



European Forum for Primary Care

Annual Report, July 2022 – June 2023

Introduction

The European Forum for Primary Care (EFPC) was established as network organisation in 2005 and is a formal association under Dutch law since 2011. In June 2023, it consisted of 91 institutional members and 36 individual members from diverse professional backgrounds and countries.

The aim of the Forum is to improve the health of the population by promoting strong person-centred, community oriented integrated Primary Care, provided by an interdisciplinary network of professionals in close collaboration with the community. This is done by advocating for Primary Care, by generating data and evidence on Primary Care and by sharing and exchanging new ideas and information on between its members.

The Association year runs from July to June. This report covers the period July 2022 - June 2023, presented to the members by the Executive Board at the General Assembly of the EFPC in September 2023.

General Reflection

Last year was a great year for the Forum. In September 2022, after 2 years of virtual conferences due to the Covid pandemic, we finally could meet again in person at our annual conference in Ghent. And it was a most brilliant conference, with over 300 participants, organised by the magnificent team of the first chair of the EFPC Prof. Jan de Maeseneer. The interesting content and above all the many personal contacts forged new connections and reinforced older ones between our members.

The PRIMORE phase II project, aiming to reinforce interprofessional collaboration in Primary Care research and practice, funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, started with the establishment of a scientific committee and a research board in which 12 of our professional umbrella-member organisations participate. A series of webinars that is being organised within this project contributes to the transfer of knowledge, and also to the interaction between members. At the annual conference in Barcelona, the next PRIMORE masterclass for young researchers will take place and this project will continue the coming year. In addition, the EFPC is engaged in several other European projects, that help to strengthen Primary Care in Europe. After a few years of difficult finances, in times that inflation and international crises prevent a raise in membership fees, this last year we managed to establish a better financial position, thanks to these projects and to a slow rise in membership numbers.

The change to the new digital platform Hivebrite, enables all members to exchange information in an easy accessible way; however, the wider use of this platforms as well as other forms of communication with our members will need our further attention the coming year.

The ongoing war in Ukraine remains off course a major source of concern to all of us, as are the deepening international crises in energy and climate and still growing inequities in income, health and access to healthcare. Crises that also increases the polarisation in society, and the anti-migrant sentiments and policies. The EFPC will continue to support all efforts to put an end to war, to reduce polarisation and inequities and to provide good and affordable primary care to all, including refugees and other immigrants. In this context we published all columns of our Ukrainian colleague prof. O. Korzh from Kharkiv in a book, to further provide witness to the devastating consequences of the war.

Highlights 2022-2023 according to the EFPC Executive Board members

Advocacy and Policy activities:

Statements



One year reporting from Kharkiv 18 March 2022 – 21 March 2023 by Prof. Oleksii Korzh

<https://euprimarycare.org/2023/06/06/one-year-reporting-from-kharkiv-18-march-2022-21-march-2023-by-prof-oleksii-korzh/>

EFPC Mental Health Working Group provided feedback on the EU consultation “A comprehensive approach to mental health”

<https://euprimarycare.org/2023/02/06/efpc-feedback-eu-consultation-on-a-comprehensive-approach-to-mental-health/>

Representation

European Forum for Primary Care received the 2022 UN Interagency Task Force and the WHO Special Programme on Primary Health Care Award.

<https://euprimarycare.org/2022/09/21/efpc-receives-prestigious-un-award/>

The EFPC was appointed as a member of the Health Technology Assessment Stakeholder Network. The European Commission selected 44 organisations as members of the HTA Stakeholder Network and 2 organisations as observers with our Advisory board members, Elena Petelos and Neda Kostova as our representatives to make sure Primary Care is on the agenda.

<https://euprimarycare.org/2023/05/09/efpc-member-of-the-health-technology-assessment-stakeholder-network/>



Generation and dissemination of evidence

EFPC 2022 Ghent Conference jointly organised with the team of the Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Ghent, Belgium <https://euprimarycare.org/efpc-2022-conference-ghent/>

A series of EFPC lunch-webinars tackling topics like "What is the role of primary care in mitigating health inequalities and strengthening social cohesion?", <https://euprimarycare.org/2023/06/01/04-07-23webinar-what-is-the-role-of-primary-care-in-mitigating-health-inequalities-and-strengthening-social-cohesion/>,

"Slovenian model of community nursing - what is next?"

<https://euprimarycare.org/2022/12/14/efpc-webinar-26-01-23/> and “The role of Primary Care in community mental health” in close collaboration with linked network EUCOMS

<https://euprimarycare.org/2022/10/05/webinar-30-november-2022/>

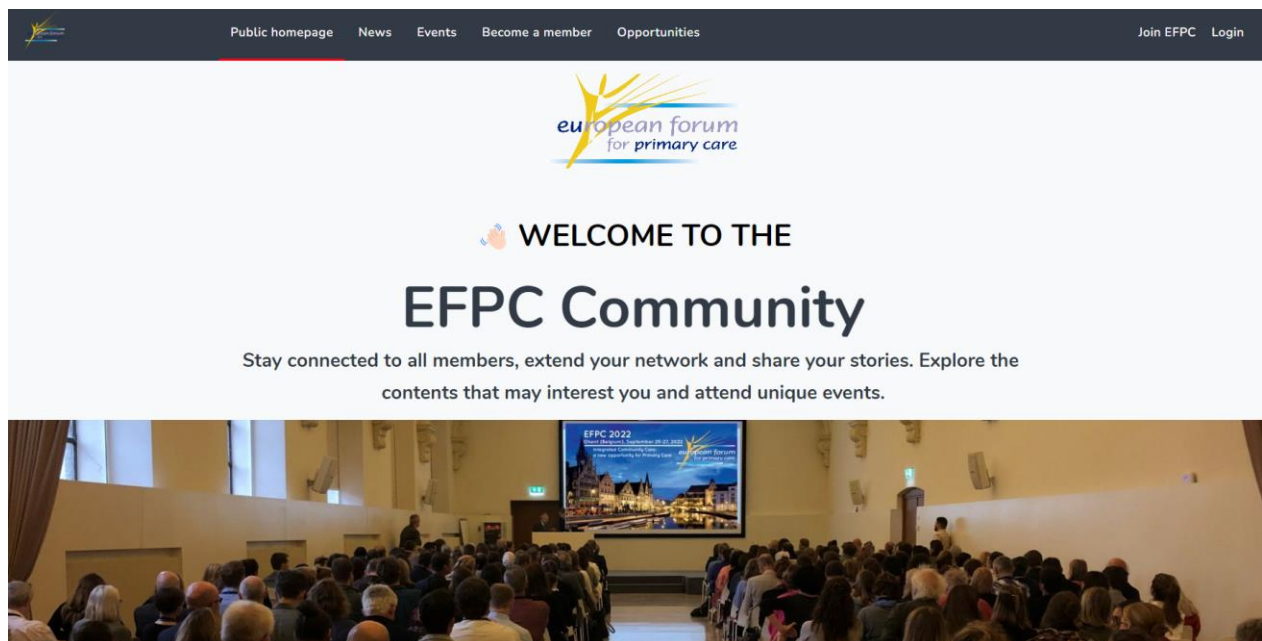
EFPC Position Paper “Migration and health: exploring healthy ageing of immigrants in European societies” published in PHCRD <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/primary-health-care-research->

and-development/article/migration-and-health-exploring-healthy-ageing-of-immigrants-in-european-societies/F7F0C8F6497DBF5C88961A0EE0996372

Inspiring, representing and supporting Primary Care professionals – our members:

Start of the new EFPC junior coordinator, Sophie van den Abeele, at the first of February 2023
<https://euprimarycare.org/team/>

Launch of the EFPC Hivebrite Online Platform having reached already >150 members registered at the platform at the start of the Barcelona conference. The Hivebrite platform will function as our hub for communication and the exchange of information including the distribution of the two-weekly newsflash
<https://community.efpc.net/>



page 3 of 8

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Governance, Executive & Advisory Board

The EFPC held its 2022 General Assembly on September 26 in Ghent. The current Executive Board (Maria van den Muijsenbergh, chair; Harry Longman, treasurer; Alessandro Mereu, member; Toni Dedeu, member; Judith de Jong, member; Andrea Canini, member) has met 6 times, two onsite meetings in Bergen and Ghent and the other on-line meetings.

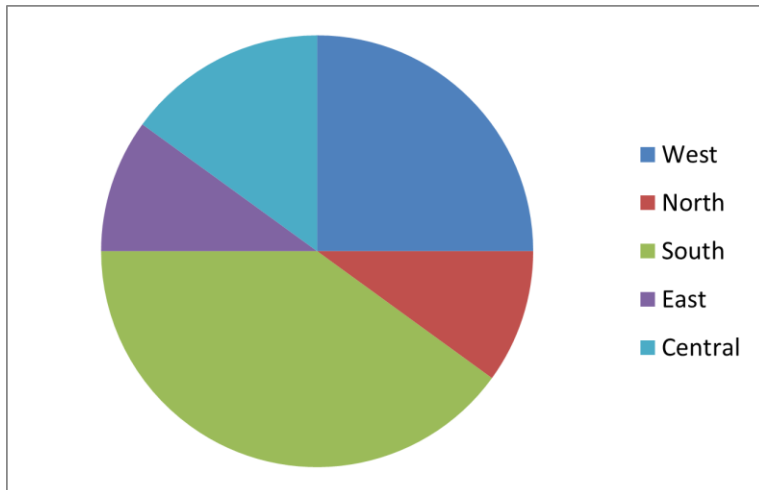
The Advisory Board, consisting of 20 members met onsite in Ghent (25 September 2022) and once online (9 March 2023).

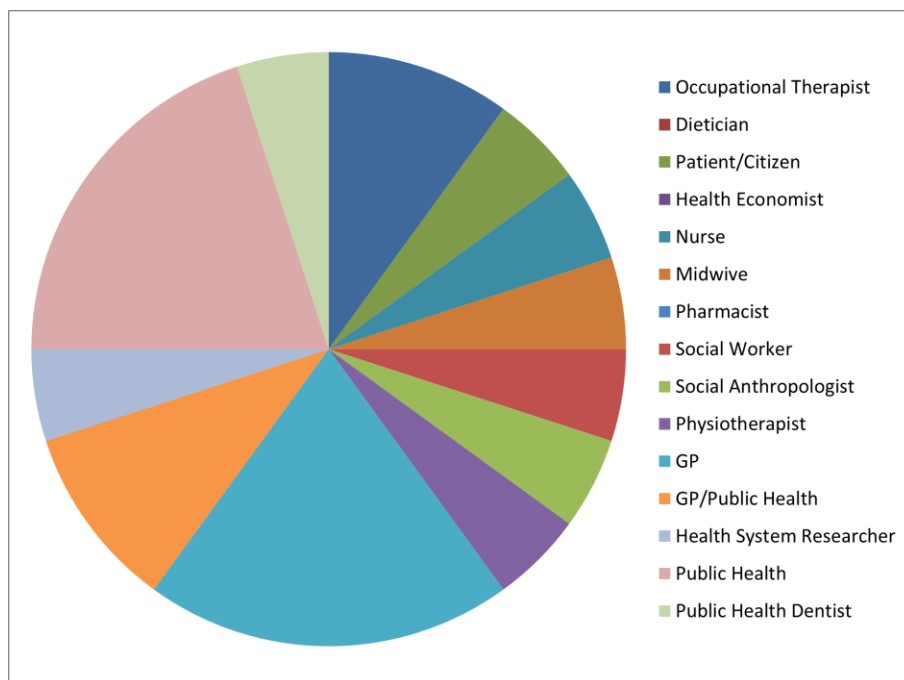
The role of the Advisory Board members showed its added value for international consultations. The Advisory Board members succeeded to mobilize their network, making sure many and valuable contributions were communicated including seeking for new funding.

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for the 17th of September as an onsite meeting in Barcelona. In this meeting two Advisory Board members will end their activity in the Advisory Board. They have played an outstanding role in pushing the EFPC further as an important network when it comes to improvement of the health of Europeans.

A balanced geographical and professional - including patient/citizen representatives - distribution among the Advisory Board members is important and will have its positive effect on acquiring new members, an increase of discussion via online platforms leading to more profound ideas on how to move forward in developing health systems and also in invitations from other networks to present our vision.

The current geographical (Europe) and professional distribution within the Advisory Board is presented in the graphs below:





From a professional and stakeholders perspective we have achieved a rather balanced advisory board composition.

From a geographical perspective we need more Northern and Eastern European representatives. With two vacancies for new Advisory Board members at the upcoming General Assembly we might improve this geographical diversity.

The EFPC secretariat and board members performed presentations for various conferences/meetings:

- 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe 12-14 September – Diederik Aarendonk
- WHO-Europe Non-State stakeholder- Quarterly non-State actor engagement session 17 May 2023 – Diederik Aarendonk
- Medical Deserts - AHEAD consortium led by WEMOS – Advisory Board meetings 2022/2023 – Diederik Aarendonk
- Lecture “Leaving no one behind. Integrating Oral Public Health and Primary Care.” at the annual conference of the European Association Public Health Dentists in Montpellier, September 9 – Paola Vassallo, Maria van den Muijsenbergh
- European Public Health Conference 9 November 2022 Berlin - Pre-Conference session on Primary Care services during COVID-19 in close collaboration with the EUPHA section on Health Services Research – Maria van den Muijsenbergh, Yann Lefeuvre, Sarah Burgmann, Elena Petelos, Lorena Dini & Diederik Aarendonk



- BMC managed care conference Berlin April 2023; session on population health management – Maria van den Muijsenbergh
- International conference on continuity of nutrition care, June 2023. Organised by the European Nutrition for Health Alliance (ENHA) including EFPC member EFAD –Maria van den Muijsenbergh
- WHO Talk Show “Let’s talk primary health care” Talk show #16 on the role of PHC in the well-being economy, June 27 2023 – Toni Dedeu, Jan De Maeseneer, Maria van den Muijsenbergh
- 3i Cross-border Collaborations, meeting in Lille, 7 June – Sophie van den Abeele
- 28th WONCA Europe conference, 7-10 June, Brussels – Maria van den Muijsenbergh
- ONCODIR – Evidence-based Participatory Decision Making for Cancer Prevention through implementation research EU project launch 12 June in Thessaloniki – Sophie van den Abeele
- Be-Well consortium meeting in Oslo, 19 June – Sophie van den Abeele

Governance, secretariat

Diederik Aarendonk continued his role as coordinator of the EFPC running the secretariat at the NIVEL premises in Utrecht, the Netherlands, for 2022/2023.

Due to the extra budget received for the PRIMORE phase II project, we were able to recruit a new junior coordinator, Sophie van den Abeele, for four days per week per February 2023.

The administrative support comes from Irene Cubells based in Barcelona.

With this size we re-established a secretariat with sufficient organizing capacity although a full-time position for the junior coordinator would be ideal.

The secretariat spends 20 % of its time on purely administrative matters and 80 % on organising (contributions of) members and content matters of the EFPC. This includes attendance of meetings and network events, preparation of policy statements and development of project proposals.

The salary administration is executed by a private service based in the Netherlands.



Growth

The growth of the EFPC is mainly measured in terms of number of members. This year the number of small institutional members dropped once more which is a concern as institutional members are the backbone of our association. The number of medium institutional showed a rise but this was mainly due to the German PORT members sponsored by the Robert Bosch Stiftung. Also a small drop for individual members was seen. (See below ad 3, membership fees)

It remains always difficult to assure visibility and showing our membership and potential members the added value of our work which is often invisible. Certainly, the last two years with the COVID19 regulations which hampers the activity of the association. This will be a continuing challenge for which the "Strategic Task Force" has developed a plan which might provide growth in the coming years.

Financial sustainability of the EFPC

The separate financial report details the financial status of the EFPC. Balancing income and expenses will remain a particular challenge as it was in the previous years.

On the expenses side: the EFPC secretariat has tried to keep running costs like travel, premises, communication, etc, low.

The premises (one desk) is still rented from NIVEL which costs increased but we ended the ICT support via NIVEL and made arrangements with our own EFPC Microsoft 365 account supported by a Spanish service provider. In the end better quality, more control and lower cost.

Other expenses are the normal overhead like insurances, communication, etc which remains a substantial expense.

In general, the EFPC has the following sources of income:

1. Institutional funding
2. Project activities
3. Membership fees.

The income from membership fees provides the EFPC a guaranteed and long-lasting income with a large freedom in the way EFPC operates in comparison with institutional and project funding. We are happy with this business-model as it remains a rather confident source of funding, compared with for example project funding or the positive balance from a yearly conference. If the latter would have been our main source of income we would have been in big trouble after again a cancelled conference this year. Still additional funding is needed to let the association flourish and to increase the capacity of the secretariat with a full-time junior coordinator.

Ad 1

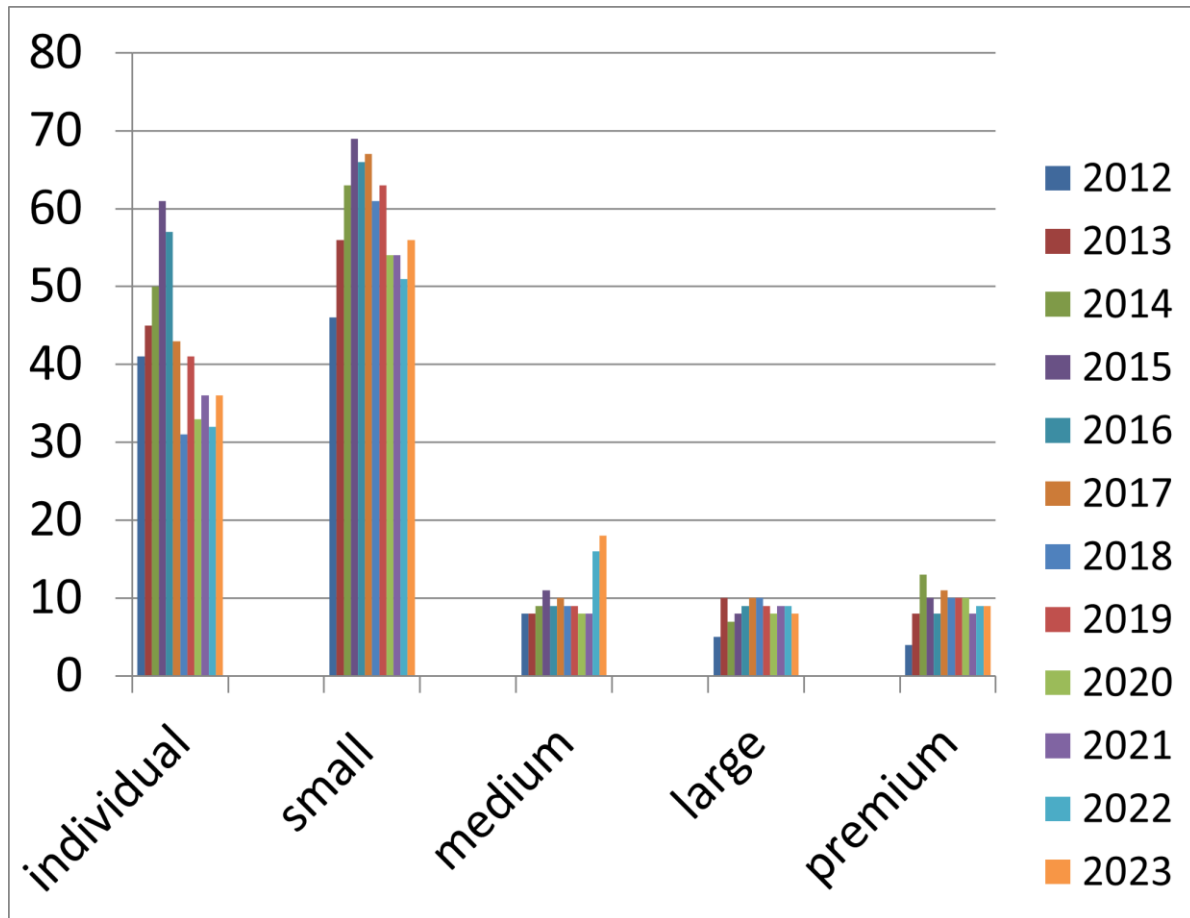
The EFPC did receive institutional funding from the German based Robert Bosch Stiftung

Ad 2

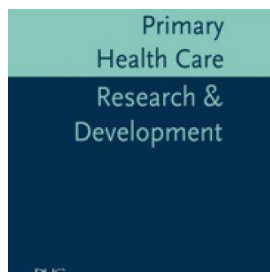
The EFPC's conferences, webinars and development of Position Papers are main activities. The EFPC is again involved in an EU funded projects called BE-WELL and ONCODIR.

Ad 3

The number of members now counts 91 institutional members. The total number of individual members is 36. (see below the graph of the number of the different member groups for the EFPC Association).



The numbers of institutional and individual members saw a little rise, in particularly the individual and small and medium institutional members, which we hope is a good trend to be continued next year knowing we have much to offer to new members via all the new projects and the Hivebrite online platform.



Primary Health Care Research & Development (PHCRD) of Cambridge University Press (CUP) remains our preferred journal for publication. Prof Sally Kendall remains editor in chief of PHCRD and is our liaison with also long lasting EFPC member Mehmet Akman taking part in the editorial board. The EFPC' "Health Aging" and "Organisation of Primary Care" Position Papers have been published in the journal.