THANK YOU TO IANPHI FOR INVITING THE WORLD FEDERATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATIONS

Professor Bettina Borisch, MD, MPH, FRCPa
A Global Charter for the Public’s Health

World Federation of Public Health Associations

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The World Federation of Public Health Associations

• Founded in 1967 during the 20th World Health Assembly. Office in Geneva since 2008.
• Umbrella organization of multidisciplinary national public health associations
• The WFPHA is accredited as an NGO in official relations with WHO
• The Federation also holds consultation status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
WFPHA’s mission

To promote and protect global public health by:
• supporting the development of PH associations and societies and the establishment of regional federations;
• facilitating and supporting the exchange of information, knowledge and transfer of skills;
• undertaking advocacy for public policies, programs and practices at the supra-territorial level
WFPHA Membership 2015

AFR: 23
AMR: 12
EMR: 8
EUR: 45
SEAR: 8
WPR: 11
INT: 2

Borisch-UrbanHealth
The Role of Public Health in Today’s Global Setting

• The World Federation of Public Health Associations – was asked by the WHO DG Dr Chan to review Public Health in today’s global setting and how to conceptualize Public Health newly (– as part of our work plan 2012-2015)

• The questions to be addressed were manifold
Rationale for this work

• **Today’s global setting:** Today's world is extremely intertwined, and becomes more so with each passing year: role of Public Health?

• **Public Health professionals:** new roles, new identities? Changes needed in education and recruitment?

• **Currently** there is no *global* agreement on PH functions and services
Three components of the work on the role of Public Health in today’s setting

1. Initiated (2013) by a first (telephone) conference meeting with important leaders of PH- Followed by a Delphi-like study among participants of the above mentioned group. Data of this study have been analyzed and submitted for publication: “Global Public Health Today: Connecting the dots”
Second component of the work on the role of Public Health in today’s setting

2. Aspects of education done by the WFPHA’s working group on PH education and training, taskforce on global public health framework. Task was: to examine currently available models of public health essential functions, to assess them for global use to develop modern public health systems
Vision: Towards fair, secure, global and sustainable health and well-being
Third component of the work on the Role of Public Health in Today’s setting

3. Literature review on the topic (published in Global Health Action, 2015)

summarise and analyse the current literature on 'global public health', how the concept has transformed and how it is being framed within an increasingly globalised context. The discussion and suggestions in this paper aim to further the debate and offer more concrete and useful definitions for the concept.
A Global Charter for the Public’s Health

Is the product of the work up to now
The Charter recommends actions on two levels:

1. a consensus on a conceptualization of global public health and on a framework for sustainable and secure health infrastructures and services and beyond

2. calls for true political engagement, use of social networks, identification of political leverage points, and steerage of public health agendas through the new societal and political environments
Feedback on the Charter

• First: survey among our members:
• How much the Charter reflects the situation you are experiencing in your country/with your government?
• To what extent you can apply the “A Global Charter of the Public's Health” in your country?
PH and the rule of law

• The rule of law is the bedrock of sustainable development and PH (SDG 16)
• Blurring the boundaries between “rule of law” and other aspects of governance –
• A broader RoL agenda embraces: other forms of governance “informal” - social norms
• Laws: power to safeguard PH? – the Lancet Commission 2015
Public Health – Rule of Law

• Core aspiration of mankind: health
• – always in the making
• Complex system
• PH = inherent political process, to be enforced
• Need for **global** PH
• Multiple players

• Core aspiration of mankind: peace
• – always in the making
• Complex system
• RoL = an inherent political process
• Need for **global** RoL
• Multiple players

Definition of both, PH and RoL may be difficult; but their absence can be more easily defined
Points for discussion

• Governance – policy –politics: policy and legislative implications of the Charter
• fair structures for: peace, security, recognition of human rights, protection against abuse of state power, absence of severe poverty AND health
• Local – state - international collaboration
• Charter : helpful for legislation and governance?
Thank you!