**Public Health Law WG meeting, Lugano, August 29, 2018**

**Dominique Sprumont**

**Follow-up of the London meeting**

**Participants:**

Timo Clemens (NL), Axel Hoffmann (CH), Scott Burris (USA); Carlo Signorelli (I); Anna Odone (I); André den Exter (NL) (by phone); Kasia Czabanowska (ASPHER, ex officio) (by phone); Dominique Sprumont (CH, Chair)

This document is not called “minutes of the meeting…” as the meeting did not take place as such. It was not possible for most members to fit the date in their agenda and for a few who managed they had to cancel at the last minute. Last, due to time constraint it was not possible for some to be present the whole afternoon. The chair decided therefore to take the best of the time of those who could contribute either on site or by telephone. This report summarizes the outcomes of those bilateral discussions that covered most topics addressed in London. After all, this proved to be a fruitful experience.

**PHL in future ASPHER events and international conferences**

Carlo Signorelli provided the latest information about the 2019 ASPHER Deans’ meeting to be hold in Erice (Sicilia) as well as the 16th World Congress on Public Health 2020 in Roma. After discussion, it was agreed to take the following steps and bring these proposal to ASPHER Executive Board:

1. Hypothesis of a parallel session on PH and law in Erice 2019 program. Should the Retreat be open to individual abstract, the submission on this topic could be stimulated.
2. Possibility to offer to the participants of the Rome 2020 World Congress an ad hoc PHL training course organized by ASPHER in collaboration with the Swiss School of Public Health (SSPH+) (since SSPH+ confirmed its willingness to evaluate the proposal)
3. Evaluate the opportunity for ASPHER to propose a lecture on this topic in one of the plenary sessions of the 16th World Health Congress in 2020

This is important that all members of the PHL WG react to these proposals. If we have a consensus, the chair will carry them on to the Executive Board. Of course, you are also invited to discuss the issue with your colleagues.

**Training programs in PHL**

Timo Clemens expressed the interest to introduce a module on PHL in the Maastricht master program in public health. Similar interests were raised by Axel Hoffmann for the Swiss TPH Master in International Health Management. Such program could in fact be of interest for other programs within Swiss TPH and the SSPH+.

The course developed by Scott Burris and Dominique Sprumont at the Lugano Summer School could serve as a starting point. It should be completed by courses on policy surveillance systems and more advanced training on how to implement the methodology. There are also opportunities to offer shorter programs (2 x 1 ½ days) in Brussels, targeting the EU community as well as the numerous organizations dealing with health issues.

The timeline is to evaluate the opportunity to launch a first short course in the Spring 2019 (format equivalent to Lugano). A broader module to be integrated in MPH should be ready for early 2020. Yet, due to academic constraints (procedure to include a new course in a master program), the concept should be ready by January 2019. More details should be provided to specify the process depending on the Universities likely to include such a PHL course in their MPH programs (or equivalent).

**Developing a platform for the PHL WG members and to promote PHL courses**

Axel Hoffmann from Swiss TPH and SSPH+ is involved in providing an electronic platform as part of the ECDC – ASPHER agreement. A follow-up meeting (skype) will take place in the first week of September with Jeanine from ECDC and Robert from ASPHER. As suggested in London PHL WG could benefit from it. There are two dimensions: first the WG members could use the platform to communicate and exchange information; second, the platform will include a listing of existing courses in PH and the WG could also include there existing training programs on PHL that could be of interest for all PH professionals

This platform should be ready by October. The WG members will then be invited to join it and contribute in the identification and promotion of PHL courses. Such platform will very be useful to keep track of the training projects mentioned above as well as the various ASPHER events and international conferences that could include PHL activities. It would be much appreciated if a member of the WG could help coordinating this task.

**Developing a policy surveillance system on the implementation of the International Health Regulation (IHR)**

Dominique Sprumont is currently developing a research project with Scott Burris on setting up a policy surveillance system in the implementation of the IHR in the WHO EURO region. Funding for this have already been secured from WHO and the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. ASPHER is identified as a stakeholder in the project with the task to provide expertise and academic support in the process. André den Exter has already expressed his willingness to participate. At this stage, the WG members should be informed about this coming initiative and express their interest to contribute. It would also be important to identify the existing resources that they could bring in the project, whether through their own institutions or by providing bridges with the ministry of health and other competent authorities at the national level.

As it was a non-meeting, there were no formal end in the discussion. For those who stayed, they joined the Lugano Summer School teachers’ dinner and enjoy the good wine of Ticino while continuing the talks.

As a post-scriptum, the survey was not discussed. It did not change since London. You can have access to it here:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1pfBQWFMUR0scb43lfRGjqN8U6JFEqGiLVfnlJo3zqKQ/edit?usp=drivesdk>

This is important that we make best use of it. I would be thankful if someone could volunteer in drafting a paper on it, offering an insight of the initiative and the conclusions that can be drawn from it.

Dominique Sprumont, Neuchâtel (Switzerland)