

ASPHER V4 Working Group established to support V4 public health capacity development

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Background:

The ASPHER V4 Working Group (WG) was established in 2016 and officially launched during the 9th European Public Health Conference on 11th November 2016 in Vienna, Austria. The Visegrad Group (also known as the 'Visegrad Four' or simply 'V4' countries) reflects the efforts of the countries of the Central European region to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration.

Objectives:

Key objectives of the ASPHER V4 WG are:

- Supporting partnerships and networking of public health schools and experts in the V4 countries,
- Strengthening the evidence-based public health, knowledge transfer and information sharing in the time of increasing risk of cross-border threats to the human health,
- Strengthening and further developing cooperation focused on public health related aspects of the ongoing migration crisis,
- Developing and implementing joint research projects (primary and secondary research) on agreed priorities, and
- Preparing and submitting joint project proposals to fundraise resources to sustain the ASPHER V4 WG activities.

Results:

Key activities of the ASPHER V4 WG:

- Preparation and submission of grant proposals to the International Visegrad Fund (starting with Visegrad and Visegrad+ Grants proposals, later on preparing also Strategic Grant proposal), focused on V4 collaboration in public health capacity development, in particular exchange of training materials, teachers as well as students,
- Involvement in relevant projects/initiatives undertaken by the ASPHER/EUPHA,
- Active participation in conferences of the V4 countries' SPHs, NIPHS and PH associations,
- Active participation in the ASPHER Deans & Directors Retreats,
- Active participation in the EPH Conferences.

Conclusions:

This V4 countries cooperation in the area of public health capacity development will contribute to the public health knowledge translation and information sharing with special focus on regional and community levels.

Key messages:

- Cooperation of the ASPHER members in V4 countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia) will contribute to the overall strengthening of V4 public health capacities.
- ASPHER V4 WG is co-chaired by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, Palacký University in Olomouc, Czech Republic, and the ASPHER Office representatives.