

CRITERIA FOR PHD IN PUBLIC HEALTH: A EUROPEAN APPROACH FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY DOCTORATES

Ursula Ackermann-Liebrich, Coordinator PhD Public Health network of the Association of Schools of Public Health of the European Region (ASPHER)

Background: Public Health is traditionally a postgraduate discipline; trainees usually come from different fields as Public Health used to be a subject based on very different basic trainings (medicine, social sciences, economics etc.).

Aims: To define minimal common standards for European Doctorate in Public Health to enable interdisciplinary and internationally recognized training possibilities for doctoral students in Public Health.

Methods: the network elaborated a questionnaire for ASPHER member schools to get an overview on standards used and to test reactions on a proposal of minimal common standards.

Results: The following statements show the proposed minimal common standards. Results of the survey are not yet available, but the standards should be discussed at the conference and the acceptance of doctorates in disciplines other than those studied in pregraduate training ought to be discussed.

1. Doctoral committee guides student (supervisor, co-referee, international experts)
2. Academic training in formal courses of at least 12 ETCS during PhD at PhD level and 25 ECTS on advanced level (after Bologna Master).
3. First year assessment and decision about continuation of PhD.
4. Annual meeting of doctoral committee to discuss progress
5. Thesis encompasses in general 3 to 5 peer-reviewed articles; at least 2 articles are accepted; student needs to be first author of at least 2 scientific papers.