2.P. Workshop: The added value of transnational public health training: Lessons from three initiatives

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Workshop rationale
This workshop critically examines the value and rationale of transnational, intercultural public health education and training initiatives within the macro-political and economic context. Public health challenges such as migrant health and climate change are transnational, so appropriate stewardship addresses the multicultural character of societies. A culturally competent public health workforce is critical to providing effective and sustainable solutions to current and future challenges. Such transnational initiatives provide ideal conditions and vital opportunities for sharing experiences and developing essential competencies. They inspire reflection on public health policies, practices and systems. Nevertheless, continued support of such initiatives requires evidence of their value, given the extra costs, student welfare issues and administrative workload associated with them and in comparison with traditional, nationally based programmes.

Workshop format
We present three complementary, transnational and interdisciplinary public health training and education initiatives. These are: 1) the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree Europubhealth and its integration module, with particular emphasis on development and assessment of intercultural competencies; 2) The Paris based English language EHESP Master of Public Health programme, with particular emphasis on a new qualitative research module involving carrying out interviews with other international students on health and their lived experience as ‘migrants’; 3) the Executive Doctoral Programs in Global Health Leadership, targeting mid-to senior-level working professionals preparing them to be innovative leaders capable of effectively addressing challenging and complex public health issues. These three initiatives focus on public health training at the masters and doctoral levels involving different forms of mobility.

Questions under debate
Workshop participants will a) discuss and debate the benefits and added value of transnational and interdisciplinary ventures involving virtual or physical mobility of students and visiting professors from outside Europe; b) Share views and offer ideas and advice on the best way to organize and implement different activities presented; c) Describe innovative ways of enhancing and valorizing transnational education and professional development in Europe and the world; d) Discuss and put forward key indicators for assessing such programmes, bearing in mind potential challenges and costs.

Key messages:
- Transnational training involving student mobility offers rich pedagogical and personal development opportunities beyond those of national programmes.
• It will be important to provide evidence that development of cross-cutting competencies and cultural sensitivity outweigh extra costs, student welfare, language issues and administrative workload.