



Folkehelseforeningen

Norwegian Public Health Organisation (NOPHA)

Annual report 2020

Highlights of 2020

This year has been marked by the corona situation and the closure of Norway. Our most important activity, the Public Health Conference 2020 in Trondheim, was postponed for one year until October 2021, and our annual meeting seminar on "Without occupational health no public health" was postponed indefinitely. But other activities were carried out. We will highlight the following outreach activities:

- A successful webinar was held on 29 October with the theme: «Public health during and after the corona», about how the pandemic affects the population unequal, and what opportunities we have to counteract inequality in health. It was viewed by over 2,600, 378 at the same time, total viewing time was 36 days. It is available on our website.
- 8 measures were prepared that can lift people's health and equalize social differences. This document was sent to all political parties represented in our Parliament as input to the parties' election program. The document is posted on the website.
- Covid-19 vaccines will long be a scarce commodity. In collaboration with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), we helped prepare a statement to the nations of the world on how future vaccinations must be carried out. This statement was sent to the Prime Minister's Office with a copy to the relevant authorities and organizations in Norway (posted on our website). It is expected that it will also be sent to the authorities in China and Ghana to inspire other countries' public health associations to do the same.
- We sent out a press release in early December that the subsidy for health-damaging products such as chocolate, tobacco, snuff, beer and wine in the budget settlement will take many lives. In the long run, probably more than the corona in Norway. We supported the public health appeal that was sent to the Prime Minister about the same at the initiative of the NCD Alliance: The Cancer Society, the Norwegian National Health Association, the Council for Mental Health, the National Association for Heart and Lung Disease and the Diabetes Association

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 work.

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 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 goals of the association.

The association's strategic plan for the period 2018-22 contains a vision and three objectives:

The Association's vision: Bridge building for joint efforts

The goals of the Association

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 administration.
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 2020

The starting point for this overview is the NOPHA's working plan for 2020. The activities are arranged according to the goals of the association.

Goal #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.

- As a replacement for the postponed national public health conference in Trondheim, a successful webinar was held on 29 October with the theme: "Public health during and after the corona" on how the pandemic affects the population unequal, and what opportunities we have to counteract inequality in health. It was viewed by over 2,600, 378 at the same time, total viewing time was 36 days. It is available on our website.
- The postponed national public health conference 2020 will be held in Trondheim on 28 and 29 October 2021. It is planned to be able to arrange pre-conferences and an evening event on Wednesday 27 October. It will have the same main theme as the 2020 conference: "Climate and sustainable public health work".
- It has been decided that the national public health conference in October 2022 will be held in Hamar.
- The newly started section FHF-Young for students / new researchers / young practitioners in the field of public health has been given a separate Facebook page, logo and space on the website.
- In our Facebook group, articles, job advertisements and news releases of interest to public health are shared. Occasionally there are professional discussions.

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

- Through a subscription to the journals Scandinavian Journal of Public Health (SJPH) and the European Journal of Public Health (EJPH), the Public Health Association disseminates new research in the relevant fields to its members. Members have access to these and a monthly "Newsletter" from EUPHA as part of the membership fee. As one of the owners, NOPHA is represented on the board of SJPH by the chairman of the board Tone Torgersen, chief advisor of the Norwegian National Health Association. Professor Terje Eikemo, Norwegian University of Science and Technology is editor-in-chief. NOPHA is the host organization for SJPH. Johan Lund, Secretary General of NOPHA is deputy representative to the board and treasurer for SJPH.
- We participated in the European Public Health Week between 11 and 15 May 2020, with the main theme: «Covid-19 - Collaboration, coordination, communication. There was a case on the website each of the five days, with its own sub-themes. They were also shared on our Facebook group. There was a lot of activity on both the websites and the Facebook pages during this week.
- A scholarship of NOK 10,000 was awarded to a student to write a master's degree on the school's opportunities to prevent suicide. There were seven applicants for the scholarship.
- Last year's scholarship winner submitted her thesis: «Intersectoral collaboration at the municipal level: a qualitative study of the experiences of public health coordinators in Norway». She wanted to bring out limiting and enabling factors around the systematic public health work. In addition, she focused on cooperation between sectors within the municipality. Public health coordinators in 8 municipalities were interviewed, 4 in Western Norway and 4 in Eastern Norway. The thesis can be found on our website.
- Two membership letters were sent out, one in the spring and one in the autumn.
- We participated in discussions about how the periodical «Helserådet (Health Council)», with Anders Smith as editor, can continue.
- 8 measures were prepared that can lift people's health and equalize social differences. This document was sent to all political parties represented in our Parliament as input to the parties' election program. The document is posted on the website.

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

- As a first step in establishing a Norwegian public health forum, in 2018, in collaboration with Norsk Friluftsliv, approx. 40 organizations that prepared a joint input to the Governments White Paper of Public Health Report, and which were sent to the Minister of Public Health. Based on this successful first step, the board decided that the Public Health Association should take on the role of secretariat and coordinator for such a Public Health Forum. Work continues on clarifying the organization and financing.
- The Cyclists' Association took the initiative for a statement to the government on cycling policy. The Norwegian Public Health Association was contacted and supports the statement together with 19 other relevant organizations.

- We sent out a press release in early December that the subsidy of health-damaging products such as chocolate, tobacco, snus, beer and wine in the budget settlement will take many lives. In the long run, probably more than the corona in Norway. We supported the public health appeal that was sent to the Prime Minister about the same at the initiative of the NCD alliance: the Cancer Society, the Norwegian National Health Association, the Council for Mental Health, the National Association for Heart and Lung Disease and the Diabetes Association.
- Vaccines against Covid-19 will long be a scarce commodity. In collaboration with the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), we helped prepare a statement to the nations of the world on how future vaccinations must be carried out. This statement was sent to the Prime Minister's Office with a copy to the relevant authorities and organizations in Norway (posted on our website). It is expected that it will also be sent to the authorities in China and Ghana to inspire other countries' public health associations to do the same.
- The combined European and global public health conference was scheduled to take place in Rome in October. Due to the corona situation, it was carried out digitally. More than 3,750 participants from 125 countries were present at this digital conference, including our board members Jorid Grimeland and Heidi Lyshol. The Norwegian Public Health Association was represented by the chairman of the board at the annual meeting of EUPHA's Governing Board, which was also conducted digitally.
- We have annual briefings with our partners: two meetings with the Norwegian Network for Research and Education on Health Promotion and one meeting with the Network for Environmental Public Health Work (NEMFO), Healthy Cities Norway and the Norwegian Safety Forum, respectively.