

WORKSHOP 7

Workshop 7

Monday, 19 September 2005

ASPHER MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND STANDARDS

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Introduction

Cyclically, organizations need to critically look at their goals and objectives, at the way they operate and sustain themselves. They need to assess if the direction in which they are heading is the most appropriate one and responds to the present and future challenges of this ever-changing world. Likewise, organisations must evaluate if they keep on meeting effectively and efficiently the needs and the expectations of their constituencies. If necessary, they look at their organisational structure and introduce innovative elements in order to keep abreast of time.

As in other occasions, ASPHER is taking the opportunity of this annual conference to brainstorm with as many as possible of its associates to look at the past, at the present, but, mainly, to focus on the future of membership, which is the heart of any organisation, and try to define elements of effective development.

General Objectives

This workshop's main objectives are:

- Review the current situation of Schools of Public Health in Europe;
- Outline the present criteria and standards for ASPHER membership;
- Identify elements of new criteria and standards for ASPHER membership.

ASPHER MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA AND STANDARDS WORKSHOP 7

**Monday 19 September 2005
16:00 - 17:30**

Chaired by:

**Rosa Giuseppa Frazzica, CEFPAS, Caltanissetta (Italy) & Anders Foldspang,
Aarhus University (Denmark)**

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As in other occasions, ASPHER is taking the opportunity of this annual conference to brainstorm with as many as possible of its associates to look at the past, at the present, but, mainly, to focus on the future of membership, which is the heart of any organisation, and try to define elements of effective development.

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Programme Outline

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 16:00 – 16:15 | <i>The current panorama of Schools of Public Health in Europe</i>
Thierry Louvet, ASPHER Executive Director |
| 16:15 – 16:30 | <i>ASPHER membership criteria and standards</i>
Thierry Louvet, ASPHER Executive Director |
| 16:30 – 17:15 | Brainstorming session in small groups on <i>Criteria and Standards for ASPHER Membership</i>
Facilitated by: Pina Frazzica, Executive Board Member and Anders Foldspang, President |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | Presentation of results in plenary |

Some of the questions to be discussed by groups

- On what criteria should ASPHER membership be based? eg. number of faculty, number of students, number of courses...
- The type of programme offered, its duration, the number of ECTS, the methodology: should these be considered for ASPHER membership?
- Should curriculum and training modalities make a difference? eg. Residential versus Distance Learning...
- Should ASPHER open its membership to individual Public Health practitioners, not only Schools of Public Health?
- Others..

Two groups were formed as follows:

1) a **consolidating group** (with L. Georgieva, G. Kallischnigg, M. Kulzhanov, E. Likke Mortensen, A Malina and A. Foldspang (facilitator))

2) an **innovative group** (with C. Birt, K. Faisst, A. Meijer, C. Normand, S.J. Sitko and P. Frazzica (facilitator))

The consolidating group identified the following points/issues as needing to be taken into consideration in a discussion on membership:

- similar interest;
- mission of the institution;
- length of establishment of institution applying for membership;
- coverage of PH perimeter;
- number of graduates and number of students;
- the student to faculty ratio is more important as it represents the interface between a teacher (institution) and a learner (student); we need to define what the appropriate student to faculty ratio would be.
- a credible and consistent teaching programme. Criteria relating to that need also to be developed.
- need for a coherence and credibility assessment.

In summary, for the consolidating group, ASPHER membership should be granted to an institution on the basis of a credible and consistent teaching programme to be demonstrated through information related to the mission and to the teaching programme itself.

The innovative group identified the following points/issues to be taken into consideration in a discussion on membership:

- PH undergraduate programmes;
- Possibility to open individual membership to non eligible institutions;
- Associate membership open to institutions from outside (including outside the European Region);
- larger constituency for ASPHER?

In conclusion, it was agreed to continue this discussion with as many of those involved in this workshop as possible by e-mail and/or other appropriate means.

Workshop 7 “ASPHER Membership Criteria and standards”

XXVII ASPHER Annual Conference
Yerevan

Thierry Louvet
Executive Director
ASPHER

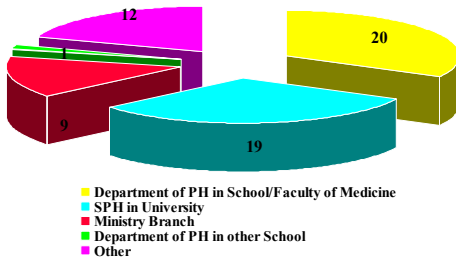
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Schools of Public Health in Europe are characterised by their diversity in terms of:

- Types of “Schools of Public Health”.
- Types of titles issued.
- Size (expressed in staff size).

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Types of "Schools of Public Health"



From E. de Leeuw 1995 (updated)

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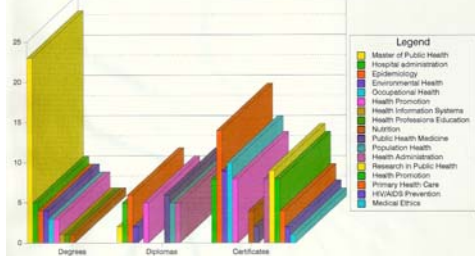
Public Health training leads to ...

- Degrees (full curricula)
- Diplomas (set of courses)
- Certificates (1 course)

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Public Health Training leads to ...

Degrees (full curricula), diplomas (set of courses) and certificates (1 course)



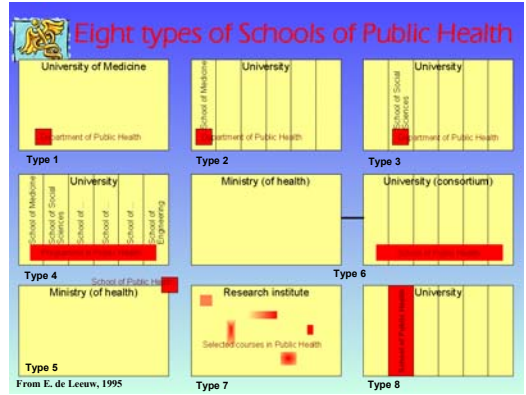
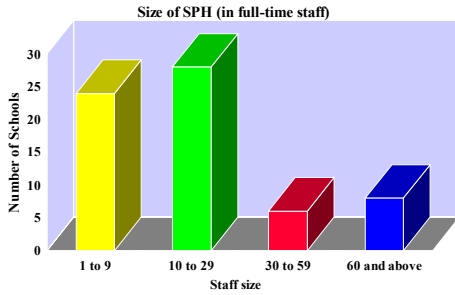
From E. de Leeuw, 1995

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These titles can be in ...

- Master of Public Health
- Hospital administration
- Epidemiology
- Environmental Health
- Occupational Health
- Health Promotion
- Health Information Systems
- Nutrition
- Public Health Medicine
- Population Health
- Health Administration
- Research in Public Health
- Health Promotion

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Public Health jobs

- Public Health doctors;
- Health promotion specialists at various levels (municipalities, counties, regions, etc.);
- Epidemiologists operating in various settings;
- Environmental engineers;
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Essential Public Health Functions:

- Monitoring the health situation.
- Protecting the environment.
- Health promotion.
- Prevention, surveillance and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Occupational Health.
- Specific Public Health Services.
- Public Health legislation and regulations.
- Personal health care to vulnerable/high risk populations.
- Public Health Management.

From Bettscher D., Essential Public Health Functions. International Delphi study (1998).



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- What are the present “criteria” in order to be accepted as an ASPHER member?
- Need to describe current procedure and recent practice in our membership policy.
- Presentation limited to institutional membership (the only one giving voting rights at General Assemblies).

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A fairly open membership policy

- Article 4 of ASPHER statutes:
“institutional membership is open to institutions like schools or faculties, departments or units responsible for education in public health within the European Region. It carries the right to appoint 2 representatives to the General Assembly, only one of whom will be entitled to vote.”

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...based on information collected by the secretariat via an ad-hoc form.....

- The form covers aspects such as:
 - full contact details of institution (Department / Faculty / School) applying for membership;
 - contact details for Dean/Director;
 - contact details for contact person nominated by Dean/Director;

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...based on information collected by the secretariat via an ad-hoc form.....

- information on size of Institution applying for membership (number of equivalent full-time staff, of undergraduate /postgraduate students per academic year, date of academic year and exam period);
- information on Mission Statement and finances relating to the institution applying for membership (Mission Statement, source of funding, size of ordinary budget);
- information on type of institution (e.g. University or not, central/local government; etc.)

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...based on information collected by the secretariat via an ad-hoc form.....

- information on teaching Programmes in Public Health (Undergraduate and / or Postgraduate) as a list;
 - information on ECTS;
- Recently additional and more detailed information has been requested by the Executive Board on:
- Number of graduates for the last two academic years (2003 and 2004).
 - Structure of the programme, i.e. names or titles of modules and sections.

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- Duration of the training in ECTS or equivalent (total duration, duration of modules and sections);
- Title(s) issued by institution;
- Whether the programme(s) is (are) officially accredited in the home country;
- Indicators of PH research activities and their balance with teaching as concerns resource consumption;
- A lecture timetable in English.

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.....with two decision-making bodies, one being the “judge of last-resort”.

- Article 4 of ASPHER statutes:
“The Executive Board may, before the closest General Assembly, decide to grant provisional membership and the members thus temporarily admitted are bound to pay the contribution as decided ; they enjoy full rights except voting rights which will only be granted as soon as officially confirmed at the General Assembly.”

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- Current practice tends to give the Executive Board a sort of vetting role prior to submitting membership applications to the General Assembly.
- Once the GA gives its approval, the new member receives the call for membership fee for payment.

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Our membership reflects the diversity of the PH scene with a:

- Mixture of University based and non-University based institutions; SPH or not.
- MPH type of degrees and continuous vocational training;
- Advanced/established and developing institutes even not fully established (OSI-ASPHER programme).

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- Need to be sure about the issue.
- Is it about being more restrictive in terms of who to accept as members?
- Should we be less inclusive or holistic in our membership policy?
- Is the solution simply to give the EB a more formal vetting role (as is already the practice)?
- Do we need criteria or standards?
- Is a revision of the membership questionnaire sufficient?

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Thank you for your attention.

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