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Subject: Proposal for Revision of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I extend my sincerest greetings and utmost respect to you and the esteemed members of UNESCO. As a dedicated advocate for global education and public health initiatives, I am writing on behalf of the NGO Ukrainian Public Health Association to express our unwavering support for the ongoing efforts in revising the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) and to present a compelling proposal for the inclusion of Public Health into ISCED Field 09 - Health and Welfare.

Recognizing the ever-evolving landscape of education and its intricate connection with global health challenges, it has become imperative to acknowledge the integral role of Public Health within educational frameworks. As the world faces unprecedented health crises and increasing complexities in healthcare delivery, we believe that integrating Public Health into ISCED's classification system will foster a more comprehensive understanding and education in this critical field.

The growing burden of non-communicable diseases, incl. in the field of mental health, and epidemics of infectious diseases among the population on a global scale, at the level of challenges for a safe human living environment, are currently extremely relevant both at the global and national levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the inability of healthcare systems to effectively counter such threats, mainly due to the gradual blurring of functions for protecting public health at the individual

and population level in the direction of increasing the so-called “services” with subsequent withdrawal from the strategic and operational management of the healthcare industry. According to professional scientists and practitioners, this is a false policy requiring appropriate correction. On the other hand, Russian full-scale military aggression against Ukraine has not only led to a humanitarian catastrophe but also poses real environmental threats that can have catastrophic public health consequences at both the national, regional and global levels.

The cornerstone of the development of an effective public health care system (PHCS) at the individual and population level to counter existing and possible threats is the development of a new “architecture” of such a system at the international and national level. The new PHCS should logically combine monitoring functions on the state of health and the safe environment of human activity, assessment of possible medical and environmental risks and supervisory and control functions in case of response to emergencies in the field of public health, with a rigid, vertical line of subordination at all levels of management (national, regional, local, and site).

A key role in the PHCS is played by personnel policy and staffing of the industry. However, when preparing certain government regulations on this issue, we were faced with the problem that in the International Standard Classification of Education /Fields of Education and training 2013 (ISCED-F 2013) - Detailed field descriptions, where there is no code for public health as a specialty - Public Health.

The inclusion of Public Health within the ISCED classification will not only address the growing demand for specialized educational programs but also align education systems worldwide to meet the emerging challenges in public health. By encompassing Public Health within the ISCED framework, we can effectively facilitate the development of standardized educational curricula, enhance academic mobility, and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration. Moreover, integrating Public Health into ISCED Field 09 will fortify educational systems in preparing future professionals to effectively respond to health emergencies, promote preventive healthcare strategies, and contribute meaningfully to the attainment of global health goals, as outlined in the Sustainable Development Agenda.

In view of the above, we appeal to the distinguished representatives of UNESCO to revise the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) in the field of health to modern challenges, including the inclusion of Public Health into the field - 09 Health and Welfare. We would be willing to join this work in terms of preparing draft changes to the ISCED with the development of justification and appropriate possible codes for Public Health.

I respectfully urge UNESCO to consider the integration of Public Health into ISCED Field 09 - Health and Welfare during the ongoing revision process. This initiative will undoubtedly reinforce the educational system's capacity to address pressing global health challenges and pave the way for a more resilient and knowledgeable workforce in the realm of public health. We thank UNESCO for its continuous commitment to advancing education, science, and culture on a global scale and eagerly anticipate a positive consideration of this proposal.

If you will have any comments or questions please don't hesitate contact with us: asoc_ses@ukr.net
We will be grateful for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Chairman of the Board of the NGO
Ukrainian Public Health Association,
Academician of the National Academy of
Medical Sciences of Ukraine, Professor



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