



EUROPEAN
COP4HL
ALLIANCE

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FOR HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



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INTRODUCTION

The European Communities of Practice Alliance is created to ensure the continuous development and validation of the social innovation methodology using a learning community. The nature of these social innovations is mission orientated, which means a long-term research and innovation process. CoP4HL has initiated this process, within the alliance partners to maintain the European community, to keep learning together and support each other's innovations. Another important goal of the alliance is to scale up the network towards other similar contexts working already or are interested in the strategies.

For this the alliance has with its digital platform on www.yanuz.eu, a place where partners keep building their relations, meet other stakeholders and keep developing the underlying concepts and methods and work towards new short cycle activities (like events and other projects) supporting the more long cycle of mission orientated research and innovation.

The following governance guideline is developed in co-creation with all the partners and allows for partners and potential partners to give transparency in the aims and procedures of the alliance. The guideline is introduced in the closing conference to open up towards the world and start increasing the network.



GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES

ABOUT

The European COP4HL Alliance is a voice and forum for local communities of practice fostering an active and healthy lifestyle in Europe. The informal network represents local communities of practice across Europe with the purpose to lead a more coordinated dialogue with national and European policy stakeholders. The aim is to facilitate a more integrated set-up of the per se diverse public-social-private partnerships needed to shift people's behaviours towards an active and healthy lifestyle.

VISION

The European COP4HL Alliance is the leading knowledge forum for the implementation of a community of practice approach towards social innovations fostering an active and healthy lifestyle in communities.

MISSION

The European COP4HL Alliance exists to ...

- Provide community and opportunity ('communityship') for cocreation and learning across local communities of practice promoting an active and healthy lifestyle in Europe.
- Represent a powerful and coordinated voice of local communities of practice stakeholders to inform and consult policy stakeholders at the European arena.
- Promote a local communities of practice approach on the European scale as an appropriate enabler or implementation strategy to promote an active and healthy lifestyle.

KEY STRATEGIES

To achieve its mission, the European COP4HL Alliance ...

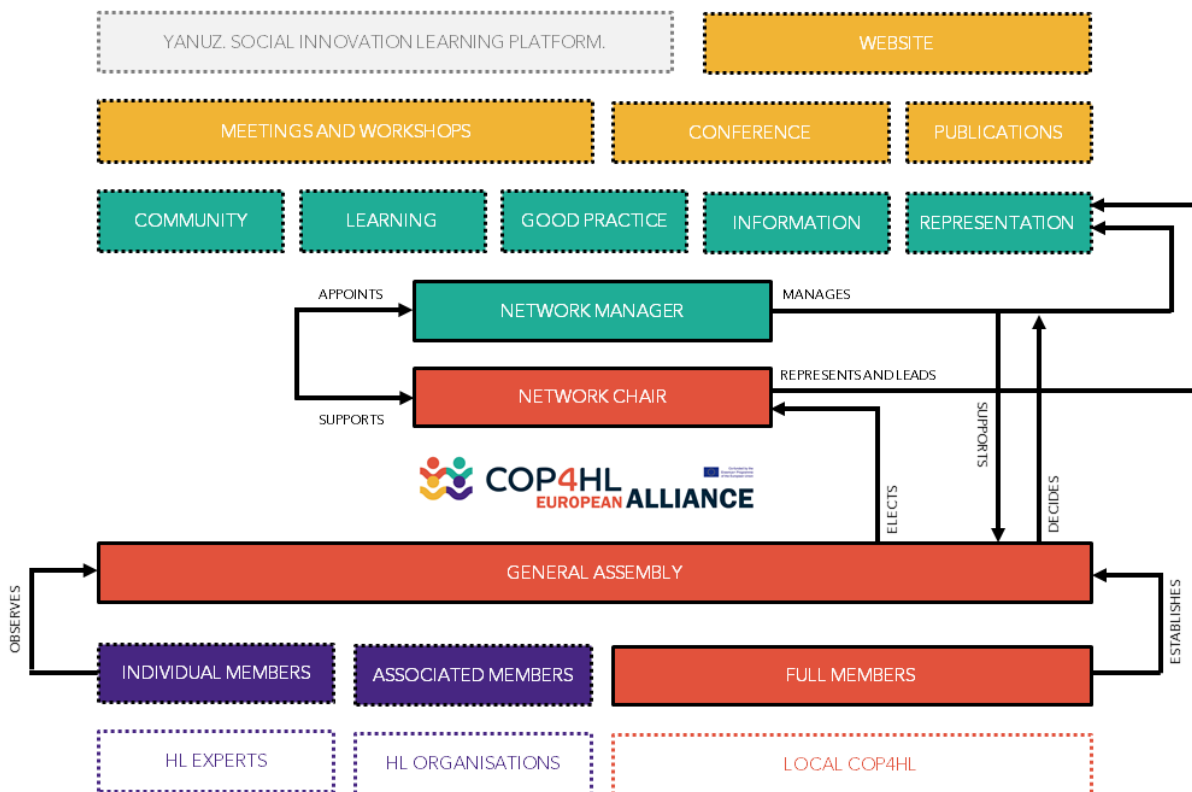
- Facilitates exchange, learning and co-creation of its members through online and offline collaboration opportunities.
- Engages and involves with other active and healthy lifestyle promoters at the European level.



- Makes knowledge about a local communities of practice approach as an appropriate enabler to promote an active and healthy lifestyle publicly accessible.
- Provides rich practices of community-based interventions to improve an active and healthy lifestyle.

STRUCTURE

From a legal point of view, the European COP4HL Alliance does not constitute a formal entity. It is not formally registered under any national legislation. Instead, it can be described as a closed, regional and non-formal network of local communities of practice which has adopted basic collaboration structures.



SEAT AND LANGUAGE

The European COP4HL Alliance is not formally registered and has no official seat. However, the European COP4HL Alliance is facilitated by the organisation of the chairperson which functions as seat of the network. The language of the European COP4HL Alliance is English.



MEMBERSHIP

The European COP4HL Alliance is constituted by its members. Membership of the informal network consists of three categories: full members, associate members, and individual members.

(1) The FULL MEMBERSHIP is constituted by local communities of practice fostering an active and healthy lifestyle in Europe. These full members constitute the General Assembly. They are eligible to represent the European Alliance as chair.

(2) The ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP is made of organisations directly or indirectly fostering an active and healthy lifestyle in Europe who are supporting a communities of practice approach.

(3) The INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP is created by individuals who are directly or indirectly fostering an active and healthy lifestyle in Europe who are supporting a communities of practice approach.

GOVERNANCE APPROACH

The European COP4HL Alliance is developed in the predicament of the emergent environment and flexible approach of local communities of practice and the need of a functional and sustainable structure of a network for facilitation and representation at the European policy arena. In this regard, the following principles describe how the European COP4HL Alliance approaches things and how the informal network is governed in practice.

(1) The collaboration inside the European COP4HL Alliance is driven by an approach of communities of practice. This includes an active and open learning environment that allows for eye-level exchange and a participatory and democratic approach when it comes to decision-making.

(2) The European COP4HL Alliance strives to keep things as simple and flexible as possible. Any classical functional arrangements are reduced to a minimum.

(3) The European COP4HL Alliance believes in coordinated action between the European, national, regional, and local levels in order to shift people's behaviours towards an active and healthy lifestyle. However, aligned with the local communities of practice approach, the European COP4HL Alliance believes that a principle of subsidiarity must be complied in which decisions must be taken at the level of government that best serves the public interest – locally where possible.



(4) As a network, the European COP4HL Alliance fully adheres to the generally accepted principles of good governance which includes transparency, accountability, democracy, integrity, and ethical behaviour of those representing the network.

FUNCTIONAL UNITS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: The General Assembly is the European COP4HL Alliance's decision-making body. It consists of one representative per full member. The general assembly holds the ultimate responsibility to ensure that the network is achieving its purpose and vision. The general assembly meets once a year. This may be offline or online.

CHAIR: The chairperson governs the European COP4HL Alliance and carries out all actions necessary to implement the mission and vision of the network. The chairperson is supported by the general assembly and a network manager. The position is voluntary and unpaid.

NETWORK MANAGER: The network manager is responsible to support the chairperson and the general assembly with the governance and running of the European COP4HL Alliance. This includes the preparation and running of the network activities. The position is paid through project funds via a host full member organisation.

FINANCES

Due to its informal status, the membership of the European COP4HL Alliance does not involve membership fees. However, specific services related to the European COP4HL Alliance may result in regular or one-off service fee payments. This includes, for example, the participation in conferences or the use of certain tools from the Yanuz Social Innovation Learning Space.

DECISION-MAKING

In case that taking a vote is needed, each full member representative has one vote. Decisions require the presence of not less than one third of full members with voting rights. For all decision-making processes applies that proxy voting is not permitted. The chairperson facilitates the network's decision-making processes but does not hold any voting right.



Network resolutions are passed by a simple majority of those members who are present during a decision-making process and entitled to vote. A simple majority means more than half of the votes in favour. A draw means maintaining the status quo or not acting on the contingent matter.

ELECTIONS

CHAIRPERSON: The network's recommended standard election process proposed for electing the chairperson declares that a candidate with a simple majority receives the position. A simple majority means more than half of the votes in favour. If in the first round of election none of the candidates has received a simple majority, for the second round of elections a relative majority applies. A relative majority means most votes in favour. If there have been more than two candidates to vote on in round one, only the two candidates with the most votes in favour enter round two. In the case of a tie of votes between the two candidates, the position is assigned by lot. In the case of only one applicant, one vote in favour for the candidate is sufficient to receive the position.

FULL MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE: To identify a full member representative to the general assembly. It is up to the respective full member community of practice to agree on a democratic nomination or election process that best fits their purposes. In the event of a conflict, the recommended standard election process for the chairperson applies. The results of the nomination or elections or any changes of such must be announced in writing to the chairperson.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any business or personal matter which could lead to a conflict of interest, for example of a direct material advantage, involving a chairperson in their role and relationship with the European COP4HL Alliance, must be declared. The General Assembly shall determine whether or not the conflict is of a relevant nature and shall advise the individual accordingly.

HISTORY

The European COP4HL Alliance has developed from the Knowledge Alliance for Communities of Practice for Healthy Lifestyle. The EU funded project was undertaken between 2018 and 2020 by a consortium of 17 organisations from seven EU member states. The Knowledge Alliance aimed at developing and



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sustaining communities of practice to stimulate innovation and socio-economic development in the area of Healthy Ageing.

The European COP4HL Alliance has been founded on 07 October 2020 in Groningen, the Netherlands, during the final European conference of the Knowledge Alliance for Communities of Practice for Healthy Lifestyle EU project. The founding members of the European COP4HL Alliance are: Hanzehogeschool Groningen (NL), Rijksuniversiteit Groningen Healthwise (NL), Sweco Nederland (NL), Plaza Sportiva Euroborg (NL), Gemeente Groningen (NL), Syddansk Universitet (DK), Fit & Sund Danmark (DK), Santa Casa Da Misericórdia De Lisboa - Alcoitão School Of Health Sciences (PT), Physioclem (PT), Lietuvos Sporto Universitetas (LT), Kaunas Region Public Health Office (LT), Active Training (LT), Universidad de Malaga (ES), Malaga County Council (ES), and Spin Sport Innovation (DE).



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