

TWG Health Communication

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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Members:

In January 2020 the TWG Health Communication had 95 (so 30 more than January 2019) ECREA members.

Activities in 2019:

From 13 to 15 November 2019, the section held its biennial section conference together with the Annual Conference of the Health Communication Division of the German Communication Association as the **European Conference on Health Communication (ECHC)**. It was hosted by Prof. Dr. Thomas Friemel, Dr. Sarah Geber and Tobias Frey from the Department of Communication and Media Research at the University of Zurich (IKMZ) and had a thematic focus on **Social Aspects of Health Communication**. More information on the program can be found at www.ehc.ch.

For this conference we had 107 submissions which were reviewed by 76 reviewers. 43 presentations and 12 posters were accepted for the conference with a cut-off criteria of 3.4 on a 5 point scale. So the acceptance rate was 51.4%. The conference had 103 participants from 14 different countries. Please visit the conference website for some impressions and the video-recordings of the keynotes of Rajiv N. Rimal (Johns Hopkins University) and Kathleen Beullens (University of Leuven).

Before the European Conference on Health Communication, our **YECREA** representative Sara Atanasova from the University of Slovenija organized a **YECREA roundtable** with the topic „The responsible conduct of research: The ethical challenges and considerations in health communication studies“. The event aimed to encourage young scholars to exchange and share their concerns, issues, questions, dilemmas, and ideas with other scholars at different stages of their career. Three senior scholars presented their views and perspectives on ethical issues, dilemmas and challenges in health communication research.

At the European Conference in Zurich we also held a kick-off **business meeting** with about 50 members. The plans for the TWG were discussed. The agenda was as follows:

- Review Process of the ECHC
- Report YECREA Roundtable
- European Journal of Health Communication
- Communication of TWG
- Pre-Conference for ECC in Braga, 2020
- Wiley Intl. Encyclopedia of Health Comm
- Conference 2021?
- Further Topics?

At the ECHC we also launched the **European Journal of Health Communication (EJHC)**.

The European Journal of Health Communication (EJHC) focuses on health communication research that is particularly relevant for Europe in general, for specific European countries, or for comparisons between Europe and other regions. The journal represents the international character of health communication research given the cultural, political, economic, and academic diversity in Europe. In this way, EJHC contributes to the visibility of European health communication research in the international scientific community and in the public. It displays the development of the field of health communication in Europe and supports its establishment as an academic discipline.

EJHC is an online journal, implicating that articles can be submitted anytime and will be published once they are accepted. Issues are bundled post-hoc into 2-4 issues per year. These issues are announced through the various channels of the discipline (e.g., ECREA TWG, national associations and conferences, and an own mailing list). Additionally, special issues may be suggested to the journal in order to address specific topics in more detail (these topics may be related to conference or workshop topics). Typically, guest editors edit these special issues. One special issue is based on the conference topic of ECHC in Zurich.

EJHC presents the full breadth of health communication research. More information can be found at www.ejhc.org

Future Activities:

The Call for **ECREA Braga**, Portugal Oct 2 - Oct 5, 2020 brought about 43 submissions for our panel. Therefore, we decided to have a **preconference** for our members before the conference with a deadline after the end of March.

Julia van Weert and Gert-Jan de Bruijn, together with the Health Communication division of NeFCA (Netherlands-Flanders Communication Association) are preparing a conference for the TWG Health Communication in the Netherlands or Belgium in **2021**. Further details will be presented in Braga.