

Review of *Biographical Lexicon of Public Health* by Izet Masic, 410 pages ,2015
AVICENA, Sarajevo (ISBN 978-9958-720-60-4)

At the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the publication of “*Medical Archives*”, its readers should be informed of the availability of a new book by its prolific Editor Professor Izet Masic. He just published the first biographical lexicon in the field of Public Health. It includes about 750 names in alphabetical order. This work is an original contribution to the history and to the state of the art in Public Health. It describes the life and work of prominent contributors to the wide field of population based health improvement, disease prevention and community care. These biographies cover all five continents with personal stories about the development of public health in 50 nations and through international cooperation.

The main usefulness of this work is to provide a large set of references to professionals all over the world. In addition, Professor Masic wrote in his book a comprehensive Preface that clarifies the meaning of the terms Lexicon and Biography. He also described historical milestones in the concepts of Social Medicine, Statistical Analysis, Epidemiologic Studies, Communicable Diseases Prevention, Chronic Diseases Epidemiology, Health Services Organization, Health Economics, Medical Record Linkage, Health Informatics, Quality of Care Indicators, Health Policies, Social Coverage, Risks Factors Intervention Trials, as well as key-role players in the former years for the advances in these various areas. The specific contribution of South East European countries is particularly well described. It adds knowledge for the public health scientists from other European countries and from other continents.

As underlined by the author, this Lexicon might require a constant updating. Even if this First Edition contains worldwide biographies of a very large number of developers for many aspects of Public Health, some names might be missing and could be added in a Second Edition. Another point that might be taken into account is a more standardized presentation of some biographies. It is not always possible to obtain enough information on date of birth, nationality and the original character of the contribution of each person listed.

Finally, after closing the book, I wondered if we could not have a dream for a longer term future edition: to obtain an index of the specific areas of Public Health in which each name listed in the Lexicon has mainly contributed. This might remain a dream, because requiring an enormous work.

Such a suggestion only indicates that this publication is an important input to the not always well understood and regularly renewing field of Public Health. Izet Masic gives to his readers not only information that was missing. He stimulates his readers to help him to go further in his way.

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