

completed. It was stopped at the certification by the Slovenian Medical Association stage.

Afterwards, the process continued in the direction of harmonizing the PH knowledge/skills for the Slovenian territory, and the introduction of CBE. The new programme draft has been prepared in summer 2018 (11). It has retained the basic structure of the existing programme, however, with updated content. The trainees are guided through the training process by the targeted products requiring the use of modern PH methods. It anticipates a process and summative evaluation of knowledge/skills within/at the end of each part of the programme, as well as comprehensive final summative evaluation. The advantage is consideration of ASPHER/UEMS recommendations (4,6), including introduction of CBE, and balanced knowledge/skills. Additionally, it enables the transition between other programmes in the area of PH in Slovenia (e.g. PhD study in PH).

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Public Health in Different Study Programmes in Slovenia

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In Slovenia traditionally, besides medical and dental doctors, nurses and also sanitary engineers have been involved in the core public health team. The sanitary engineers in Slovenia and also in former Yugoslavia have long tradition of being involved in public health work. The educational programme for them was established already more than 50 years ago. The education curricula has reflected the specificity of interdisciplinary work in public health from the beginning. The emphasis was on engineering fields that were of utmost importance for introduction of sanitation measures needed in the second part of 20th century.

Nowadays the involvement of other professionals in the field of public health is much more complex - especially when it comes to the development and implementation of measures for achieving better health. As an answer to the need for extensive interdisciplinary cooperation there are many educational programmes in place that employ interdisciplinary approach such as:

- First and second educational degree of study programme sanitary engineers - Faculty of Health, University of Ljubljana;
- All three study degrees of study program Nursing Care at different public and private educational organisation in Ljubljana, Maribor, Novo mesto,

Slovenj Gradec, Celje, Murska Sobota, Jesenica and Izola;

- Food safety master degree at Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences - University of Maribor;
- Study programme at Environmental Protection College Velenje;
- Interdisciplinary doctoral programme in environmental protection - University of Ljubljana;
- Study programme at School of Environmental Sciences - University of Nova Gorica;
- Master and doctoral degree at Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School;
- Postgraduate course in Public health (Faculty of Medicine, Ljubljana).

All these programs, which come in addition to public health at Medical Faculties in Ljubljana and Maribor, also include public health topics in their curriculum. In the vast majority of the study programs, basic knowledge in the field of public health is expected from the students. This represents a good fundament for further development of professional expertise when needed.

Over the past two decades, the public health in Slovenia has been rapidly developing - both in professional and research fields but also in the field of pedagogical activities. The number of habilitated teachers of public health has increased, which also

indicates a steadily growing need for training in this field. In Slovenia, public health teachers are interconnected to a high degree. The close cooperation of all teachers has led to a very positive development namely that work with students is very similar, both in terms of content and learning methods. In this way, the group of qualified public health staff is growing. For now, the main stakeholders, however, remain the same as they were before, the National Institute of Public Health, the Medical Faculty of Ljubljana and the Faculty of Health. Of course, the unification of content and learning methods would be at an even higher level if, like in most of developed countries, a public health school would be established. In this way, it would also be easier to achieve a higher degree of recognition of the public health profession among students and graduates of other study programs. Many of them will be involved in individual public health programs and activities as part of their professional tasks. Unfortunately, so far, there has been no support to such a way of ensuring adequate training of personnel who, in the context of their professional activity, work in the field of public health. Given that the field of public health is rapidly evolving and is gaining increasing visibility and confidence, I believe that the moment when the decision-makers will listen and provide appropriate support will show up quite soon.

School of Public Health as a Part of Healthcare System

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Healthcare system is defined as a system of organisations, institutions and resources that provide services in order to improve the health of the population (1, 2). Proper management of such a system requires adequate knowledge, apprehension, policies, vision, regulations etc. All of which is pertinent to governance of human and physical capital as well as to sufficient funding of diverse health services. Complexity of healthcare system demands skilled and competent public health professionals who are able to use various demographic, epidemiological, sociological, ecological, economical, organisational and other health-related indicators to provide policy recommendations for political and managerial decisions that are taken on different levels of societal and professional structures.

Lack of comprehensive strategies for health promotion, insufficient funding of health care programmes and unresponsiveness of health care system to sound expectations of the population

cannot be resolved by »reforms« practiced in recent years, where new heads of healthcare institutions, lacking comprehension of delicate, professionally demanding and unprofitable domain of public healthcare were appointed every so often. Unfortunately, expert recommendations for rectification of such deficiencies were overlooked in domestic politics.

There are numerous measures that need to be implemented for long-term development of healthcare system in Slovenia. Assessment, appraisal, and evaluation and evidence-informed strategical development of current system are measures that were too often neglected. Most countries in EU and elsewhere in the world have schools of public health in which they train professionals with different backgrounds (medicine, economy, sociology, law etc.). Such professionals are able to participate in the healthcare system with harmonised and coherent approach. Only with sufficient number of said