

THE HEALTH AND TRADE NETWORK

PROTECTING OUR RIGHT TO HEALTH AND THE HEALTHCARE SERVICES WE CHOSE TO USE

September 24, 2015

OVERVIEW

1. Why we exist

Spanning three continents and involving hundreds of countries, the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) represent the current wave of trade agreements aimed at increasing trade liberalisation which will affect how our governments can manage our healthcare services and regulate against health harmful practices of giant corporations such as the tobacco industry. Many citizens, public health advocates and patients are deeply concerned about the potential impacts of these agreements on public health. This not only includes our healthcare, but also;

- the environment,
- tobacco control,
- alcohol measures,
- the safety for our food,
- the cost of medicines and the way that pharmaceutical companies can influence government policy for profit and,
- the negative impacts of trade agreements on developing countries

2. Mission: To Protect our Right to Health!

The Health and Trade Network aims to create and widen the policy space for public health advocacy in global trade developments in order to ensure that our right to health, as enshrined in the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, is not hindered by international free trade agreements.

3. Vision

Our vision is no less than a world where trade agreements are developed with strong social protection measures, including the right to regulate in the interests of public health, as well as increasing the economic and social well-being of all people.

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4. Funding (an aside)

As a new network, all the work being put into the creation of this vital network is being done voluntarily by the Founding Members. In order to establish and invest in fundraising and project development, we are looking for start-up funds to:

- Register the organisation
- Provide a salary to one staff member (not necessarily part of the start-up package)
- Invest in fundraising: membership development, building relations and influencing funders
- Initiate 2 or 3 important, low cost urgent projects i.e.
 - o what will be the precise effect of the TTIP on the NHS and health services in the EU,
 - o How does ISDS harm health policy around the world?
 - o Analysis of trade policies and the Sustainable Development Goals: are they compatible?

5. Membership

Health and Trade Network Founding Members

As a new organisation, our membership is expanding and set to increase in the coming months. We currently have eight founding member individuals and organisations and two regular members. The founding members are the driving force of the organisation and are currently in the process of developing our strategy and work plan for 2016 and beyond. Our three regular members (Prof Nicholas Freudenberg, University of New York, Health Action International and the Commons Network) are involved in the development of the work plan but not able to commit so many resources at the current time.

6. Founding Members (alphabetical order):

SERAP ALTINISIK



As Programme Director at the European Women's Lobby, Serap is responsible for leading on EWL's Fundraising and programme strategy. She is a member of the Management Team and her motto is "there is no right life amongst wrongs." Serap started her profession career as a Process Consultant in Personnel and Organisational Development at Führungsakademie Hannover (Germany). She holds a Magistra Artium Degree in Political Science, English Literature and Cultural Studies from the Leibniz Universität Hannover, as well as from the Master's Programme of European Studies at John Moores University in Liverpool (UK).

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MERI KOIVUSALO



Meri Koivusalo is a senior researcher in National Institute for Health and Welfare. She has written on and followed health and trade-related issues for a longer time she would like to admit. Meri has an academic background in medicine and health policy. She has published on commercialisation of health care as well as on common interests in trade and pharmaceutical policies, health in all policies, environmental health and European policies and health.

AXEL MANGELSDORF



Axel Mangelsdorf is an Economist and currently a visiting Researcher at the Berlin Institute of Technology and a Research Fellow at BAM Federal Institute of Material Research and Testing in Berlin, Germany. He is responsible for undertaking applied economic research in Technology Management, Innovation Economics and International Trade. Before he joined BAM, he worked as a Consultant for the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

GABRIEL SILES-BRÜGGE, MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY



Gabriel's research and teaching interests sit at the interface of European and International Political Economy, where he focuses on issues relating to trade and development politics (including the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), the EU's role as a global actor, constructivism and responses to the Financial and Eurozone Crises.

His work has been recently published in a number of leading journals including *New Political Economy*, the *Review of International Political Economy*, the *Journal of Common Market Studies* and *Contemporary Politics*. His monograph [*Constructing European Union Trade Policy: A Global Idea of Europe*](#) has also just been published in the Palgrave Macmillan IPE series, and explores the broad political economic implications of the EU's policy of pursuing Free Trade Agreements with emerging economies. Gabriel was awarded the *New Political Economy* Graduate Student Paper Prize in 2011 and the Andrew Gamble PhD Thesis Prize from the Department of Politics at the University of Sheffield in 2012.

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EMMA WOODFORD, HAT FOUNDING DIRECTOR



With 14 years of experience in the development sector, Emma moved to Brussels in 2008 and started working as a Policy Coordinator at the Association of European Cancer Leagues in 2009. In 2014, Emma took over the helm of the European Public Health Association as the Interim Secretary General where she was a member of the TTIP Advisory Group in DG Trade. Emma left EPHA 2015 and is setting up the Health and Trade Network (HaT).

Passionate about the impact of free trade on health, Emma brings together her experience of community development and EU policy to establish a network that can contribute to mitigating the negative impacts of free trade agreements on population

health around the world.

DONALD ZEILGER MD FOUNDING MEMBER

Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago

(photo to follow)



[IOGT International](#)

“The decisions that multinational corporations make about their products, their marketing strategies and lobbying, are increasingly burdening human health and development. We live in an age of hyper consumption that has caused an epidemic of Non-communicable diseases, that could largely have been prevented.

The single most fundamental and most easily modifiable cause of ill-health and premature death today are the unethical practices of a few multinational industries promoting consumption at the expense of global health and development. These industries, like the tobacco or alcohol industries, are increasingly using trade agreements to drive their agenda of hyper consumption.

We are therefore delighted about the much-needed and very timely initiative to establish the Health and Trade network. We in IOGT International are proud to be founding members and look forward to helping HaT thrive because we need a strong voice to expose the corporate agenda in trade negotiations and we need a defender of health within the policy area of trade. After all, health, not unregulated trade, is a Human Right.”

Kristina Sperkova, International President, IOGT International

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HANI SERAG, MD

Center to Eliminate Health Disparities The Office of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs, University of Texas Medical Branch, USA

(more details to follow)

US ALCOHOL POLICY ALLIANCE



Robert (Bob) Pezzolesi is a member of the Board of Directors of the United States Alcohol Policy Alliance (USAPA), a partnership of statewide alliances moving evidence to action in order to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harm.

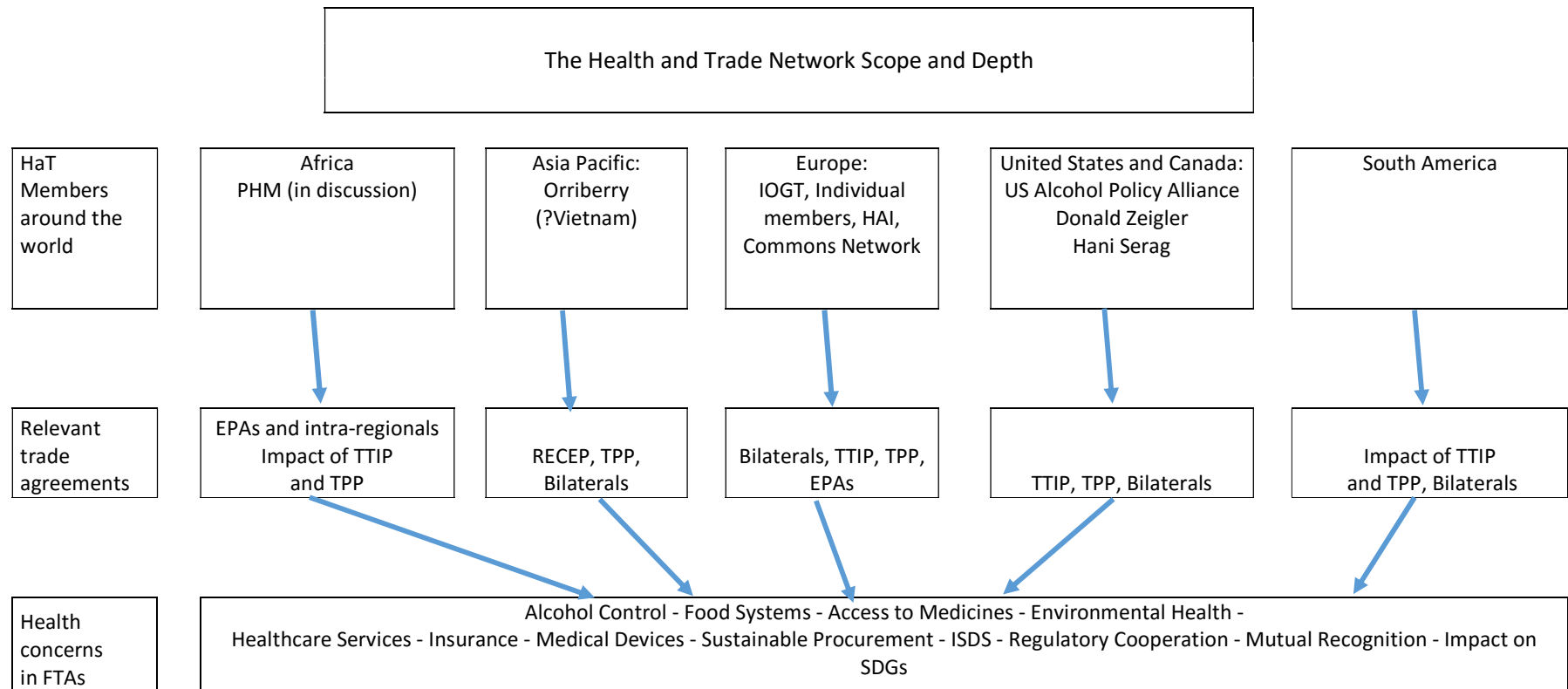
He is also the founding director of the New York Alcohol Policy Alliance (NYAPA), a grassroots, statewide coalition devoted to the promotion of science-based, public health alcohol policies. NYAPA policy priorities include reducing youth exposure to alcohol advertising and raising awareness about the link between alcohol consumption and cancer. Bob earned his Master of Public Health degree (with a concentration in Community Health) from Walden University.

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