharing and exchange of quality health data such as electronic health records, patient registries, and

genomic data, in order to support healthcare delivery, but also to facilitate health research, policymaking, and legislation.

On 18 November European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) brought together policymakers and members of the civil society – particularly representatives of patient groups, health practitioners, and vulnerable communities – to discuss the implications that the creation of the EHDS will have on EU citizens. ASPHER Young Professional Rok Hrzcic made the introduction to the event, which offered the opportunity to educate the audience about the importance of the EHDS, while also providing members of civil society with a platform to share their views and potential concerns on the issue.

For more information [follow this link](#).

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## OPPORTUNITIES

### ISPUP is recruiting: Junior PhD Researcher

The Institute of Public Health of the University of Porto (ISPUP), intends to hire one junior PhD Researcher, corresponding to a post-doctorate initial level.

The candidate must have: (1) Doctoral (PhD) Degree in Public Health or in any relevant allied science, obtained 5 or less years before the opening of this call; (2) Formal training and research in population health sciences relevant for public health.

**Admission period: from November 8th, 2021 until December 8th, 2021**

More information is available [here](#).

### Europubhealth+, European Master in Public Health

The Europubhealth+ programme is an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree that has been recognized as a Master of Excellence by the European Commission since 2006. This is a 2-year multidisciplinary Master course in public health delivered by a consortium of 8 European universities leading to an internationally recognized double Master's degree.

**Application procedure for 2022 intake is now open. Application deadlines:**

**12th January 2022** for candidates applying for an Erasmus+: ErasmusMundusScholarship.

**2nd March 2022** for Non-European candidates applying for the University of Liege (Belgium) as self-funded students.

**10th May 2022** for all candidates applying as self-funded students.

For more information on the 2019 programme see the [leaflet](#).

For application details and selection procedures [click here](#).

## 2021 EU Health Award to recognise those promoting cancer prevention and alleviating the mental health impacts of COVID-19

**Deadline: 30 November 2021**

The European Commission has launched the 2021 EU Health Award on the following topics:

- **Cancer prevention:** rewarding the initiatives of cities, NGOs (or other civil society organisations), and educational institutions seeking to promote communication and health literacy on cancer prevention among children and young people (from 6 to 24 years old). Initiatives could include actions promoting healthy diets and regular physical activity, discouraging the use of tobacco products and alcohol, reducing (online) marketing of unhealthy products, enabling a supportive environment and protection from exposure to sunlight. A special focus should be placed on reaching and involving children and young people from socio-economic disadvantaged population groups, including migrants, ethnic minorities, etc., and/or children living with disabilities.
- **Mental health:** rewarding community-based initiatives alleviating the mental health impact of COVID-19. Initiatives could include actions raising awareness, tackling prejudice and/or stigma, bridging or complementing service gaps and/or delays that have arisen from disrupted mental health service provision as a consequence of the pandemic, among others.

For more information on the criteria and submission process, please [visit this website](#).

**The applications can be submitted by 30 November 2021.**

The winners and shortlisted in each category will receive prizes ranking from EUR 1 500 to EUR 30 000. They will be announced in 2022 at the EU Health Award Ceremony.

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