

Application for EUPHA MIG section presidency

I am an Associate professor, PhD, Head of the Cultural Diversity team and Chief researcher at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL). I am a member of EUPHA through my affiliation THL, which is a national public health institute. Additionally, I am the vice chair of the board for the Society for Social Medicine in Finland (SLY), which was one of the founding bodies of EUPHA. I have had the privilege to act as the Acting Vice president of the EUPHA MIG section over the past year, and I am very active as workshop organiser and presenter, as well as abstract reviewer at the EPH conferences.

I have been working in the field of migration and health since 2010, acting as one of the founders of the work on migration and health in Finland. I have significantly contributed to shaping the research agenda and development of services for migrants, developing research and praxis methodology and training professionals and students at Master and PhD level.

My research and development work has focused on a broad range of topics related to migration, health, and wellbeing, including the following areas of expertise: health monitoring using register and population-based health examination and interview surveys, noncommunicable diseases and related risk factors, health literacy, mental health, communicable diseases (especially assessment of impact of Covid-19, equitable access to vaccines), accessible and inclusive multilingual communications, psychoeducation, access to health and social services, and health systems development. My work has focused both on asylum seekers and migrants with permanent residence status, as well as the Finnish Roma cultural and linguistic minorities. My versatile professional expertise draws from my multidisciplinary educational background in gerontology and public health, social services, and more recently, psychology and coaching.

My work has significant social impact and I am especially skilled, and passionate, in not only producing high-level research, but also in translating research into policy and practice. The social impact of this work has been recognised by three awards and coverage in written media and TV. One of the highest impact and innovative recent work related to developing the methodology and leading the adaptation process on cross-cutting and systematic integration of actionable equity and cultural diversity perspectives in a 66 mil. € EU Joint Action for Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes (JACARDI), consisting of 142 pilots in 21 countries. I have been actively involved in multiple positions of trust at national and international level, including the aforementioned Society for Social Medicine and WHO expert groups.

My vision for the presidency is to continue building on the excellent work of my predecessors and further strengthening the collaborative nature of the MIG section. My key motivations for applying for the section presidency is the social impact the position offers in contributing to the health of migrants and ethnic minorities. Another motivating factor is to break down the silos across professionals in the field through fostering collaboration and synergies, supporting exchange of knowledge, as well as supporting and engaging young researchers into the work of the section. I also hope to make the broad research and research to policy work that my team at THL has excellent experience on.

I have excellent leadership skills, as well as written and oral communication skills in English. I am highly experienced in working with persons of diverse cultural background. I myself represent a minority in Finland, having had migrated to Finland as a pre-adolescent. I have strong networks in the field of migrant and ethnic minority health across Europe, through the versatile topics and methodology that I have used in the field. Inclusivity and accessibility are strong values that constitute the foundation for all of my work.

Thank you for considering my expression of interest.

Sincerely,

Natalia Skogberg, Associate professor, PhD