

## **WORKSHOP 2**

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Sunday, 18 September 2005

### **PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ENLARGING EUROPE (PHETICE)**

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Executive Director, ASPHER

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce and familiarise participants with the EU co-funded PHETICE project in which ASPHER is a partner.

#### **Objectives**

The objectives of this workshop are:

- to present the objectives and planned output of the PHETICE project;
- to ensure support and participation from European PH training programmes for this project by raising its visibility in the ASPHER community;
- to get some initial feedback from represented European SPHs and programmes on the project.

## **ASPHER Annual Conference, Yerevan, Armenia**

### **Workshop 2: Public Health Training in the Context of an Enlarging Europe (PHETICE)**

**Sunday 18 September 2005 – 11.30 to 13.00**

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#### ***Programme Outline:***

##### **Introduction**

Thierry Louvet, Executive Director, ASPHER.

##### **Background information on PHETICE project:**

Emil Pettersson, Dpt of Public Health, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

##### **Work Package 3: Introduction of prioritised issues, networking and production of guidelines**

Susanna Thulin, Dpt of Preventive Nutrition, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

##### **ASPHER's contribution.**

Thierry Louvet, Executive Director, ASPHER

The workshop was introduced by Thierry Louvet, ASPHER Executive Director. The other presenters are:

- Susanna Thulin, Department of Preventive Nutrition, Karolinska Institute (Sweden);
- Emil Petersson, Department of Public Health, Karolinska Institute (Sweden);

The PHETICE project is funded under the EU Public Health programme (DG Sanco), the same funding programme as for the EMPH project. ASPHER is now one of the partners in the PHETICE project.

The purpose of this workshop is to present the overall objectives of the project which has only very recently started and also to enlist the support of ASPHER members to take part in the mapping of PH education in Europe.

TL hands over to Emil Petersson (EP) who presents the overall framework of the project.

## Background to PHETICE

Four European Master programmes (see below) had received funding from DG Sanco and were told by DG Sanco that funding would be terminated unless those programmes were to start working together. They then started to establish this project with Karolinska Institute as a coordinator and ASPHER was later approached. The acronym (PHETICE) stands for Public Health training in the context of an enlarging Europe.

The contract was signed with DG Sanco in July of this year but started officially on 1 April with a budget of 2 Million Euros for 3 years.

The Partners are:

- at Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden: Dpt of Social Medicine and Dpt of Biosciences (where Preventive Nutrition is)
- University of Brighton UK (UoB)
- Free University Amsterdam Netherlands (VUA)
- Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz Germany (JoGU)

Respectively, the Dpt of Biosciences has a European Master in Nutrition, UoB a European Master in Health Promotion, VUA a European Master in PH Gerontology and JoGU a European Master in Epidemiology.

The general objectives of this project are as follows:

- To contribute to a European strategy in public health (PH) specialist training, building on experiences and investments from existing training programmes, identifying commonalities and synergies;
- To identify and integrate educational institutions from acceding and candidate countries into existing European PH training programmes;
- To develop a common understanding of the core competencies of professionals within PH specialist areas, through networking and collaboration with relevant projects and institutions;
- To develop European professional and academic standards to enable uniform quality control processes and joint degrees on all levels;
- To further develop methods for PH training and integrate areas of inequality, health monitoring and best practice (EU prioritised areas) in PH training (e.g. in teaching modules);
- To publish and disseminate guidelines for public health specialist training in Europe;
- To increase access to evidence-based education and information to European PH specialists and thereby to European citizens.

The work is divided among partners in different Work Packages (WP) with KI Dpt of PH as the coordinator of the project. These are:

WP 3 "Introduction of prioritised issues, networking and production of guidelines" is done by KI Dpt of Preventive Nutrition;

WP 4 by UoB is "Professional and academic standards/Pedagogical strategies";

WP5 by VUA is "Programme linkage, curriculum and modules";

WP 6 is Website and Databases is done by ASPHER;

WP 7 by JoGU is about "Mapping PH programmes in Europe".

Jutta Lindert from JoGU (Mainz) was supposed to be here and it would have been useful because her WP is the first thing we will have to do in PHETICE i.e. to map what kind of PH training is out there in Europe.

Development of questionnaires for programme directors to be answered on-line (via internet) and this part is done by ASPHER.

A further aim of the project which is not explicitly in the objectives and was agreed in our first project committee meeting in April is to link between the networks and improve communication between those networks and also to contribute to the implementation of the Bologna process and this why we were granted money for this project. DG Sanco would like to see more harmonisation in PH training and to strengthen this area.

Following Emil's presentation, Susanna Thulin gives an overview of WP3 led by KI PrevNut (Agneta Yngve and Susanna Thulin). Attention here is focusing on curricula design and content with regards to surveillance of health indicators (what are the relevant determinants and indicators to include).

Also included are equality within countries, best practice and European dimension.

The main objective of WP3 is to integrate prioritised areas into the core curriculum either as full modules or as part of modules. A separate module will be produced on monitoring.

The deliverables of WP3 are:

- report on consensus regarding inclusion of prioritised issues in core curricula. To be finalised in June 2006.
- Introductory module in health monitoring (10-15 ECTS) to be completed by August 2006.
- Guidelines and dissemination to identified contacts. December 2006.

This was a short introduction to this WP as the work has not yet started.

In his presentation, TL stresses the following points:

- importance of the enlarging Europe concept which refers to both new entrants in the now EU25 and accessing countries such Bulgaria and Romania and beyond (Balkan countries in particular).
- Context in which ASPHER was approached by KI. ASPHER was not involved in the initial project write-up and the reason why ASPHER was approached is because one of the initial partner withdrew.
- Initial contact between KI and A. Foldspan and hence this opportunity arose and it made sense to join in view of the overall content and objectives of the project.

For instance content and deliverables of all WP were already all written up and ASPHER was not able to change these even if we hope to influence the process as we go along. ASPHER's role is limited to WP6 (Website and databases).

This is our core business as it deals with PH training in Europe and with Eastern Europe in particular. Even if our role is more technical on paper, we want to be able to influence positively the project by making our knowledge and experience available to all the partners.

The first step in the project is to map PH training in CEE countries in order to bring them into the project. ASPHER will create a tool which will allow to collect information (on-line web-based tool).

In terms of deliverables, ASPHER will have to produce:

- Web-based questionnaires;
- Database of information collected.

Opportunity for ASPHER to enlarge its knowledge of other existing training programmes.

### **Presentations are followed by Questions & Answers session:**

Question from André Meijer (University of Maastricht) about the Bologna declaration.

Reply from EP and ST stressing the 3+2 model.

Question from Franco Cavallo (Turin University): Is ASPHER's role going to be limited to WP6 or will it be larger? What is the strategy behind all this as it is not apparent from the presentations made?

On the first question, TL hopes that by being now involved in PHETICE, the EMPH will become an integral part as this was not the case at the outset if we refer to all four other European Master programmes.

On the generalist versus more specialised European Masters, EP sees this as an area of reflexion. Should Europe follow a North American generalist approach or a specialised approach?

Question from Vesna Bjegovic (Belgrade) about modules and ECTS and scope of PH training to be mapped (will it include undergraduate as well as postgraduate?)

Reply from EP: Discussion on this already and even if undergraduate education was not initially part of the project it will now be included.

Future guidelines to be produced will be more of a benchmarking nature.

Comment from Roza Adany (SPH Debrecen): In the EMPH project very important questions were discussed with the participation of ASPHER member schools. It would be nice if the other partners in the PHETICE project would acknowledge the work already done by ASPHER in this area, as well as on accreditation. For RA, these should be the basis for the work to be done by this project. On Bologna, in the case of health sciences, of which Public Health is a part, the 3+2 model cannot be used for RA.

EP had no further comment to make on the point relating to ASPHER's role in the project. On Bologna, it will be up to individual governments to implement the Bologna declaration according to their own rules and regulations.

Gordana Pavlekovic (A. Stampar SPH, Zagreb, Croatia) supports all the other points made by other participants and has no further comment to make. Regarding the other partners, as they are part of academic circles, do you plan to have cooperation with EUPHA?

EP: The answer is yes and plans are made in order to be present at the EUPHA conference in Graz in November of this year (workshop with representatives of all the work packages).

Ted Tulchinsky (Hadassah-Braun SPH Jerusalem, Israel) has the impression listening to the presentations that people are trying to rediscover the wheel and realise that it may come out square. He wants to caution the partners in PHETICE and by doing so will only repeat what others already said but will say it more bluntly. A lot of efforts has been put in the creation and development of SPHs in Europe over the last 50 years. There is an experience and there is a momentum and there is a certain consensus towards the content.

But that is not what you are thinking about if we listen to your presentations. None of the members of your consortium have an MPH programme so TT is suggesting a very open door to ASPHER and all of the people in ASPHER in the decision-making process, so not simply on the web page aspect.

TT takes as an example the nutrition specialty in PH. The EU in this area is lagging behind on important issues of PH nutrition and he senses that this could happen with other specialties. He would that his comments are taken in a constructive and not regressive manner in a train already in motion.

Reply by EP: he is aware of the risk described by TT and mentions that each of the partners responsible for each WP has its own network. So it is not only a small group people but rather a series of networks and we would very much like to broaden.

Regarding the specialists Masters, EP would like to mention that his Dpt at KI has in fact its own MPH.

Allan Krasnik (IPH Copenhagen) is Glad that ASPHER is now represented in the project hence involving the PH training community. AK supports the acceptance of the project as it is by ASPHER and urges the coordinator and other partners, as other speakers already did, to give space to ASPHER and its experience and to establish a plan for communication to our mutual benefit.

EP perfectly agrees with what has just been said and thinks that it is important.

Anders Foldspang (University of Aarhus and ASPHER President) would like to give more details about the history. AF has close contacts with KI over many years and was asked if he would be interested to take part in this project. After discussion with KI, AF felt that this was more a job for ASPHER than for him as a local scientist even if Aarhus was to get some resources it would not be one of its core activity.

Then this was brought to the attention of ASPHER's EB and if ASPHER had decided against participating in PHETICE, then what would have come out of it may not be as well founded as we in ASPHER would wish it to be. So for AF, it seemed that ASPHER would be better off in rather than out and be represented by its Executive Director with his experience and his experience in PEER Reviews.

This was AF's consideration and the outcome could potentially have been negative if ASPHER had not been involved as it represents nearly 70 members and over 40 years of experience and expertise. Looking at the papers, there are a number of things that AF would have organised in a different way. There is a mapping exercise and AF is confident that TL will be able to put his expertise into that and that we should all sustain him.

EP thinks that the other partners are also aware of ASPHER as a contributor to this project and does not see this as a problem.

Chris Birt (Liverpool) understands the difficult position within the ASPHER Executive Board and believes that they made the right decision which CB supports. There is a long history behind all this and it is time that somebody reviews the whole scene.

The problem here is that there is no strategy and the important thing is what use is made of the information about to be collected. We need to see how we can make best use of what comes out of this project with ASPHER in the lead in the appropriate time.

Lidia Georgieva (FPH Sofia) asks if there are plans to cover all PH programme in accession countries or only to make a selection

Reply by EP: the project intends to cover all PH training programmes.

For Christoph Pammer (University of Graz), DG Sanco should have approached ASPHER first. ASPHER and EUPHA need to get closer to DG Sanco and inform it

For Martin McKee (LSHTM), there are in fact three accession countries at the minute and the post 2004 new MS, not to mention the wider European neighbourhood with Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia, and the Caucasus as well.

EP: recent MS and the 3 accession countries are included. We are free to include other parts of EE too but that is part of the mapping process to decide the targets and so on.

Charles Normand (Dublin and ASPHER past-president) thinks that it was useful to sketch the history of this project but to ignore it as history is not important for what we should be doing next. As a community we want to help this project as we have embedded in ASPHER a huge amount of knowledge. So CN is asking fellow ASPHER members to be tooled up to be as helpful as possible. The concerns that are being raised are very real, such as around the whole question of Bologna. Since then, we've tried to live with a framework which has only been partially thought through.

CN sees the OSI-ASPHER programme as a component to be fed into the thinking of this group because there is a lot of information and material which could be of use.

We had an opportunity to say this is not what we wanted but now we do want this to proceed and we need to have a very generous spirit.

Karolina Kosa (SPH Debrecen) mentions that she was recently invited to participate in the work of WP4 (UoB) during a conference in Lisbon and discovered how much in a precarious position she was.

But she will consider herself in this group as the ASPHER liaison because KK feels that her responsibility is to make sure that people involved in WP4 are aware of ASPHER.

KK asks for support in her role as ASPHER liaison with that group.

Ted Tulchinsky suggests that the steering group of the PHETICE project includes an ASPHER Executive Board person.

For Emil Petterson, this is fine with him but it is up to ASPHER to decide who it wants to send to PHETICE meetings.

Susanna Thulin gets the impression that people think that KI has the sole decision-making role in the PHETICE project which is not the case.

As there are no other questions, TL and the other presenters thank everyone for their participation and all their remarks.

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## Workshop 2

### “Public Health training in the context of an Enlarging Europe – PHETICE”

XXVII ASPHER Annual Conference  
Yerevan

Thierry Louvet  
Executive Director  
ASPHER

[www.aspher.org](http://www.aspher.org)



### ASPHER & PHETICE project and partners

- Context in which ASPHER was approached.
- Initially contact made by Karolinska Institute (Stockholm) with A. Foldspang (Aarhus).
- First contact with ASPHER in January 2005 (In case of joining the project, ASPHER invited to take over work package 6 (website and databases)).

[www.aspher.org](http://www.aspher.org)



### ASPHER & PHETICE project and partners

- Overall project lies with our core business, especially strengthening of information about PH training education.
- ASPHER interested in working collaboratively to look at the development of public health training in its widest sense across Europe (i.e. not simply limited to website and databases).

[www.aspher.org](http://www.aspher.org)



### PHETICE - WP6

- To increase access to evidence-based education and information to European PH specialists and thereby to European citizens.
- Create a website for evidence-based information and educational resources.
- This WP will be closely linked to all the other WPs, creating the electronic format for all survey tools used to assess the five existing programmes and training of public health in ACC.

[www.aspher.org](http://www.aspher.org)



#### Deliverables:

- Production of web-based electronic questionnaires and instructions for use.
- Results of other WP's electronic questionnaires included in a database for common use.
- The draft Guidelines will be posted on an open website for downloading and commenting.
- After commenting, the finalised Guidelines for public health training in Europe will be posted as pdf-file.
- Further materials, tools, online modules, training packages for trainers and students will be published on the website.

[www.aspher.org](http://www.aspher.org)



**Thank you for your attention.**

[www.aspher.org](http://www.aspher.org)



## Emil Pettersson

Coordinator  
PHETICE

## Public Health Training In The Context Of An Enlarging Europe

Acronym: PHETICE

### Basic facts

- Contract signed with DG SANCO 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2005
- Official starting date 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2005
- Global budget: 2 milj €
- Duration: Three years from starting date

### PHETICE Partners

- Karolinska Institutet, department of PH and department of biosciences
- University of Brighton
- Vrije University of Amsterdam
- Johannes Gutenberg university of Mainz
- ASPHER

### PHETICE-General Objectives

- To contribute to a European strategy in PH training
- To integrate PH training programmes from acceding and candidate countries into existing European PH training programmes
- To develop a common understanding of the core competencies of professionals within PH specialist areas
- To develop European professional and academic standards to enable uniform quality control processes and joint degrees on all levels

### PHETICE-General Objectives

- To further develop methods for PH training and integrate areas of inequality, health monitoring and best practice
- To publish and disseminate guidelines for public health specialist training in Europe
- To increase access to evidence-based education and information to European PH specialists

WP 1	Coordination of the project	KI-dep of PH
WP 2	Dissemination of the results	KI-dep of PH
WP 3	Introduction of prioritised issues, networking and production of Guidelines	KI-dep of BS
WP 4	Professional and academic Standards/Pedagogical Strategies	UoB
WP 5	Programme linkage, curriculum and modules	VUA
WP 6	Website and Databases	ASPHER
WP 7	Mapping public health programmes in Europe	JoGu

## Further aims

- To be a link between networks in the PH area
- Contribute to the implementation of the Bologna process within PH education
- Strengthen the professional role of PH workers

## Contact info

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