



**Development of a public ethics approach:
The example of a national public health agency**

IANPHI 30 Sept – 1 October

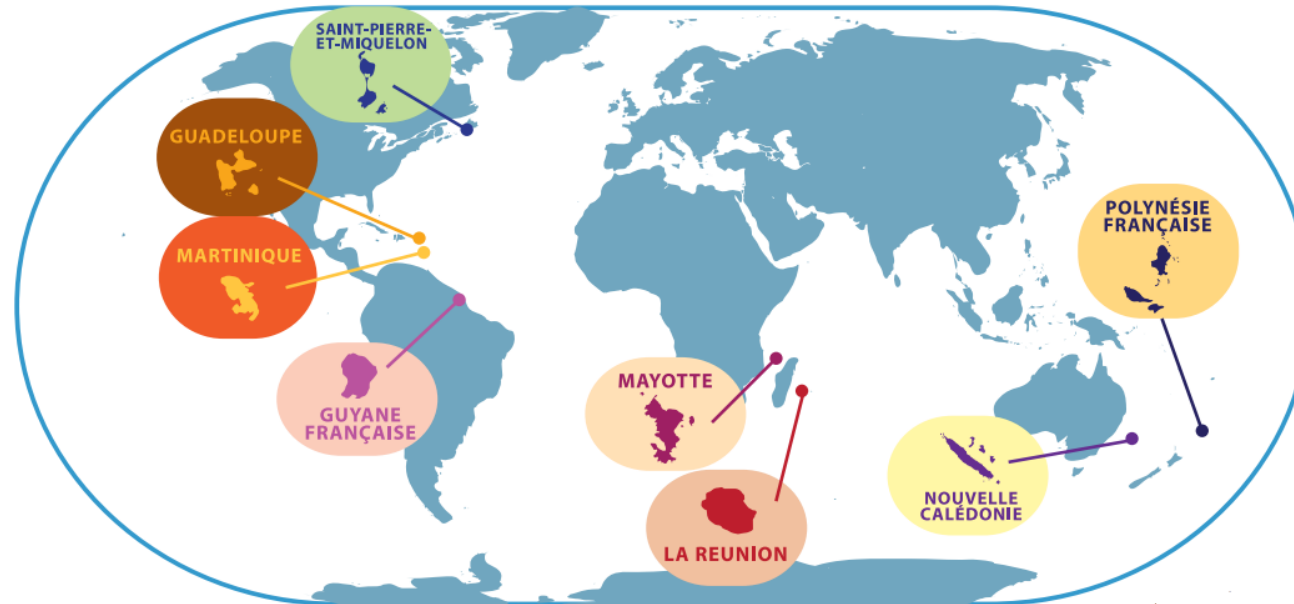
Public health functions

- Surveillance and alert
- Prevention and health promotion, including social marketing campaigns
- Preparedness and Response, including strategic stockpiling and deployment of the rapid response teams in case of major health crisis
- *ca 600 staff, 16 regional offices including oversea*
- *Coordination and financing of many public health bodies and networks, including the networks of NRLs, morbidity registries, etc.*
- *Work in partnerships*

Governing and advisory bodies of the agency since 2015

- Management Board with different Ministries represented (Health, Environment, Research, Employment) and representatives of learned society and public health experts
- *Science* : Scientific Advisory Board
- *Ethics* : Public health Ethics, deontology (and scientific integrity) committee
- *Participation and Engagement* : Committee dedicated to dialogue with society

- Operations at the national level **and at the local level**
- **close to populations and local stakeholders, in very different contexts**



Challenges

- Renewals of the public health ethics committee : Difficulties in 2011, 2016, 2020 to find members with adequate competences and experience
- No space / No or few opportunities to exchange internally on public health ethics dilemmas and how they were solved by the staff
- Need to make the chosen public health ethics approach explicit to the staff and the Committee members but also well beyond the agency
- Need to support the staff to identify public health ethics questions and dilemmas and to discuss them collectively and with the Committee

Actions

- Understand the meaning of public health ethics for the staff and public health experts outside the agency (two consultations) and how the staff addresses the ethical dilemmas they have to deal with.
- Define an approach to public health ethics adapted to our mission which is to support the decision maker : thanks to a series of workshops and a seminar in 2022 and 2023
- ***The approach adopted is deliberative and contextual: it seeks to identify the best course of action to take bearing in mind the public interest – several alternatives being possible.***
- Develop guidelines for the ethical analysis of projects and activities at SpFrance
- Develop training modules based on real-life situations and encourage the staff to engage in training courses

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING PUBLIC HEALTH ETHICS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



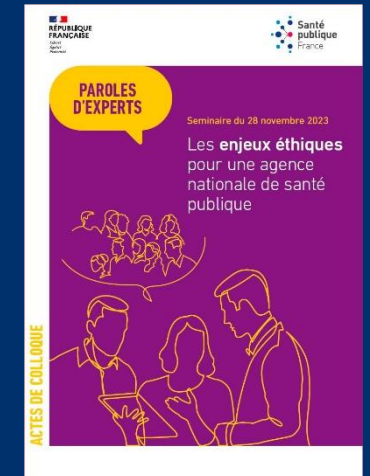
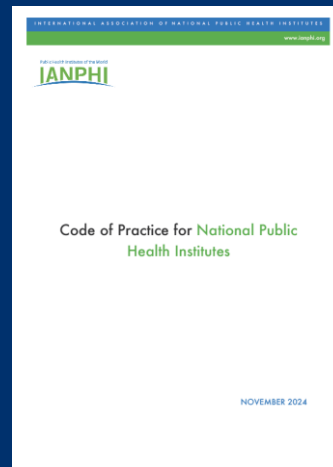
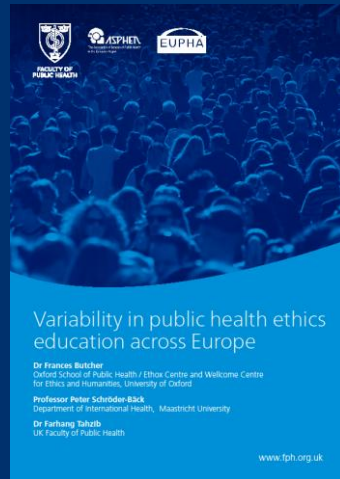
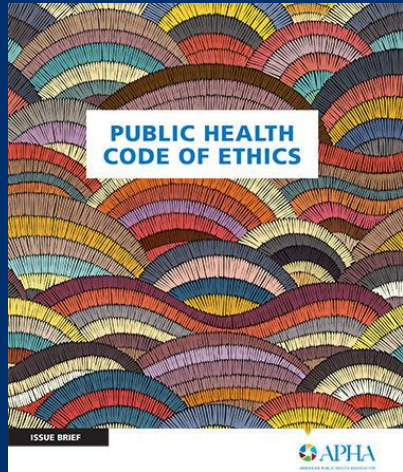
The agency's findings

- Difficulty to develop a network of public health ethics specialists in France and Europe
 - Willingness to exchange further with other NPHIs (US CDC, PHAC, INSPQ, Sciensano, ISS)
- Few training courses in available based on case studies and real-life situations
- Few documents available in french
- Importance to work with the schools of public health to develop training material and courses

Findings at European level - ASPHER/EUPHA/UK Faculty of Public Health survey (2020)

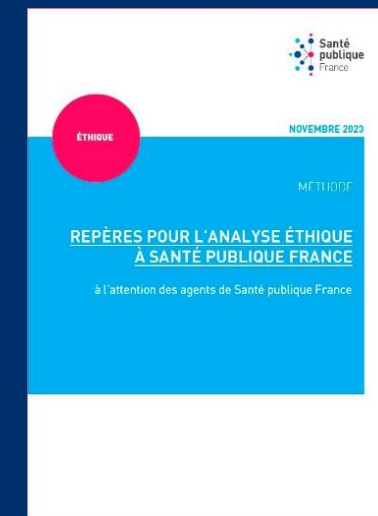
"Although there is a demand for ethics training from professionals working in public health organisations or with decision-makers, as they are regularly confronted with ethical issues, very few (training courses) exist and therefore very few professionals are trained. When training courses do exist, they rarely address issues from a population and social justice perspective."

DIFFERENT RESOURCES AMONG MANY OTHERS



Web links

- [US CDC public health ethics resources](#) (still available)
- [Public Health Ethics Committee, Quebec](#)
- [Guidelines for ethical analysis, Santé publique France](#)
- [Ethical challenges for a public health agency, Public Health France](#)



PROJECT TEAMS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Ethical guidelines: Martine Ledrans, France Filiatrault, Delphine Antoine, Sophie Legond, Anne-Catherine Viso

Action plan: Catherine Buisson, Jean-Claude Desenclos, Sophie Legond + Delphine Antoine, Martine Ledrans

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