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Schools for Health in Europe

Research Group meeting 11.6.2020 (online)

Meeting summary

Participants:

Catrine Kostenius, Evanthia Sakellari, Monica Carlsson, Daniel Arriscado, Rute Santos, Luis Lopes, Hariklia Proios, Rafaela Rosário, Venka Simovska, Peter Paulus, Hanna Rouvinen, Daniel Gabaldón Estevan, Maria Ramos Monserrat, Mads Bølling, Julie Dalgaard Guldager, Emily Darlington, Pere A. Borrás, Katharina Wirnitzer, Veronica Velasco, Patricia Mannix McNamara, Lisa Gugglberger, Fidel Molina-Luque, Lynda Lattke, Kathelijne Bessems, Peter Bentsen, Teresa Vilaça, Karina Leksy, Jeremy Segrott, Didier Jourdan, Leena Paakkari, Lence Miloseva, Hannele Turunen, Eduarda Sousa-Sá, Luciana Santos Collier, Svetlana Sokolova, Roberto Iachite, Julien Masson, Orkan Okan, Catriona O'Toole, Anne T. Klomsten, Terhi Saarainen, Almut Krapf, Bjarne Bruun Jensen, Jesper von Seelen (minutes), Ulla Pedersen (secretariat), Jens Aagaard-Hansen (evaluator), Kevin Dadaczynski (RG co-chair), Marjorita Sormunen (RG chair)

Chair of the meeting: Marjorita Sormunen

Keeper of the minutes: Jesper von Seelen

1. Welcome and introduction

Marjorita Sormunen welcomed everyone, presented the agenda, and all participants introduced themselves. Many new researchers have joined the group during the year, and currently we have over 90 researchers in the group.

2. News from the SHE / Ulla Pedersen

- The SHE RG meeting will be held in Helsinki, Finland, on October 28-29, 2020. More information will be sent by email after holiday season.
- SHE Academy will be an online event on November 4-6, 2020. Please stay updated on <https://www.schoolsforhealth.org/she-academy/she-academy-2020>
- The grant proposal for 2021 has been submitted. We are applying for 80% funding again.
- Newsletter is published six times per year. We bring at least 40 contributions this year – we have reached the goal for contributions in 2020 already. Well done, all, and please continue to write with news. SHE also has a goal for subscribers this year already but here we are 600 subscribers short. Please help us get more subscribers for the newsletter by sharing with students and colleagues: <https://www.schoolsforhealth.org/newsroom/subscribe>

Schools for Health in Europe

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- If appropriate, please use the SHE PowerPoint template when at conferences. Logos are available at the SHE website.
- SHE operates at four social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Youtube. Please sign up as followers on the platforms and help share the posts.
- You are invited to present your projects at the SHE YouTube-channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc5sz7bnsQVr5xV7o5c-z3Q>
Julie (from the SHE secretariat) has made a video with instructions on how to do it. You find the video on the channel.

3. SHE RG current and future issues

Marjorita Sormunen presented the RG 2020 workplan of which some activities are carried as planned and some are postponed due to corona situation.

- Activities that are carried out as planned: updating the Position paper, writing the annual workplan 2021, and writing the SHE RG report at the end of this year; contributing to Factsheet planning, the SHE Academy, and the SHE Newsletters; participating board meetings (4-5/year), chair meetings (monthly) and organizing steering group meetings (3-4/year).
- Developing an organogram and updating the RG members' information on the website will continue in collaboration with the SHE secretariat, but slightly delayed.
- The RG meeting 2020 with Capacity building workshop is postponed.
- Launching working teams was also postponed a few months.
- A new addition, webinars, has been made to workplan. There will be four webinars per year: three for RG members, one open for everyone. Most likely the first one will be in September. Please share ideas for own research or other that you would like to hear.

4. COVID-19 in relation to HPS

Kevin Dadaczynski introduced the topic of COVID-19 and its relevance for school health promotion. In addition to new and current/acute fields of research, the difficulty of implementing current research projects as planned was emphasized. In order to collect ideas and support further discussion, a Padlet was created, which included input from all SHE RG members on the following questions:

What do you see as major research challenge for HPS that arise from the Corona pandemic?

How can HPS contribute to fight/prevent COVID-19?

What are your research ideas regarding HPS and COVID-19?

To stimulate further discussion, Orkan Okan (Bielefeld University, Germany) and Leena Paakkari (University of Jyväskylä, Finland) gave a short lecture on health literacy and schools in the context of the Corona pandemic (see attachment). In their presentation, both introduced the concept of health literacy, underlined its importance in the context of the over-abundance of information (infodemic) and presented first considerations on health literate schools (in a wider framework of the HPS).



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After a subsequent discussion, the participants were given the opportunity to add further comments and ideas to the existing padlet. Among other things, the concern was discussed that existing health inequalities could increase as a result of school closures. Furthermore, a need of working with parents and the wider community is emphasized as well as the necessity to actively involve young people in (action) research. The ideas and discussions from the Padlet can be seen using this link: https://padlet.com/k_dadaczynski/HPSresearch

5. Working teams

Marjorita introduced the idea behind the working teams and their possible ways of working: *“Working teams consisting of the SHE RG members and external partners (if needed) will be established to build activities on specific questions, topics, or themes”*. Meeting participants were then divided into seven groups; one discussion group consisting of team members and external advisers (researchers who are not involved with any team). The group used 30 minutes to discuss the issues of their working team and shared their most important points into a Padlet and presented them to others. The Padlet is available for use also after the meeting at: <https://padlet.com/marjoritasormunen/bnztf1404wxglxbu>

If some of the RG members are still interested in joining 1-2 of the teams, please, contact Marjorita.

The table of working teams with external advisers (during the meeting) is attached to the minutes. Each working team will be contacted by Marjorita and Kevin, and a working space for each team provided (early fall).

6. Summary and next steps

Emily Darlington and Teresa Vilaça summarized the meeting.

During the meeting, the following keywords were put forward:

advocacy
togetherness
fighting for equity
joining forces
joined up thinking

We share a common vision and want to contribute to the same goal. It is not about opportunism but sustainable change.

The COVID-19 pandemic situation has forced substantial changes in practices and also our research practices.

As next steps, some suggestions were made:

- The HPS framework needs to be embedded into teacher education and also into the core missions of schools, which means it doesn't only fall onto teachers' shoulders.



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- We need to advocate for this as a group and also as individuals which includes advocating for SHE.
- We need to contribute to making a change on a systemic-level, and work on a strategic level. This involves keeping the flow of discussions constant and exchanging ideas to move working groups forward, organizing and participating in webinars promoted by SHE and collaborating on SHE's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Youtube). This also includes encouraging SHE members to participate in initiatives that expand the values and principles of the SHE, namely UNESCO Chair, Health Education Journal thematic issues, and Network 8 Health and Wellbeing Education of the European Educational Research Association
- It is important to advocate for the SHE.

7. Closing the meeting

Marjorita closed the meeting, hoped to see many of the RG members in Helsinki in October and encouraged all to participate in the SHE activities.