

### **Report from the Public Health Information Group's meeting. National Central Library of Rome 14<sup>th</sup> EAHIL Conference. 11-13 June 2014, Rome**

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The Public Health Information Group met on the first official day of the conference with the meeting led by the co-chairs Tomas Allen (WHO, Switzerland) and Sue Thomas (Health Promotion Library Wales) with seventeen participants. The countries represented at the meeting were the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Denmark, Italy, Norway, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. There was a strong representation from different organisations with different perspectives on public health.

Our discussions started with the history of the group and how the situation and needs have changed since it was established and what are the current needs. The group originated as a network of WHO documentation centres (WHO DC), but broadened its scope as it became a special interest group in EAHIL to also cover public, consumer and patient health information. WHO and other public health information organisations are now producing materials electronically so that the focus and activities of our group has changed from physical documentation collections to other ways of information sharing. In particular systematic reviews on public health related topics have become more and more important to the work of the members of the group. It was therefore decided to put even more emphasis on sharing information about conducting systematic reviews in public health – for example methods on systematic searching (PICO versus something else), study type limitations, where to find reviews and protocols.

The possibility of carrying out a small research project to map out the work our organisations is doing was agreed to be very worthwhile. Sue Thomas suggested that she could put this proposal to Professor Mark Bellis Director of the Policy, Development and Research Division in Public Health Wales. The group would then determine the way forward on this. Tomas Allen and Klaus Boisen (WHO) provided an update on current developments in WHO. IRIS the WHO's Institutional Repository for Information Sharing will become global in covering all regional offices' collections. The Regional Office for Europe's collections is already available on IRIS. The needs of the WHO DC were discussed, and Klaus agreed to undertake a survey of the group's membership to find out what they wanted from the WHO European office. The survey would also examine the kind of co-operation activity that is needed for the WHO DC in future.

Gaby Caro (WHO) gave an update on the Access to research in health programme HinARi and asked for help from institutions hosting students from low and middle income countries (LMIC), and encouraged librarians in these institutions to use the training materials on the HinARi website. Visit the website at <http://www.who.int/hinari/en/The> third area for discussion was around health and wellbeing for patients and consumers. There was a lot of common practice happening in different countries such as providing health hubs in public libraries. The importance of health literacy areas of work was also discussed.

Katri Larmo gave an update on the developments with the EAHIL web pages and how this would help the group's work. The new web site will use a Wordpress platform making it much easier to share information and have discussions amongst the membership. Katri reminded the members that we have our own discussion list and Delicious account for doing this already. Tomas Allen agreed to set up WebEx meetings as a way of continuing discussions between our face-to-face meetings at the EAHIL conferences and workshops. The first WebEx meeting should take place by December 2014, with a further meeting to be held in sprint 2015 as part of our planning for the EAHIL workshop in Edinburgh in June 2015. All participants agreed that this had been a very useful meeting to exchange ideas and share information. The emails of the participants will be useful as a discussion list. We call all EAHIL members to update their details on the existing discussion list so that we can effectively use this list to share ideas and exchange best practice in future.

The meeting was closed by the co-chairs with visions of plans for the workshop in Edinburgh in 2015. We hope to see you all there! On behalf of the group, thank you to everyone involved in organising the Rome 2014 Conference. We really learned a lot and enjoyed the week in the eternal city in the company of colleagues from all around Europe and the world.

We invite you...



10-12 June 2015

