FINLAND

PHA Name: Society for Social Medicine in Finland
WFPHA membership: Full member
Representative: Mika Gissler

Governance

• Board with meetings once a month
• Sections on
  1. Behavioural medicine
  2. Drug research
  3. Food research
  4. Health care services research
  5. Medical sociology
  6. Mental health
  7. Sexual and reproductive health
• Finnish Journal of Social Medicine
Achievements and current key focus of PHA

- Annual two-day conferences on Social Medicine or Health Care Services Research in October
- Journal for Social Medicine in Finland, four issues per year
- Ad hoc scientific meetings on topical issues, e.g. Climate change and public health in May 2019
- Collaboration between the Nordic societies, EUPHA and WFPHA
- Travel grants mainly to European Public Health Conference
- Award for the Best Public Health Master Thesis
Leadership and governance lessons, including best practices, constraints, challenges:

- Difficult to recruit new board members and editor for the journal.
- Some of the sections are not very active.
- Seminars and meetings are the best way to recruit new members (especially with a lower participation fee).
- Many members join the society since our Journal is included in the membership fee (at least as long as funding from The Federation of Finnish Learned Societies is available).
- In 2018 a membership survey was performed – implementation of the conclusions has started.