

What should a Nordic PHN core Curriculum of Accreditation include?

Liv Elin Torheim
NEPHN-workshop
Reykjavik, 03.-04.05.2018

The NEPHN has discussed and come up with a suggested definition for *Public Health Nutrition*

- **PHN** focuses on solving nutritional problems affecting *population groups* rather than those of individuals.
- It evaluates the impact of *sustainable food systems* on the nutritional status, health and health inequalities based on the knowledge, skills, competencies and cultural heritage of the broader *community*.
- It develops, recommends and implements *evidence-based* environmental, educational, social, economic, structural, political and legislative measures.

Definitions for public health nutrition: a developing consensus

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Editorial

A robust and knowledgeable workforce is essential for public health nutrition policy implementation

Consensus on the competencies required for public health nutrition workforce development in Europe – the JobNut project

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Public health nutrition workforce development in seven European countries: constraining and enabling factors

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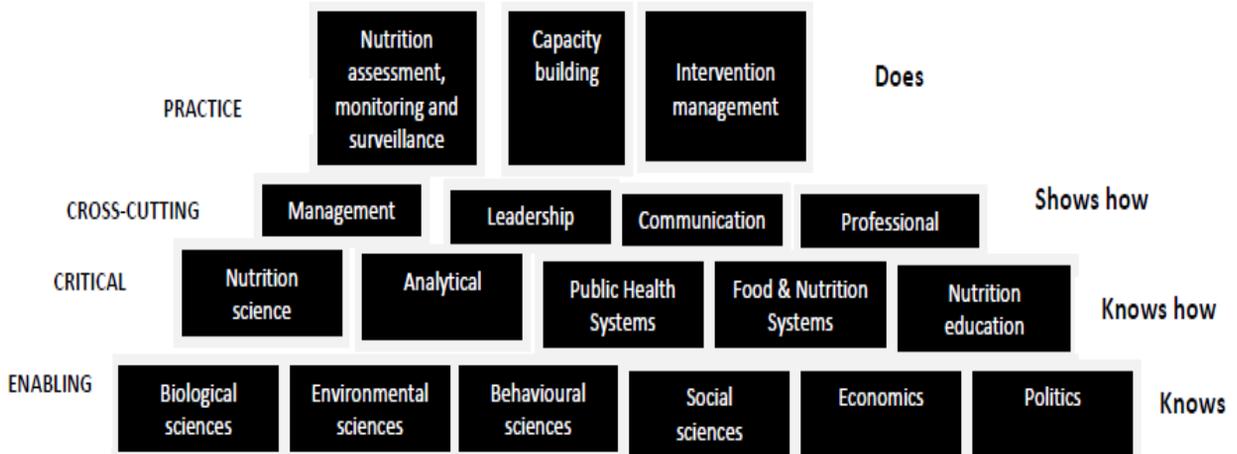
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Core functions for the public health nutrition workforce in Europe: a consensus study

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Competency Framework for Public Health Nutritionists



From the World Public Health Nutrition Association

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Suggested workforce functions being core public health nutrition functions with >50% agreement (1)

- **Research, monitoring & assessment**
 - Evaluating the effect of policies on nutrition and health
 - Assessing population needs to determine nutrition programme and service priorities
 - Monitoring determinants of nutrition and health
 - Monitoring nutrition service and programme delivery
- **Ensuring healthy & safe environments**
 - Addressing misinformation about nutrition
 - Promoting equal access to healthy food
- **Nutrition education & guidance**
 - Using mass media for nutrition education
 - Providing food and nutrition information to individuals and groups (<50%)

Suggested workforce functions being core public health nutrition functions with >50% agreement (II)

- **Building capacity**
 - Developing community capacity to participate in nutrition issues
 - Mobilising community action on nutrition issues
- **Policy processes**
 - Assess the impact of public policy on nutrition and health
 - Advocate for food- and nutrition-related legislation to protect and promote health
 - Advocate for sustainable and appropriate financing of nutrition services
 - Intervention management
 - Developing strategies to address nutrition issues

Suggested workforce functions being core public health nutrition functions with >50% agreement (III)

- **Planning nutrition interventions**
 - Building organisational structures and processes with agencies to facilitate public health nutrition action
 - Developing intersectoral partnerships to promote nutrition
 - Evaluating nutrition interventions
 - Accessing resources to support public health nutrition action
 - Implementing nutrition interventions

Which functions should a public health nutritionist be able to perform?

1. Monitor, assess and analyse nutritional health needs and issues and their determinants
2. Collaborate with other sectors
3. Build community and organizational capacity to act
4. Plan, develop and evaluate effective interventions
5. Communicate to populations
6. Advocate for food and nutrition related policies – be a change maker
7. Promote healthy choices for all

Cross-cutting issues in public health nutrition

- Human right to food and health: each individual has rights whereas the States have obligations to respect, protect and facilitate these rights
- Reducing social inequalities in health
- Focusing on the most vulnerable and the most pressing issues
- Taking into account to knowledge, skills and cultural heritage of the broader community

UK Voluntary Register of Nutritionist

- Run by the Association for Nutrition (est. 2010)
- has two categories
 - Associate Nutritionist (recently graduated)
 - Registered Nutritionist (at least 3 yrs professional experience)
- Specialization in PHN – but cannot find requirements/description..

Areas of core competency

1. Science Knowledge: understanding of the scientific basis of nutrition
2. Food Chain Knowledge: understanding of the food chain and its impact on food choice in a social or behavioural context;
3. Social/Behavioural Knowledge: understanding of food in a social or behavioural context throughout the life course
4. Health/Wellbeing: understanding how to apply the scientific principles of nutrition for the promotion of health (individual/groups)
5. professional conduct and the nutritionist's code of ethics.

<http://www.associationfornutrition.org/Portals/0/Public/Accreditation/AfN%20Accreditation%20Standards,%20Outcomes%20and%20Procedures%201st%20Oct%202016%20FINAL.pdf>

Public Health Nutrition – some salient questions

- What level?
 - Bachelor's level?
 - Master's level? With what background? Nutrition/science/health/any profession?
- Which focus?
 - Health promotion to groups of individuals/individual counselling?
 - «Community nutrition» – work at community level?
 - Policy level?
 - Global level – international organizations – developing countries?