



21th July 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Public health institutions from Poland, Moldova and France tighten their academic cooperation in reaction to war in Europe

A trilateral agreement between Poland, Moldova and France about scientific, academic, cultural cooperation and development

Prof. Tomasz Grodzicki (Vice-Rector for Medical College), Prof. Oleg Lozan (Director) and Dr Laurent Chambaud (Dean), representing respectively the Jagiellonian University Medical College (JUMC) in Krakow, Poland, the School of Public Health Management (SPHM) of the Republic of Moldova in Chisinau, and the EHESP French School of Public Health in Rennes, signed **a new agreement** at the end of June 2022. The three institutions aim to foster and facilitate exchange of staff and students for teaching and research purposes, including lectures, seminars, conferences, preparing joint publications, as well as developing various forms of exchange and academic mobility.

Three partners involved in initiatives aiming to provide a proper response to the emerging challenges due to the war in Ukraine

From the very onset of the current conflict, all three institutions from Poland, Moldova and France have been focusing on challenges related to the public health, health care, and humanitarian crises. They have been taking part in initiatives led by the **Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)**.

In particular **the EHESP** has been co-leading with JUMC and SPHM the ASPHER's working group on refugees, cooperating with Ukraine's neighbouring countries. The EHESP wishes to support schools of public health in countries bordering Ukraine, which are currently facing a major and sudden influx of refugees.

The SPHM has launched several initiatives in the context of war, which is very close to Moldova's borders, such as trainings and support materials for authorities, refugees and general population, like "Guide on the organization and operation of temporary camps for disaster victims" and "Guide on the management of medical staff in crisis situations". One of the SPHM's new initiatives is the National Health Communication Platform which will ensure a transparent, professional, apolitical and equidistant dialogue with all institutions from the public health system, in order to provide decision-making support for managers and health authorities at all levels.

The JUMC including its Institute of Public Health, have been actively involved in mitigating the public health and humanitarian crises caused by the war. Among others, this has included opening the student dormitories to war refugees from Ukraine, organizing public gatherings of food and other items needed by refugees, arranging help in language translations, legal and psychological support, organizing a hub of information exchange, providing various forms of support for Ukrainian students, as well as spreading consciousness about war and its consequences within international academic community.

These three academic institutions are joining their efforts to address the challenges for societies, scholars, researchers and students, which are resulting from the very unstable situation in Europe and the whole world. They hope that the recently signed agreement will serve as a platform for new joint projects and research funding initiatives at European level but also on a broader scale.

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