Top 5 priorities on the global health agenda: a worldwide survey

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Public health covers several fields ranging from maternal/child health to the control of tobacco use and to health policy development. The importance of every single topic may vary from country to country. The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) comprises member associations from all over the world. This allows for a study of PH topics in the global agenda.

The WFPHA investigated which are the items of highest importance among associations of PH worldwide and then sorted them according to the specific WHO region. Among the 5 most important items worldwide, Health Policy Development appeared first with 65% of preferences followed by Public Health Education (58%). Two items - Tobacco Use and Health Service Evaluation – followed both with 52% of preference. In the fifth position, Health Systems Reform appears with 48%. Among the several Health Policies to be developed, Primary Health Care and Public Health Education come out as most important with 45%.

Splitting the results up according to WHO regions there is not much difference with Health Policy Development, Health Service Evaluation, Public Health Education and Tobacco Use ranking first. Of interest, the African region expresses its main interest for Human Resources in Public Health. Following this first inside into priorities of PH associations worldwide, the WFPHA plans to develop activities that foster the main objectives of the public health agenda and to meet its Members’ expectations.

Top 5 topics on the global health agenda

1) Health Policy development
   - Define main subjects
   - Inform the Policy Committee
   - Write new high impact policies

2) Public Health Education
   - Working Group
     Chair: Dr E. Miron

3) Tobacco Use
   - Working Group
     Chair: Prof. M. Daube

4) Health Service Evaluation
   - Scientific & Technical support
     Free platform
     Contact: Dr M. Lomazzi

5) Health Policy development
   - Official letters related to main policies/statement

Main expectations from the WFPHA

1) Give PHAs more visibility
   - Website www.wfpha.org
   - Newsletters & Annual Meetings
   - Facebook Group
   - UN/WHO meetings
   - Knowledge & Contact exchange

2) Collaborate with international agencies
   - Official relations with WHO
   - UN/WHO meetings

3) Create common projects in PH
   - Top 5 topics (left panel)
   - NCDs & MDGs

4) Attend international PH meetings
   - Triennial World Congress on PH
   - Updated info (website, FB, etc)

5) Forge partnerships
   - AFPHA & WPRLO
   - Networking

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More information on www.wfpha.org or secretariat@wfpha.org