

SHE – Research Group meeting summary

07-08 November 2018 Copenhagen, Denmark

Venue

WHO, Regional Office for Europe, UN City in Copenhagen.

Chair

Venka Simovska, Professor, Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Participants

Lærke Mygind, Anette Schulz, Ulla Pedersen, Vivian Baenekow, Venka Simovska, Peter Elsborg, Julie Dalgaard Guldager, Bjarne Bruun Jensen, Monica Carlsson, Peter Bentsen, Alice Haav, Hannele Turunen, Marjorita Sormunen, Dominique Berger, Emily Darlington, Didier Jourdan, Peter Paulus, Catrione O'Toole, Katherine Dowling, Rafaela Rosario, Luis Lopes, Rute Santos, Teresa Vilaca, Jesper von Seelen (please see the attached list of participants for affiliations)

Introduction, aims and objectives, the new structure of SHE

The main objective of the meeting was to introduce the new organization of the SHE network (the assembly), and consequently, the SHE Research Group. Further, to present the new chair and co-chair of the SHE RG, to revisit the Position paper from 2009 and to revitalize the network. Anette Schultz, the international coordinator of the SHE network, presented the new legal status of SHE as an NGO, the newly established SHE Board and the Work plan, including the aspects of the work-plan connected to the SHE RG.

Venka Simovska, the current chair (since 2009) of the SHE RG, presented the activities in the SHE RG in the past eight years with focus on research capacity building (SHE academy among other things) and research dissemination and visibility (publications and special issues in HPI and Health Education, books and the ECER conference). Venka emphasized the collaboration with the EERA network 8, Research on Health Education, and the corresponding conference ECER, and the involvement of the members of the SHE RG in the scientific committee preparing the latest European IUHPE conference. Venka also emphasized the importance of collaborating with HBSC teams, the international as well as the national ones.

The plenary discussion following the two presentations highlighted the interest of all the participants to be involved and revitalize the SHE RG, to collaborate closely with the SHE Foundation and the national coordinators (The SHE Assembly), and to formalize the collaboration with other networks in the field.

The discussion pointed out the importance of wellbeing in the work with health promotion in schools, the importance of close collaboration with practice and strengthening research approaches, which engage with practice and practitioners. Interactions between research from public health, health promotion and health education fields were discussed, and the need to work for a better balance between educational research and public health or health promotion research. Often, research standards and methodologies from medical and health research dominate the field. These are being imposed to school-based health promotion research, which is counterproductive, as it treats schools and education as an arena to reach students and work with health sector agenda (e.g. behavior modification, risk reduction and prevention). The need for research which treats education and schools as partners and which is aligned with the core task of schools – education and which makes use of educational theories and research methodologies.

Factsheet on health promotion in schools and health inequalities

Didier Jourdan (DJ) was commissioned by the SHE secretariat to develop a factsheet based on a scoping review of the research focusing on the links between school based health promotion and inequalities in health. DJ presented the first draft of the factsheet, which was followed by plenary discussion. The SHE members are invited to send written comments to the document, in particular, to notify DJ if they are aware of research focusing on school health promotion and inequalities, which was not included in the review.

Information on the UNESCO Chair on Global Education and health

DJ presented the newly established UNESCO chair, and the possibilities for collaboration between the SHE RG and the chair were discussed. The main difference between these two research communities is in the geographical scope. While the UNESCO chair has a global focus, and aims to support research and practice development in low and middle-income countries globally. The SHE network, including the SHE RG focus on the WHO European Region. Both networks aim to strengthen research, research capacity and to inform policy in practice in the field of school based health promotion. There is a great potential for collaboration, which needs to be formalized in the following period.

Presentation of the new chair and co-chair of the She RG

Marjorita Sormunen, PhD, senior researcher at the University of Eastern Finland, is the new chair of the SHE RG. More information: <http://www.uef.fi/web/hoitotiede/marjorita-sormunen>

Kevin Dadaczynski, professor and vice dean at Fulda University, Germany, is the new co-chair of the SHE RG. More information: https://www.hs-fulda.de/en/studies/departments/nursing-and-health-sciences/about-us/professors/details/person/prof-dr-kevin-dadaczynski-2038/contactBox/?no_cache=1&cHash=2f3bf9c8bf90a235c6f08be4c61fb3b1

Presentation of the new European Forum for Health Promotion Research

Bjarne Bruun Jensen (BBJ) presented the Forum established within the IUHPE. The aims and objectives of this forum are similar to the SHE RG and the UNESCO Chair: strengthening the research, research capacity and informing practice. The difference between this research

community and the SHE RG is in the research fields. While the SHE RG focuses on schools at all levels as settings for health promotion and education, the IUHPE forum addresses different settings, such as workplaces, hospitals, patient education etc. As for the UNESCO Chair, the potential for collaboration is great, and it will be operationalized and formalized in the next period.

Group work – discussing the position paper

The participants worked in small groups to revisit the SHE RG position paper and suggest ideas for the revised one. The suggestions were to be divided in three categories: a) Objectives of the SHE RG b) Research issues and areas; and c) Ways of working

Objectives

- The definition on HPS must be precise
- Support both health AND education
- Applying for joined research
- SHE conference
- Ensuring that different types of research are valued
- Develop approach / roadmap together with schools
- Focus on translating research into practice
- More focus on empirical research
- There must be a clear link to SHE network (the assembly)

Research issues

- Gender, ethnicity and education
- Holistic approach to health
- Physical and mental health
- Diversity
- What do we mean by evidence
- Inequality (perhaps instead of health inequality)
- Wellbeing
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Physical activity
- Change “will be in focus” in the paper – to “for example”:

Ways of working

- Apply for joint funding in smaller groups
- Formalize the collaboration with the UNESCO Chair and the IUHPE Research Forum
- Yearly meeting + conferences + online
- Consider is there a need for a core group when we have chair and co-chair?
- Should the chair and co-chair be elected the same year?
- How to balance the interest of research and practice
- Sharing RG member profiles on SHE webpage – perhaps do a mind-map of what RG members are working on.

- Sharing data
- What does it imply to be a SHE RG member? What is expected from us?
- Specific activities for newcomers
- Using the network to identify gaps in research
- Showcase specific research at the SHE RG meetings
- Invitation of keynotes, Ph.D.-students or other guests
- Include in the agenda for She RG meetings that members share news and results
- Organize a SHE conference

The closing remarks emphasized the renewed enthusiasm and motivation of the participants to continue and strengthen the good work of the SHE RG and the SHE Network. The new leadership was warmly welcomed. The immediate next steps are to establish a new core-group, to revise the position paper and to formalize the collaboration with the UNESCO Chair and the IUHPE research forum. All the members will be updated regularly on these developments by the SHE Secretariat.