



Dear colleagues

We are pleased to share with you the new design of the CPME Monthly Bulletin with the outcomes of the Executive Committee the meeting on 17 February 2022.

Since our meeting took place, our colleagues from the Ukrainian Medical Association (UMA) have been plunged into the heart of a war. On the morning following the Russian invasion, we released a [joint statement](#) with the World Medical Association calling for medical neutrality to be respected and condemning any act of aggression that prevents doctors and healthcare professionals carrying out their duty of care. However, since then reports suggest that civilians that been targeted indiscriminately and hospitals and medical facilities have suffered severe damage.

Medical and humanitarian supplies are in short supply and UMA has urgently appealed for aid. To answer this call, the Ukraine Medical Help Fund has been established by CPME, EFMA and WMA to enable the global medical community to unite efforts to support our Ukrainian colleagues. Please find more details of how you can support the fund in the Bulletin below.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer (CPME President)

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 FEBRUARY 2022

Internal Affairs

Memorandum of Understanding with Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

- ▶ The Executive Committee agreed to sign the reviewed CPME–FVE Memorandum of Understanding.

An updated Memorandum of Understanding between CPME and [Federation of Veterinarians of Europe \(FVE\)](#) has been proposed with the goal of clarifying the areas where CPME and FVE could work together. Amendments to the memorandum include references to major challenges in antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases as well as the outcomes of the World Veterinarian Association and World Medical Association Global conferences on One Health. Members of the Executive Committee also suggested to include further amendments on joint education and training for reduction of antimicrobial use and a reference to national guidelines on the use of antimicrobials.

Israeli Medical Association request to survey labour relations

- ▶ The Executive Committee reviewed the request by the Israeli Medical Association to circulate a survey on labour relations following the COVID-19 pandemic to the membership. The Executive Committee agreed to process some of the questions in a relaunch of a revised version of the CPME survey on National Medical Associations' experiences in the COVID-19 pandemic.

General Assembly 26 March 2022

- ▶ The Executive Committee took note of the draft agendas.

It was highlighted that time planning is still subject to confirmation, in particular as the EU Commissioner for Health, Stella Kyriakides, has been invited to speak.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 FEBRUARY 2022**CPME Rules on General Assembly expenses**

- ▶ The Executive Committee took note of the proposal to update the rules on the General Assembly expenses.

The matter will be discussed at the upcoming General Assembly in March 2022.

Royal Dutch Medical Association proposal to hold General Assembly and Board meetings Autumn 2024

- ▶ Christiaan Keijzer (CPME President) confirmed that the Royal Dutch Medical Association wishes to host the autumn 2024 CPME meetings.

Industry invitation to speak at AI event under French presidency

- ▶ The Executive Committee agreed that the Secretariat will speak at the industry event to present European doctors' views on the AI Act and intersections with the Medical Devices Regulation.

The French Presidency, in collaboration with [COCIR](#) and industry partner, is organizing a virtual event on Europe and Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. The plan is for a high level discussion on the benefits and challenges of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare. The program for the event and the link to register is available [here](#).

Finances

Revised budget 2022

- ▶ The Executive Committee took note of the draft revised budget 2022 which will be forwarded to the General Assembly for adoption.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 FEBRUARY 2022

Policies

Revision of EU Legislation on Food Information to Consumers

- ▶ The Executive Committee adopted the draft response for the revision of EU legislation on Food Information to Consumers. The Executive Committee was also informed that CPME is invited to a targeted consultation on the same topic.

The revision concerns front-of-pack (FOP) nutrition labelling and nutrient profiles, alcoholic beverage labelling, date marking, and origin labelling. In May 2020, the European Commission published a [report on front-of-pack nutrition labelling](#) concluding that FOP labelling has the potential to help consumers make health-conscious food choices. The [proposal to revise the EU rules on information provided to consumers](#) is part of the EU's 'farm-to-fork' strategy. It aims to ensure better labelling information to help consumers make healthier and more sustainable food choices and tackle food waste. The Executive Committee discussed especially front-of-pack nutrition labelling and the potential labelling scheme options presented in the consultation.

IMMUNION Vaccination Session in the CPME Meetings

- ▶ The Executive Committee discussed the outline for the content of the 90-minute session on communication about vaccines to be held in the CPME Meetings on 25 March 2022. The Executive Committee also agreed to request participants to send their questions beforehand via the registration form.

The [IMMUNION](#) project contributes to EU efforts to improve vaccine uptake by providing education and training to health professionals on how to communicate effectively about vaccination with their patients and the media. More information on the Communication session can be found under "CPME News".

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 FEBRUARY 2022

EU-funded vaccination projects

- ▶ The Executive Committee took note that ICF consultancy has decided not to put forward a proposal linked to HaDEA's call for tenders for a service contract to identify obstacles to vaccination.

As In January 2022, the Executive Committee was informed that the Coalition for Vaccination, co-chaired by CPME, was invited to take part in a proposal linked to HaDEA's call for tenders. Among the 8 tenders launched by HaDEA, one of the tenders is a service contract to identify obstacles to vaccination of physical, practical or administrative nature and to develop recommendations. The service contract has a budget of around 5.25 million euros and will involve a mapping of vaccination services in all EU Member States, an Assessment of obstacles having a negative impact on vaccination coverage rates, the identification of best practices to overcome such obstacles, and the development of recommendations for overcoming these obstacles to vaccination.

Joint Action Health Workforce

- ▶ The Executive Committee was informed that CPME has formally applied to join the joint action on Health Workforce.

On the 22nd of February, the [European Health and Digital Executive Agency](#) (HaDEA) published 8 new calls for proposals under the EU4Health 2022 Work Programs. One of the proposals is a [call to provide training for the health workforce including digital skills](#) with a EUR 29 000 000 budget for continuous professional and non-clinical staff. Among other things, this joint action will address shortages in access to continuous and professional development and training for health professionals. The joint action mainly focusses on health workforce planning, but there is also an opportunity to address health related topics such as projects on prostate, lung and gastric cancer screening, the prevention of NCDs and promoting mental health. CPME's main contribution is foreseen in the work packages on dissemination and sustainability. The Secretariat is currently in contact with organisations of veterinarians, dentists and pharmacists to discuss a possible joint initiative in the context of the call

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – 17 FEBRUARY 2022

CPME Draft policy on health inequalities

- ▶ The Executive Committee was informed that after having been taken off the agenda of the Board meeting in November, the draft policy on health inequalities has been revised in the past months and will be presented to the Board for decision in March 2022.

E-Evidence regulation

- ▶ The Executive Committee was informed about CPME lobbying activities and the cooperation with the informal e-Evidence coalition. The Executive Committee agreed that CPME Secretariat sends a mailing to Members to inform about the state of play and again request for their action

The proposed [e-Evidence Regulation](#) introduces binding European Production and Preservation orders for data that is stored by a service provider located in another jurisdiction and that are necessary as evidence in criminal investigations. The proposed regulation could impact the doctors in various ways as detailed in the [Joint Compendium](#) co-authored by CPME and [European Digital Rights](#) (EDRi). CPME strongly believes that the proposed regulation violates professional secrecy and medical confidentiality and has issued a [statement](#) in September 2021.

MONITORING

Climate Change

Urgent need to adapt to the tremendous implications of climate change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has published their [report](#) on 28 February 2022 on the impacts, adaptation, and vulnerabilities related to the effects of climate change. One of the reports primary findings is that human-caused climate change is already having a greater, more frequent, and broader impact on the environment and humans than previously imagined. These effects are expected to increase over the next two decades, but some risks can be mitigated by taking steps to adjust to the consequences. These steps include lowering greenhouse gas emissions, slowing down global warming, and adapting to changing climatic conditions at the same time. The EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change is at the heart of these initiatives, assisting at least 150 European regions and communities in becoming climate resilient by 2030. More information can be found [here](#).

Cross-Border Healthcare Directive

Final report on the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive is published

On 24 February, the European Commission published results for the '[Study on Enhancing implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive 2011/24/EU to ensure patient rights in the EU](#)'. Its purpose was to support the Commission's work to deepen analysis of the problem that it continues to be difficult for a number of patients to access healthcare in another Member State and many remained shortcomings in the practical application of the Directive. Some CPME members participated in interviews related to the study in 2021. The core finding of this study was that the way prior authorisation procedures are implemented differs greatly across countries. Therefore, guiding principles were developed to provide recommendations to streamline and simplify these procedures. Moreover, the study found that certain administrative procedures and requirements across countries may be regarded as creating potentially unjustified obstacles for patients seeking cross-border healthcare under the Directive. The Commission also published a final report of the '[Study on Cross-Border Patient Mobility in Selected EU Regions](#)'.

MONITORING

Cancer

European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific advisors issue scientific opinion on cancer screening in Europe

On 2 March 2022, the European Commission's Group of Chief Scientific advisors issued a [scientific opinion](#) on cancer screening in Europe in support of the Commission's activities under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan to promote early detection through screening. The opinion provides recommendations on how to strengthen existing breast, colorectal and cervical cancer screening programs as well as how to expand them to include lung and prostate cancer. The opinion also emphasizes the importance of making such programs more accessible.

MEPs call for a more effective EU strategy to beat cancer

On 16 February, the European Parliament [adopted](#) its final recommendations for a comprehensive and coordinated EU strategy to fight cancer (report of the BECA Committee). MEPs call for effective prevention measures at national and EU level, based on independent scientific expertise. These include funding programmes encouraging people to stop smoking and promoting actions to reduce and prevent alcohol-related harm as part of a revised EU alcohol strategy. MEPs also demand a mandatory and harmonised EU front-of-pack nutritional label for food products as well as setting occupational exposure limit values for at least 25 additional substances. In addition, the recommendations highlight better access to cross-border health care and clinical trials for cancer patients, as well as shortages of cancer medicines. Please find the full resolution [here](#).

MONITORING

Occupational Health and Safety

European Parliament approves a deal for stricter EU rules on worker exposure to carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxic chemicals

On February 17th, 2022, the European Parliament gave its final approval for an [upgrade](#) on the EU rules restricting worker exposure to carcinogens, mutagens, and reprotoxic chemicals. By establishing EU-wide occupational exposure limits, the new EU regulation intended to increase employee's protection against carcinogenic and other dangerous chemicals.

WHO and ILO issue guide on improving safeguards to protect health workers

The World Health Organization and the International Labour Organization has [published](#) a new guide on developing and implementing strong occupational health and safety programs for health workers. The guide recommends developing and implementing sustainable programmes for managing occupational health and safety for health workers at all levels and covering all occupational hazards. The guide can be accessed through this [link](#).

Alcohol

New WHO signature initiative on increasing alcohol taxes

WHO Regional Director for Europe's Advisory Council on Innovation and Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD Advisory Council) has [proposed](#) a new signature initiative on alcohol taxation for countries to consider in their fiscal policies. A study by the NCD Advisory Council's working group found that implementation of a minimum level of 15% tax on the retail price per unit of alcohol would save 133,000 lives each year across the countries of the WHO European Region. The number of lives saves could increase substantially with a higher percentage of tax share, and thus the signature initiative working group concludes that any amount of pure alcohol should cost the same.

MONITORING

e-Health

X-eHealth project holds first Professional Training session

The [X-eHealth project](#) is holding its first Professional Training Session, addressing healthcare professionals needs and digital skills needed to operate in the next generation healthcare systems. The event aims to introduce essential digital skills to health professionals regarding the future use of laboratory cross-border services. For more information on the X-eHealth project, please see the following [leaflet for more information](#). If you are interested, please register until 18 March [here](#).

TEHDAS launches consultation on stakeholders views on reuse of health data

The initiative "Towards a European Health Data Space" ([TEHDAS](#)) has launched an e-consultation "[Healthy Data – your views on the reuse of health data](#)", to better understand the way patients, citizens and their representatives would like to be engaged in health data governance. The platform allows viewers to [learn more](#) about health data reuse, and offers two participation tools: a [consultation platform](#) as well as a [quick interactive test](#). The consultation is run in French, English and Dutch, and will remain open to contributions until April 4, 2022.

European Medicines Agency

European Medicines Regulatory Network adopts common standard for electronic product information

The European Medicines Regulatory Network has [adopted](#) a Common Standard for the electronic product information (EPI) on medicines in the European Union. This will allow for wider dissemination of up-to-date information on all medicines available to patients in the EU. The ePI can be updated immediately and its structured nature offers new opportunities to personalise the product information to individual needs. Future developments of ePI could include functionalities such as automatic update notifications, access to supportive videos or audio content and online adverse-reaction reporting tools.

MONITORING

Ukraine

Petition: No nuclear war over Ukraine

[The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War \(IPPNW\)](#) has initiated a petition calling for NATO and the Russian Federation to renounce the use of nuclear weapons in the Russo-Ukrainian War and an immediate cease fire and the withdrawal of all Russian military forces. IPPNW is a federation of national medical groups in over 60 countries, representing tens of thousands of doctors, medical students, other health workers. The petition can be signed by individuals [here](#).

European and global health stakeholders condemn Russian invasion

Organisations from across Europe and the world have condemned the Russian aggression in Ukraine. Please find a far from exhaustive list below:

- An [open letter](#) signed by thousands of Russian doctors, nurses, and paramedics called for an end to hostilities in Ukraine (original version censored [here](#))
- The European Midwives Association (EMA) issued a [statement](#) of support for women and Midwives during the conflict in Ukraine.
- CNOM [expressed](#) solidarity with the Ukrainian people, reaffirmed that medical neutrality must be respected and pledged €150,000 to Ukraine Medical Help Fund.
- Confederation of Medical Associations in Asia and Oceania (CMAAO) strongly [urged](#) Russian leaders to comply with the principle of medical neutrality
- The European Forum of Medical Associations communicated their solidarity with colleagues in Ukraine and urged an immediate end the conflict
- European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN) [condemned](#) the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation and the unacceptable pain, suffering, and loss of lives.
- The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) [noted](#) the important threats to health in the immediate future and the longer term
- Global medical and public health organisations, including WMA, [call](#) for immediate end to war in Ukraine and critical need to prevent nuclear escalation
- A [joint statement](#) from UNICEF, UNFPA, and WHO called for an immediate cessation of all attacks on health care in Ukraine.

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Donate to the Ukraine Medical Help Fund

Following an urgent appeal by the Ukrainian Medical Association, the Ukraine Medical Help Fund has been established by CPME, EFMA and WMA to enable the global medical community to unite efforts to support our Ukrainian colleagues and the national medical associations in neighbouring countries who are stepping up to support the deepening humanitarian crisis.

The intense military escalation has resulted in loss of life, injuries, and the displacement of over one million refugees to neighbouring countries, with more expected. Hospitals and medical facilities have suffered severe damage and there is a shortage of all medical supplies and tremendous logistical challenges in sending aid.

We appeal to you to consider donating to the Ukraine Medical Help Fund to allow the medical community to coordinate and provide vital medical support to the humanitarian crisis.

The World Medical Association has set up a bank account to serve these common efforts and we appeal for your donations to the following account:

Bank:

SOCIETE GENERALE

Domiciliation: ANNEMASSE ENTERPRISES (04335)

International Banking Account Number **IBAN: FR76 30003 04335 00050005353 78**

Bank Identification Code **BIC: SOGEFRPP**

Account Owner:

ASSO MEDICALE MONDIALE

13A Chemin du Levant

01210 FERNEY-VOLTAIRE

FRANCE

How the Fund be will used

The fund will be used to facilitate supply chains of medical supplies and other humanitarian goods to colleagues in Ukraine and neighbouring countries under the following rules:

1. The primary purpose is to transport and distribute medical goods (medicines, medical products, special diets and other healthcare tools) to Ukraine. We are cooperating with the Ukrainian Medical Association and our member and partner organizations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, including the Polish Chamber of Doctors and Dentists, the Slovakian Medical Association and the Slovak Medical Chamber.
2. Part of the funds may be used for medical assistance for refugees, should the healthcare systems of the recipient countries become overwhelmed. The neighbouring countries are doing their best to serve and shelter the refugees, however the volume of refugees is growing daily.
3. Should we come to a point where we find that a partner organization e.g. the ICRC or another charity doing work on the Ukrainian territory can do better to reach our colleagues and their patients in Ukraine, we may divert funds to those organizations. We may also consider portals of the Ukrainian government as long as we get assurance that funds will be used for medical and humanitarian purposes.
4. The organizations building this coalition (CPME, EFMA and WMA) will provide their work as benefit in kind and will not charge for their services.

How the Fund will be managed

The Ukraine Medical Help Fund has been set up by an ad-hoc coalition of

- the European Forum of Medical Associations ([EFMA](#)),
- the Standing Committee of European Doctors ([CPME](#)), and the
- World Medical Association ([WMA](#)), which holds the account for donations.

CPME NEWS

The Fund is governed by:

- The Taskforce Ukraine, which is composed of representatives of the medical associations (int/national) involved in the execution of the project, i.e. the WMA, EFMA, CPME, the Polish Chamber of Doctors and Dentists, the Slovakian Medical Association, the Slovak Medical Chamber, the Romanian College of Physicians, the Hungarian Medical Chamber and the French Medical Council. More organisations are invited to join or have already indicated to do so. The Taskforce will recommend the use of funds to the Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee, consisting of the Secretary Generals of EFMA, CPME, and WMA and is chaired by WMA Past President Prof. Dr Leonid Eidelman.

Ongoing activities

The Japan Medical Association has already generously [donated](#) ¥100 Million (over €770,000) and the French Medical Council has [pledged](#) €150,000. These contributions have allowed us to start to assemble a first shipment of medical goods to Ukraine and we will communicate the use of these funds via our respective communication channels.

We urgently appeal for further donations to allow us to continue our efforts. Thank you for your support, any amount you provide will allow us to make a greater difference.

Medical neutrality must be observed in Ukraine

CPME and the World Medical Association (WMA) published a joint [press release](#) expressing deep concern about the conflict in Ukraine initiated by the Russian Federation and called for the international principle of medical neutrality and human rights to be respected.

European Medical Organisations call on EU and Member States to coordinate humanitarian aid

We united with other European Medical Organisations by [calling](#) for the EU and Member States to coordinate humanitarian aid with the Ukrainian government. . The press release also urged a joint response for refugees and asylum seekers from Ukraine and a collaborative, cross-sectoral and cross-border effort to uphold medical treatment.

CPME – CNOM joint event on Protecting health data in Europe

CPME and the [Conseil national de l'Ordre des médecins](#) (CNOM) are organising a joint event "Protection of health data in Europe – Are we preparing? Building trust – Enabling Science". The event will take place on Wednesday 6 April 2022 from 3:30pm to 5:30pm at the CNOM headquarters at 4 rue Léon Jost, 75017 Paris in a hybrid format allowing virtual attendance, with both English and French interpretation. The link to register for the event can be found [here](#).

Ask about vaccination in the CPME meetings

Within the framework of the EU [IMMUNION](#) project, the University of Antwerp and the Coalition for Vaccination are organising a side session on vaccine hesitancy and communication at CPME's general assembly on 25 March 2022. Besides a general introduction and session on vaccine confidence/hesitancy and communication, a tailored Q&A session will be organised. During the tailored Q&A session, a panel of experts will answer your pre-submitted questions about vaccine confidence/hesitancy and communication. To identify the best speakers and tailor the program, please [send any questions you might have about vaccine hesitancy and communication](#). The collection of questions will end on 10 March 2022. Questions may be sent to sara.valckx@uantwerpen.be.

Join the new CPME WG on climate change

CPME recently decided to establish a new working group on climate change. The first meeting will take place under the CPME session on public health and disease prevention on Friday, 25 March. Should you be interested in joining the WG (mailing list), please contact Markus Kujawa at markus.kujawa@cpme.eu.

CPME highlights impact of restrictions imposed during COVID-19 on free movement of healthcare professionals

The [Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection](#) (IMCO) invited CPME to a hearing on the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on free movement of professionals and how to move forward. The aim of the hearing was to draw lessons from the experiences of doctors and to ensure that appropriate action will be taken in the future to facilitate and further improve cross-border provision of services. CPME Secretary General Annabel Seeböhm presented the European Doctors' perspective to the Committee, highlighting that issue was not one of workforce mobility, but one of workforce shortage arising from under-resourced healthcare systems.

EFSA Newsletter February 2022

CPME is a partner of the European Food and Safety authority (EFSA) Stakeholder Forum.

Scientists from the EFSA have [performed](#) a detailed safety assessment of sugars in the diet and their possible linkages to health concerns. Find the links between sugar consumption and health concerns [here](#). The comprehensive results of the opinion have helped support recommendations in limiting the intake of added and free sugars. EFSA scientists believe it should be as low as possible, keeping in line with a nutritional balanced diet.

EU-OSHA Newsletter February 2022

CPME is a partner in the 2020–22 '[Healthy Workplaces](#)' campaign of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). It focuses on the prevention of work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) which continue to be one of the most prevalent type of work-related health problems in Europe.

Teleworking has increased because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is going to fundamentally alter the way we work. Not having a properly set up workstation at home is one of the key MSD risk factors of teleworking. Therefore, a risk assessment of the home workstation needs to be conducted by the employer. In the EU there is no specific legislation on teleworking. Member States have [established](#) their own national teleworking legislation over the years, with shared values such as the right of workers to work remotely in a safe and healthy way, and the right to disconnect at the end of the day. The link to the February newsletter can be found [here](#)

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