Annual report 2018

The Norwegian Public Health Association (NOPHA) was established in 1998. It works interdisciplinary to increase understanding and interest in research, teaching, dissemination, policy design, management and practice in public health.

The Public Health Association (NOPHA) is a member of the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA).

In the Norwegian Public Health Act (2011), public health work is defined: "society's efforts to influence factors that directly or indirectly promote the health and well-being of the population, prevent mental and somatic illness, injury or suffering, or which protect against health threats, and work for a more even distribution of factors that directly or indirectly affect health." This law builds on five principles for public health work: 1) equalization, 2) health in everything we do, 3) sustainable development, 4) precedence and 5) participation (Report St. 24 (2012-2013) “Good health – shared responsibility” and Report 19 (2014-2015) “Mastery and opportunities” This is in line with the association’s goals.

The association’s goals

The association has decided to work against three goals from the strategic plan for the period 2018-22:

1. The Norwegian Public Health Association shall be a meeting place and a bridge builder between researchers, practitioners, the business community, those who work voluntarily and those who design politics in the field.

2. The Norwegian Public Health Association shall contribute to increasing the understanding of the public health perspective in research, education, dissemination and management.

3. The Norwegian Public Health Association shall be a relevant partner nationally, and is represented by participation in Nordic, European and global arenas.

Activities in 2018

The starting point for this overview is the Public Health Action Plan for 2018. The activities are organized according to the association's goals. Under the section "Organizational matters", a number of activities are rendered in connection with the association's organization.

Goal # 1: The Public Health Association shall be a meeting place and a bridge builder between researchers, practitioners, the business community, those who work voluntarily and those who design politics in the field.

- The national public health conference with the theme: "Public health in new times" was carried out in Bergen on 16 and 17 October at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel in collaboration
with Bergen municipality, Hordaland county municipality, Idrettscampus Bergen and Norwegian Institute of Public Health. There were 350 paying participants.

- A public health document with 28 pages was prepared for and distributed by Dagens Næringsliv, a main business newspaper, in advance of the conference. It was also handed out at the conference.

- The Norwegian Institute of Public Health in collaboration with the Norwegian network for research and education on health promotion, and with the support of the Norwegian Research Council, arranged a pre-conference in Bergen the day before the main conference with the theme "Action development and evaluation of measures". There were 130 participants at this conference.

- A seminar was conducted in connection with the annual meeting on March 7 on "Epigenetics and biotechnology - new knowledge good for public health?". 29 people attended the seminar. The presentations were posted online.

- In a meeting with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, it was discussed how we can contribute to getting research results from the institute out to the field of practice and politics. The result of the meeting was that a pre-conference on public health research was organized at the Public Health Conference 2018.

- Based on a cooperation agreement signed in 2015 with the Norwegian Network for Research and Education on Health Promotion, we participate in their bi-annual meetings.

- A cooperation agreement has been established with the Network for Environmental Public Health (NEMFO) 1.11.2017. NOPHAs president Jorid Grimeland attended their annual conference in Alta on 7. June with information about the Norwegian Public Health Association.

- The previous partnership agreement with the Norwegian Network of Healthy Cities was superseded by a cooperation agreement in February 2018. The general manager of the Network and the Secretary General of NOPHA had a cooperation meeting in October.

- European Public Health Association (EUPHA was the main organizer of the 11th European Public Health (EPH) Conference in Ljubljana 28.11. - 1.12. The theme of the conference was: "Winds of change: towards new ways of improving public health in Europe". There were 1,650 participants from approx. 50 countries. About. 1500 abstracts were approved for performance (36 of these from Norway). The main conference came 242 from the Nordic countries: Denmark 37, Finland 75, Iceland 7, Norway 58 (most from universities, colleges and research institutes), Sweden 65. NOPHA arranged a separate meeting for the Norwegian delegation, where approx. 40 participated. The Norwegian Public Health Association was represented by the President and the Secretary General at the Governing Board meeting, which is the EUPHA's highest body.

**Goal # 2: The Norwegian Public Health Association shall contribute to increasing the understanding of the public health perspective in research, education, dissemination and management.**

- The public health conference is an important arena for spreading knowledge about good examples of concrete public health work in the municipalities. These are presented in the
parallel sessions at the conference.

- The publication “Heslerådet (The Health Council) was in danger of being shut down due to lack of support from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Alternative financing is being worked on. As one of the contributors, Norwegian Association of Public Health supported with NOK 20,000.

- Through a subscription to the journals Scandinavian Journal of Public Health (SJPH) and the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH), the Norwegian Public Health Association communicates new research within the relevant subject areas to the members. Members have access to these and a monthly "Newsletter" from EUPHA as part of the membership fee. The Nordic public health associations own SJPH, and as one of the owners, the Norwegian Public Health Association is represented on the board of SJPH by the chairman of the board Tone Torgersen. Professor Terje Eikemo, NTNU (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) is the editor. NOPHA is the host organization for SJPH.

**Goal # 3: The Norwegian Public Health Association, in collaboration with other organizations and institutions within the public health field, must be a driving force for putting public health on the political agenda.**

- The Public Health Association's policy group was activated with regard to input to the new Governmental White Paper on Public Health.

- Input was given to Minister of Health in a meeting on May 9 in connection with WHO's General Assembly in Geneva in May. The topics that were addressed were: Sustainability goals, popular issues, technology development, free trade agreements, education and polarization in society.

- The Public Health Association, together with Norwegian Friluftsliv (Outdoor Life), took the initiative to invite approx. 70 organizations to a meeting to discuss joint input to a Governmental White Paper on Public Health. Representatives from approx. 35 of these met on August 23. A common four pages note were sent to the Public Health Minister. The themes were: the UN's sustainability goals; Focus on primary causes; Strengthen political leadership and coordination of public health work; Set aside enough billions to make changes for large population groups; Universal design and availability; Concentrate on the voluntary organizations and social entrepreneurs; Better to promote healthy children than to repair adults; Focus on physical activity, active and safe transport; Strengthen cooperation with the labour market and promote workplace health; Strengthen education and research on health promotion, Direct the governmental grants; Good health in old age; Activity and prevention as a natural part of any course of treatment.