

European Public Health Conference, Marseille 2019

Plenary 4: Bridging towards the future of Public Health in Europe (II) - Can (and how) we ensure Health in all EU policies?

Friday 22 November, 13:40 – 14:40

Organized by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and ASPHER

Moderator:

Josep Figueras, Director European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

Keynote speaker/Panelists:

- Anne Bucher, Director-General, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission
- Scott L Greer, Professor Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan, United States
- John Middleton, President Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)
- Marian Harkin, Chair of [All Policies for a Healthy Europe](#), Former Member of the European Parliament

Newsroom:

- Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb, Secretary General of the European Health Forum Gastein
- Naomi Nathan, ASPHER Fellow

Note:

The plenary will start with a ceremony to award the Andrija Stampar medal for the excellence in the field of public health which is bestowed by ASPHER. This will be led by John Middleton, president of ASPHER, who will present the medal to Professor Gaetano Maria Fara.

Program Outline

The plenary will continue the debate on *The future of Public Health in Europe* introduced in the previous plenary (organized by the European Commission and EUPHA), tackling the role of the EU and its institutions in ensuring that health is addressed in all EU policies.

The EU is firmly committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals through its range of institutional mechanisms. Incoming Commission President *von der Leyen* has pledged to refocus the European Semester “to make sure we stay on track with our SDGs”. These

developments, together with the broad recognition of the central role of health in the SDGs and the momentum given by the new EU policy cycle presents a unique window of opportunity to critically reappraise the role of health in the EC, which, at least, on paper makes for an ideal Health in All Policies institution.

Keynotes

The session will start with two keynote speakers of 10 min each by Anne Boucher and Scott Greer to frame the debate.

- *The State of health and health systems in the Union*

The first keynote by Director-General Anne Bucher, DG SANTE, will provide a preview of the 2019 *State of Health in the EU* exercise, comprising the Country Health Profiles for all EU/EEA countries alongside the Commission's Companion Report. She will highlight the main health and health system challenges faced by EU Member States - ranging from the burden posed by preventable mortality to the vaccination crisis and the resilience of the health workforce. This is the very first preview of the 2019 *State of Health in the EU* reports, which are to be published on 28 November.

- *Bridging health in all EU policies*

Professor Scott Greer's keynote will contend that to tackle these challenges we need to go beyond Public Health Article 168 and its subsidiarity corset. He will speak to the need to proactively employ the much stronger (health) policy tools within the large body of EU law underlying the internal market and to draw on the EU's newfound role in fiscal governance such as through the European semester. Professor Greer will draw on the innovative results of the new edition of the seminal study '*Everything you always wanted to know about European Union health policies but were afraid to ask*' which will be distributed to participants.

Panel discussion: The political economy of health in the EU

Following the presentations, the two keynotes will join a panel discussion for about 30 minutes which will also include John Middleton and Marian Harkin. The panel will debate on the practical implementations and political economy questions arising from the plenary's postulates.

Voting question

The panel will begin with a voting question which will be posed to the audience.

What are the best policy areas / levers to get health high on the EU agenda?

Please choose the three most important ones

1. Sustainable Development Goals e.g. for Climate Action
2. European Semester e.g. for access to health services
3. Structural funds e.g. for healthy regional policy
4. Health Impact Assessments e.g. health in public investments
5. Institutional consultations and joint actions e.g. for best practice learning
6. Joint Programming e.g. for innovation in health
7. Internal market e.g. for transport and health
8. Trade e.g. for consumer protection

9. Economic and Financial Affairs e.g. for investment in Health
10. Social Pillar e.g. for employment and inclusion

The results of the voting will be displayed on screen and will serve as a background for the debate with the panelists.

The moderator will ask questions to panelists on the following lines (the order may vary in line with the responses and debate among panelists):

- **Marian Harkin**, Chair of All Policies for a Healthy Europe, will react on the results of the polling and will address the political economy implications of bringing health across EU policies and how to bypass the complexities of working across policy sectors in the EU institutions.
- **John Middleton**, ASPHER's president, will also react on the results of the polling and address the implications for the Public Health profession such as training in public health leadership, overhauling public health competencies or indeed the understanding of the public health profession itself.
- **Anne Bucher**, Director-General, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission will address questions on the economic challenges for health systems, and the role of the EU semester and internal market to get health high in the EU agenda and implement health in all policies.
- **Scott L Greer**, Professor Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan, will address some of the results of the polling.

Newsroom

The audience will react with additional questions and contributions through the 'Mentimeter' app. Dorli Kahr-Gottlieb, Secretary General of the European Health Forum Gastein and Naomi Nathan ASPHER Fellow will summarize those contributions and questions.

The panelists may wish to react on some of those questions and contributions in a final round of comments and key lessons on the central question of the plenary: ***Can (and how) we ensure Health in all EU policies?***