



Network for Education  
in International Health

## **Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting**

**23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

**Barcelona Institute for Global Health / University of Barcelona**

### **Participants:**

Andrea Kinigadner (AK), Munich;  
Axel Hoffmann (AH), Basel;  
Belalia Abdelmonim (BA), Rabat;  
Bente Moen (BM), Bergen;  
Carina Källestal (CK), Uppsala;  
Carola Eyber (CE), Edinburgh;  
Daniel Reinharz (DR), Laos,  
Flore Header (FH), Student rep.  
Govert van Heusden (GvH), Antwerp;  
Guenther Froeschl (GF), Munich;  
Henry Lynn (HL), Shanghai;  
Ina Hammersfahr (IH), Berlin;  
Kafuruki Shubis (KS), Tanzania;  
Maria Rosario Oliveira Martins (MM), Lisbon;  
Ning Beyer (NB), Basel;  
Nuria Casamitjana (NC), Barcelona;  
Pauline Grys (PG), Heidelberg;  
Priscia Zwanikken (PZ), Amsterdam;  
Rodney Reynolds (RR), London IGH;  
Siswanto Agus Wilopo (SAP), Yogyakarta;  
Veronica Foubert (VF), Geneva;

12 full members, 4 collaborating members

1. **Welcome address** : Dr Antoni Plasència, Director ISGlobal, Dr Josep Maria Antó, Scientific Director ISGlobal and Dr Núria Casamitjana, Training and Education Director, ISGlobal warmly welcomed the GA to Barcelona. They gave a short presentation about the history of ISGlobal and the current education and research programme of the institute.

2. **Review of meeting agenda / of minutes of the Amsterdam GA**: Agenda of Barcelona GA meeting is accepted. Minutes of the Amsterdam GA are approved without any changes.

3. **Office report 2016**: The GA participants quickly reviewed the yearly report 2016. We have only received 19 answers from the partner institutions. Therefore still some data is missing. In the future maybe we should add a question on “No. of courses run out of accreditation in this year” and “No. of courses not running this year”. The question on FTE can be cancelled in the future. Maybe more information about Erasmus joint PhD programme can be added to the annual report (**NC will draft it**). It was suggested to only put a two page summary of this report on the website.

4. **Uppsala advanced modules restructure** CK informed the GA that due to economic reasons, the university of Uppsala has cut the budget by 25% and there will be a restructuring of the masters programme. The old international health masters programme will only run for the last semester. The new Master of global health programme will start and the institute will try to choose some small courses to offer to tropEd and other masters programme in the institute. All these can maybe be set up in about two years' time. CK will retire in June 2017. The GA thanked for her contribution to the network!

#### **5. Membership issue École Nationale de Santé Publique, Rabat, Morocco**

Belalia Abdelmonim introduced École Nationale de Santé Publique, Rabat, Morocco to the GA. Based on the National Institute of Health Administration (INAS) in 1989, the National School of Public Health was set up in 2013. It is a central directorate of the Ministry of Health. The initial training programmes are focussing on Hospital Management, Epidemiology in Public Health, Health Program Management, Community and Family Health. For more details please see **Annex 1**

#### **Questions and answers:**

Q :Who will sign the degree and take the academic responsibility of the programme?

A. The ministry of health and ministry of higher education. Institute allows delivering degree to doctorate level. We are official higher education institution.

Q How is the structure of the Msc. Programme?

A: Two years, the first year is more theory; second year is practical.

Q. Content of the master degree? How international is it?

A: So far it is focused more on Morocco settings.

Q: Is the level post-graduate? How many years experiences do you have already?

A: Three years.

Q. Do you use ECTS or do you transfer the local grade to ECTS?

A. We use ECTS directly.

Q: What is the main language?

A: French. We are changing more and more courses into English.

Q. Do you follow up the students when they finished?

A: Most of our students are taking high responsibility in the health management in Morocco.

Q: Is there any competition within the country?

A. We are the only one offering such kind of masters degree in Morocco.

Q: What you can contribute to the tropEd network?

A: Increase exchanges, we are good connected with other Africa universities and we are playing the leadership in North Africa.

Q: Who are the lecturers from ENSP: from universities?

A: There are 25 full time professors. And we have close collaboration with the faculty of medicine.

Q: Why are so few international students?

A: We have requirement for international students. Max 11 students from other countries.

Q: Is there a fixed fee for international students? Any scholarship? How high are the costs?

A: For Morocco students no fees. For international students is free as well. We offer them living costs support.

Q: What about the selection procedure for the international students?

A: We will receive a list of candidate from the agency. But tropEd students can send the application directly to us.

Q: You will be able to send your students to our institutions? Will you recognize the credits from us?

A: We have sent some.

Q: How can we proceed the partnership? Do you need an agreement from each one from us?

A: Same as your normal regulation process.

After discussion, the GA agrees to invite ENSP to fill in the self-evaluation form. The EC members will review this form in an EC meeting and decide whether we will go further for a site visit. Maria, Prisca and Carola may have the interest to do the site visit.

## 6. Membership issue Ifakara Health institute, Tanzania

Dr Kafuruki Mwigirwa Shubis introduced Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania, (IHI) to the GA. The Master of Science in Public Health Research programme has been accredited in Tanzania. Dr. Shubis has stated clearly the possible collaboration with tropEd in his presentation. tropEd also would like to involve more new members who will offer health research at masters level. For more details please see **Annex 2**

Questions and answers:

Q: What about the capacity in the three streams?

A: The whole core course is with 25 students. They will choose the track after the core course.

Q: Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in Arusha will officially register the students? If we sign an agreement, should we do it with NMU since they will issue the credits?

A: We are a collaborating institute of the university.

Q: Short courses are not yet accredited?

A: We have two kinds of short courses. One kind of courses can be offered as modules.

Q: Who is offering the grade report and degree?

A: The NMU.

Q: Are there any scholarships? How much does it cost to run the programme?

A: Tuition fee is decided from the government. Other costs is decided from the institute

Q: Are the candidates international?

A: Yes, students come from Uganda, Kenya and so on.

Q: Can your students can take credit abroad? can tropEd students register in your courses?

A: Both yes.

After discussion, the GA agrees to invite IHI to fill in the self-evaluation form. The EC members will review this report in an EC meeting and decide whether we will go further for a site visit. Pauline and Nuria may have the interest to do the site visit.

## 7. Brain storming about Erasmus plus II

Currently Erasmus+ consortium is in the second year of the funded programme. There is no fund for fees for students, but some travel cost for students to take the core course. So far we have 21 students in this year. We hope to get 24 fully funded as well. Now we are thinking about the next round of this fund. The application deadline will be end of March 2018. It is maybe not wise to have an UK university to take on the lead for the next round. We are looking for more partners and new lead.

In the field of higher education, priority will be given to the following actions in line with the challenges identified in the public consultation on the review of the EU Modernisation Agenda for Higher Education

- enhancing the quality and relevance of students' knowledge and skills, promoting more student-centred learning approaches, better use of ICT, better links between higher education institutions and employers or social enterprises;
- supporting the social engagement of higher education institutions and promoting intercultural and civic competences of students;
- supporting innovation and creativity, through partnerships and inter- and transdisciplinary approaches, and strengthening the role of higher education regionally;
- ensuring education and research are mutually reinforcing, incentivising and rewarding good teaching;
- improving institutional and system-level governance, transparency and feedback mechanisms;
- promoting internationalisation, recognition and mobility, supporting changes in line with Bologna principles and tools.

Possibilities for the new round of applications:

- 1) We carry on like we did before but with more tropEd partners included, facilitating the development of online modules and offering them jointly as a partnership. We obtained some mobility funding for students to facilitate this.
- 2) The content of the proposal could be focused on blended learning designs rather than just purely online ones and also on developing modules for capacity-building for LMIC partners – so online modules that are not necessarily accredited at university level.
- 3) A further focus for a new proposal could be a technical alignment between different universities on both the L&T front but also in terms of online approaches, university processes and efficiency of these. This is more of learning from one another.

**Carola will send around an email with the links to all members. All members will check with their universities and inform Carola if they are interested in and we will discuss it again in Munich GA.**

## 8. Global role of tropEd: accreditation body? Benchmarking courses?

We have discussed in the GA whether tropEd will accredit courses for non-members, benchmarking or other ways of recognition.

Pros.:

- This could be a learning process for us,
- We can generate funds,
- We can have good pedagogical influence to/from others.
- We can control the development,

- This could be one PR methods

Cons:

- This is a negative perception of tropEd, we will become something different from what we are.
- We cannot do the accreditation same as what we do to the members right now.
- Students will get confused with benchmarking,
- We don't have the influence and control in the delivery.
- We need to invest a lot for this task. The workload could be huge.
- Danger of bribe? Pay money and get the recognition?
- We may have then less members for the network.

**We have also discussed for who will deliver the services and to which kind of courses?**

What we will benchmarking: programme or courses?

- We will not going beyond what we do now and whatever on the keywords list is. But how can we do the monitoring? There is no validity for the follow up. We can make a special strategy to do it for the courses that cannot be officially accredited.

For whom?

- globally

**On the implementation side. Do we need some new structure?**

For example, adviser services: there could be an application form online. We will send an expert to offer this service. As an association whether we are allowed to take profit? What we can do with the result? Do we have the mandate to issue certificates? We will also think about to set up an GmbH. We will not issue the invoice from the network. Whether the expert can issue an invoice? Whether a company in other countries than Germany is possible?

If we decide not do it right now, we will not touch this topics within two years. At this moment, about ten times we were approached per year about the services for external accreditation. The GA voted on: Whether we will continue to looking into it and try to find the service we can offer for non-members. All GA members have the vote on this issue. Among 16 members: nine vote for yes and seven vote for no. Therefore we will continue and look for different kind of services we can offer to non-members. **A Working group has been set up. Group members are: CE, DR PZ, GvH,**

**9. Preparation of tropEd session in ECTMIH about elearning**

The 10th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH) will be held in Antwerp, Belgium from October 16th to 20th, 2017. Important dates are: 0/04/2017 Final Abstract Deadline, 30/06/2017 Preliminary Programme, 31/07/2017 Early Bird Registration Deadline, 01/10/2017 Final Programme

There are eight tracks, there are two tracks maybe interesting for tropEd , track 6 and track 8:

Track 6. International health collaboration

Coordinators: Karel Gyselinck (BTC), Bart Criel (ITM), Jorge Pérez Avila (IPK)

Themes:

- The role of international cooperation in health development
- Instruments of international health cooperation

- The position of tropical institutes and global health centres
- Funding, governance and ownership
- Ownership, principles and ethics in international health
- Evidence-based humanitarian and emergency aid
- Other

#### 8. Integrated and other subjects

Coordinators: Anne Buvé (ITM), Philippe Donnen (ULB), Eduardo Gotuzzo (IMT AvH)

Themes:

- Social sciences in health related research
- Reproductive and maternal health
- Child health and nutrition
- Subjects not captured by any of the other tracks
- Subjects integrating or covering several of the above themes

We need to decide whether we will submit some abstracts for education as a network or as individual members?

tropEd possible contributions ideas:

1. eLearning, the issue of virtual mobility next to physical mobility?
2. Present career effects of only attending a core course or introduction to IH for European students?
3. tropEd MIH alumni survey? Collaborative as compared to institutional masters programme.
4. International N-S networking in IH education, discussing the experience of tropEd and individual tropEd members?

For idea No. 4 maybe we can organize a panel and involve all different networks. tropEd: N\_S collaboration challenges of a large network, experiences with accreditation, future of elearning, ..

Some networks we know are for example: Alliance ITM with partners LINQED joint course development with partners, develop e-learning capacity, and discuss the future concept of the alliance and its challenges. UWC with CHEPSAA, Other networks in Asia and Latin America? CDC, field epidemiology, epiNET, EDCTP, Network in Africa Prof Ngure a contact person for both Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) and African Population Health Research Centre (APHRC), Evelyn Gitau, AESA (Kenya) Evelyn is responsible for the Grand Challenges Africa at the African Academy of Sciences (AAS – Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA).

**We can try to approach these networks**, if they are interested as well, we will try to organize a session chaired by tropEd to discuss about the networking in IH education.

#### 10. Second tropEd alumni survey

Time frame of our alumni survey will be:

- Waiting for additional comments until 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- By April /May 2017 preparation of the survey
- By May/June 2017 send out the survey

Objective of the survey has not changed from Heidelberg GA. It is: to describe the outcome and impact of tropEd masters programme in international/global health in graduates from tropEd home institutions. Mobility and flexibility will be compared in this survey.

Comments to the questionnaire were given by the group. All changes please see the track changed version in **Annex 3**

**NB will send it around for further comments. The Alumni survey task force will continue to work on this project.**

#### **11. Accreditation and re-accreditation of advanced modules minutes see annex 4**

#### **12. Review of content in core courses**

We should think about whether our core courses are still focussing on global health /international health? Which new developments should be added to the content and which topics can be deleted from the list. We will suggest all core course coordinators to think about it and give some suggestions for changes and organize a skype call and discuss the suggestions. We hope to finalize it in Munich GA meeting. Maybe we can use a Google documents and everyone can leave comments on it. CE will send around an email with google doc access. and all the core course descriptions and the invitation to the skype meeting. We will allocate two hours for the academic session in Munich GA. Maybe we can take a look on the website of consortium of universities for global health, **Nuria can circulate the link.**

The time plan for this task is:

- ✓ Invitation next week,
- ✓ Comments collection in March,
- ✓ Two skype meeting in April and May
- ✓ Final version in June

#### **13. Election of tropEd president**

NC chaired this election. She verified that 12 full member institutions are legally represented at the meeting. She stated that the assembly is quadrate and able to take decisions on the composition of the Executive Committee.

CE and PG stood for election of tropEd President. After voting, CE received 10 votes from presented 12 full member institutions and PG received 2 votes. NC then announced that CE was elected as new President-Elect and will join into the tropEd Executive Committee for three years. CE accepted the position and thanked the GA for the vote of confidence.

After this election, RR will become the tropEd president and NC will become the tropEd president past. NC thanked PG for her great work in the past three years in the EC.

#### **14. Financial auditing**

AK and GvH have checked the financial report as internal auditors. The auditors recommended that the tropEd EC receive discharge for their work in 2016. The tropEd GA approved this recommendation unanimously (16/16 representatives present, no rejection, no abstention)

After voting, EC is released from the responsibility from the financial report 2016. The financial report will be sent to the lawyer.

## 15. Keywords revision

All GA members have gone through the list of keywords together. Many not in used keywords have been deleted. Some new keywords have been added/revised. Please see the updated list here:

Health problems, diseases and conditions	Health care organisation & management	Individual factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidents and injury</li> <li>• Adolescent health</li> <li>• Bacterial</li> <li>• Cancer</li> <li>• Child health</li> <li>• Chronic health problem</li> <li>• Communicable diseases</li> <li>• Disabilities</li> <li>• Emergency</li> <li>• Emerging diseases</li> <li>• Health of the elderly</li> <li>• HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• Malaria</li> <li>• Malnutrition</li> <li>• Maternal health</li> <li>• Men's health</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• Neglected diseases</li> <li>• Non-communicable diseases</li> <li>• Obesity</li> <li>• Outbreaks</li> <li>• Parasitic</li> <li>• Sexual &amp; reproductive health</li> <li>• TB</li> <li>• Viral</li> <li>• Vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Zoonotic diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnostics</li> <li>• Disease prevention, control and elimination</li> <li>• Drugs and vaccines</li> <li>• Essential health care package</li> <li>• Evidence based medicine</li> <li>• Financing</li> <li>• Health economics</li> <li>• Health facilities</li> <li>• Health policy</li> <li>• Health promotion</li> <li>• Health sector reform</li> <li>• Health systems</li> <li>• Human resources</li> <li>• Humanitarian setting</li> <li>• Medical &amp; clinical sciences</li> <li>• Organisation</li> <li>• Primary Health Care</li> <li>• Project management</li> <li>• Public health</li> <li>• Public-private</li> <li>• Quality</li> <li>• Resource management</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Treatment</li> <li>• Universal health coverage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access</li> <li>• Addiction</li> <li>• Culture</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Ethnicity</li> <li>• Gender</li> <li>• Genetics</li> <li>• Nutrition</li> <li>• Psychosocial</li> <li>• Resilience</li> <li>• Socio economic status</li> <li>• Well being</li> </ul>



Social & political environment and geographic focus	Physical environment & environmental health	Methods & transferable skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Conflict affected setting</li> <li>• Democracy</li> <li>• Empowerment</li> <li>• Equity</li> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Fragile environment</li> <li>• Globalization</li> <li>• Governance</li> <li>• Health in all policies</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Human development</li> <li>• Human rights</li> <li>• International/Global Health</li> <li>• Migration</li> <li>• Mobile population</li> <li>• Multi/inter-sectoral approach</li> <li>• One Health</li> <li>• Planetary</li> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Public Health</li> <li>• Rural health</li> <li>• SDGs</li> <li>• Tropical Medicine</li> <li>• Urban health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biosafety</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Ecosystems</li> <li>• Environment</li> <li>• Microbial resistance</li> <li>• Pathogens</li> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Radiation</li> <li>• Toxic agents</li> <li>• Vectors</li> <li>• Water and Sanitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthropology</li> <li>• Burden of diseases</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Consultancy skills</li> <li>• Demography</li> <li>• Digital-Health</li> <li>• Epidemiology</li> <li>• Health impact assessment</li> <li>• Health indicators</li> <li>• Informatics</li> <li>• Intercultural competency</li> <li>• Knowledge, attitude and practice</li> <li>• Laboratory</li> <li>• Leadership</li> <li>• Learning</li> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Measuring health status</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>• Planning and programming</li> <li>• Qualitative methods</li> <li>• Quantitative methods</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Statistics</li> <li>• Teaching</li> </ul>

## 16. Student issue – tropEd student forum

FH discussed with the group about the information exchange among students, and how do we take care of students' feedback. The information for students is online but maybe not reached the students in the way they wished. We will keep to exchange of experiences about communication through social media. **NB will update the pre-arrival and registration handbook. Another working group GF, PZ, NB will update quality assurance paper of tropEd** and pay attention to the feedback section. **FH will work together with global next generation network** and see what we can do. If there are any **concrete suggestions to the website**, for example good examples please bring it back to the GA and we can discuss it further.

## 17. Updates on different organizations

**WFAIGH:** we have participated in the last face to face meeting in Berlin in October 2016, One important change is a new membership fee in amount of 1000 USD per year. The GA has given a green light for this membership fee, but we can wait for a little bit until many other members paid as well.

**PhD programme:** This is the last call of this programme. In this year there are more than 200 applications. 16 were selected and send to the PI. At the end seven were selected, three are from EU/EU residents; one is from Kenya, one from Nepal, one from Nigeria, who is one alumni from EM and one from Bangladesh. In 2017 the first round PhD students will defence their thesis. We will look for other opportunities further.

## **18. Theses and publications within the MScIH: a survey of practices within tropEd**

GF has made the survey about the thesis and publications within tropEd institutions. 12 institutions participated. For the result please see **ANNEX 5**

**The GA agrees to update the tropEd generic thesis guideline and include the publication part. And we should list all the thesis titles on the website. NB will send around the information needed for the format for that page. GF, NC, NB has set up a task force to update the thesis guideline.**

## **19. Upcoming meeting, dates & locations**

29.06-01.07 2017	Munich
Oct. 2017 14-16	Antwerp (ECTMIH 16-20 October)
February 2018	ask Khon Kaen/Hanoi/
June 2018	Edinburgh