



Network for Education
in International Health

Minutes of tropEd General Assembly Meeting

11 and 12 June 2020

Online GA June 2020

Via ZOOM

Participants:

1. Hans-Friedemann Kinkel, Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin (sessions 1,2,3,4)
2. Nuria Casamitjana ISGlobal-University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain (sessions 1,2,3,4)
3. Carola Eyber, Institute for Global Health & Development, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh (sessions 1,2,3,4)
4. Martina Manhart, CIH LMU Center for International Health, Munich (sessions 1,2,3,4)
5. Raja Benkirane, ENSP, Rabat, Morocco (sessions 1,2,3,4)
6. Bernadette Peterhans, Swiss TPH, Basel (sessions 1,2,3,4)
7. Michael Galatsch, UWH, Witten (sessions 1,2,3,4)
8. Guenter Froeschl, CIH LMU, Munich (sessions 1,2,3,4)
9. Norbert Schwarz, BNITM, Hamburg (sessions 1,2,3,4)
10. Kafuruki Shubis, IHI Tanzania (sessions 1,2,3,4)
11. Alberto Matteelli, University of Brescia, Italy (sessions 1,2,3,4)
12. Giulia Gardini/Beatrice Formenti, University of Brescia, Italy (sessions 1,2,3,4)
13. Govert van Heusden, ITM Antwerpen, Belgium (sessions 1,2,3,4)
14. Dewi Ismajani Puradiredja, BNITM (sessions 1,2,3,4)
15. Ralf Weigel, UW/H, Witten (sessions 1,2,3,4)
16. Lianne Gerstel KIT Amsterdam, (sessions 1,2,3,4)
17. Anne Fabricius, HIGH Heidelberg, (sessions 1,2,3,4)
18. Marie Lindkvist, Umea University, (sessions 1,2,3,4)
19. Eduardo Lazcano, Academic Dean, School of Public Health of Mexico /INSP (sessions 1,2,3,4)
20. Axel Hoffmann, Swiss TPH, Basel (sessions 3 and 4)
21. Rodney Reynolds (sessions 1,2,3,4)
22. Bruno Broucker, ITM Antwerpen, Belgium (sessions 1,2,3,4)
23. Carlos Linares, National Institute of Public Health Mexico ((sessions 1,2,3,4)
24. LU Yi-han, School of Public Health. Fudan University, Shanghai (session 2)
25. Nguyen Thanh Ha, Hanoi University of Public Health (session 2)
26. Orisel Santiesteban_TropEd Secretariat (sessions 1,2,3,4)
27. Maria do Rosario Martins, Lisbon

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2020

SESSION 1, 11AM-12 NOON (CEST)

TropEd office

Opening and presentation by Guenter Froeschl. The GA started with a request to have the meeting recorded. He also clarified that all documents were available in a google drive repository, which will be available for 4 weeks and described how this online resource were organised and its different levels. Govert requested to delete the file of the tropEd recognition because of data safety reasons. (It was immediately done). The agenda were detailed clarified.

Since we will have a quite a number of voting was agreed to use the doodle request as tool.

The Minutes of the Rabat GA were accepted by a doodle survey (1 vote per institution attending the meeting)
Results: yes 15, no 0, abstention 1)

News from the Secretary:

- **Munich** will **move** into new office building from the 1st of July. New Post address but the other details remain the same.
- The **COVID measures** related to the courses (re-)accreditation was again clarified. Details to be found on the homepage.
- For the **preparation of the first tropEd GA online** had to be done much more work than by a regular-presence GA and there was a lot of discussion via email.
- **Homepage**, new offer available for a proper homepage. During the Rabat GA was decided that the EC could take all decision necessary about the homepage. We are looking right now to demos sent by Francisco (Cuernavaca), who host the homepage so far, to provide us a modernization of the homepage and technical background. This costs 7500 euros, what is rudely what our account is available to cover. The other propositions were more expensive. It also covers all keys aspects were demanding as courses repository and the search.
- **Annual Report**. There were some issues: e.g. we couldn't use the old system and our program was only in German available, but we manage to get the report filled by each institution (30 out of 30 members filled it).
- **EC Members TelCos**: a total of 6 between March and June.
- **Membership issues**:
 - *An-Najah University*, Palestine, invited in Rabat to submit the self-evaluation report. No submitted yet.
 - *LSHTM London*, Axel wanted to contact them. Still in a pending situation. No letter of withdrawal has been officially submitted. Last payment 2018.
 - *Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona*, they are still official member. They filled up the annual report and paid so far, the membership fees yearly. There was a problem with the status of the membership, which has been now clarified.
 - *Laos*, the status of its membership still isn't clear yet. Need from Axels feedback. The still on the member list. No recorded of payment at least in the last 2 years.

Inquiries on tropEd network membership but not official applications:

- *Kathmandu University of Medical Science Nepal* (Guenter Froeschl)
- *Birmingham University* (Guenter Froeschl)
- *Liverpool, UK* (Govert van Heusden)
- *Universidad San Martin de Porres, Lima, Peru* (Rodney Reynolds)
- **Annual Financial Review**: Must be done by people who speak and understand German. The reviewers and reporters were Jani Puradiredja (Hamburg) and Anne-Kathrin Fabricius (Heidelberg). There was a small issue: the final balance of the tropEd account in 2019 has a 20 euro +. It was transferred by mistake to Cuernavaca 2200 instead 2220 from hosting/manage services. The 20 euros will be balanced in the payment for 2020. Norbert propose to dismiss officially the EC of the financial responsibilities. Doodle results: it was approved unanimously by 15 institutions votes.

Courses accreditation

GF: “This will be the shortest accreditation session TropEd has ever had”.

For all details see **Annex 1**. The reporters in each group corresponded to the EC member leading the group.

Group 6 replaced a EC TelCo to review 4 Cat 2 courses pending since the Rabat GA.

There were 23 courses for (re)accreditation, of which 13 obtained Cat 1, 8 Cat 2, 1 Cat 3 and 1 Cat 4.

This session concluded with a photo group!

SESSION 2, 14:00-15:00 PM (CEST)

Teaching in Corona Times

A total of 9 presentations were submitted to the office, from which 5 were selected to be presented during the GA. The election was not based in the quality but to show some diversity: Hanoi and Wuhan as oversee institutions, Brescia as starting point in Europe, Edinburgh not in central Europe, Umea because the government different response to the virus. For all presentations see **Annex 2**.

Guenter, presented the results of the survey “Teaching in corona times”. The idea of the survey was to have a background from all member institutions across the network and the different global regions included. 20 institutions took part. For further information see **Annex 3**.

Q&A session:

LG: Interest to know more about hybrid teaching. Could someone share some experiences? How the group dynamics work?

NC: We have one master with a compulsory dual 1st module, and it works quite well. It is something we should also do among tropEd members. We need to start thinking about developing digital modules. The expertise and diversity of our institutions facilitate the joint development of courses. We may need to review our virtual mobility and the number of the credits that students can get online.

RR: what kind of platform do you use in Barcelona?

NC: for our course we use our own system from the school of medicine. Since COVID started ISGlobal has implemented BB collaborate as an integrated tool to the Moodle campus at the university.

BP: we also started to move into the hybrid teaching. There is a need for a very strong moderation and more than one person to organise it. You need 2 facilitators in the room (1 for the content and 1 for the moderation)

CE: Asked the EC to arrange one specific session about this topic. We will need more experience. System to subjects topics related for future work and sessions. Content session: hybrid or dual delivery.

Presentation of the Global Network for Academic Public Health

Nuria introduced Laura Magaña, former tropEd coordinator at INSP in Cuernavaca, Mexico, which joined the network in 2007. She invited tropEd to join the recently launched Global Network for Academic Public Health. The Global Network of ASPPH has already 47 members. It emerged as a need for its members to have a platform to share and advance in a common agenda. There are already some associations/networks involved. For more details see **Annex 4**.

Q&A session:

FK: will be joining as single university or as tropEd consortium?

LM: the invitation is for tropEd, but any institution interested can contact us

FK: which are the costs?

LM: currently there are no costs

GF: how works operative? What would be our interaction points? How it looks like a year by GN?

LM: We have webinars every 2 months. Already started some initiatives with the online community. We put some money in some schools or programs, which has been donated to specific funds or campaigns.

Laura was asked to leave.

NC: the GN acts as a forum of discussion. Opportunities for getting some money for some of our programmes. I believe it is worthy, as long as no membership has to be paid

RW: what is the main difference with the CUGH apart from the cost involved?

NC: they overlap some activities, but they are seen differently in the US. But more than that it is a way of positioning themselves among other actors

AM: could you please summarise advantages for our network?

NC: as an opportunity for networking and sharing

NS: could this help us to get more visibility, more students, exchanges of experiences among professors?

NC: it doesn't work automatically but we see already that the numbers of students from US and Canada has increased and one of the reasons could be our membership in this network

CE: I can see any disadvantages

GF: the capacity of attendance. Maybe we should identify 2 or 3 people to participate in the meetings and report to the network.

The decision of becoming a member of the GN will be the result of a doodle survey.

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE 2020

SESSION 3, 11AM-13PM (CEST)

Annual Report

1. Orisel presented the results of the annual report. For the PPT and the Annual Report see **Annex 5**.

Q&A session:

OSS: some of the information requested by the members to appear on the homepage are already there, even when the design isn't the best. We need to update the information more regularly.

CE: Congratulations. In 25 years of tropEd for the first time all members completed the annual report. How many years we actually missed?

OSS: Only one year. The 2018 Report.

GvH: After the revision of the current form, is it better now?

OSS: we have some problems with the accredited courses, some institutions didn't know how to complete it and gave the wrong information; courses from their own institutions. Furthermore, most of the questions are open, which is good because you get a lot of information but for statistics not the best; e.g. if you want to know the mobility among institutions you have to calculate yourself. On the other hand, we got information from institutions we don't usually hear anything about.

BP: Proposal to compare the trend over the years to be presented in one of the coming GAs, perhaps Basel. Differences between the beginning and now, even when we don't count with all data.

Student mobility and ECTS grading scale

Friedemann presented this topic. In relation with the ECTS grades, according to his opinion, there are still open fundamental questions. There are multiple local grading scales and there is the ECTS grading system but there are different opinions about what is the ECTS grading scale, which is not standard and how to use it. He

explained how it works in Berlin and expressed that sometimes the students find unfair having relative and absolute grade scale and different grading philosophies. For the presentation see **Annex 6**

Q&A session:

GF: The solution lies in the percent ranking and then translate in your own system. Local grading and the percentage ranking are all the information you need.

GvH: Rodney led the discussion in the past. A while ago was recommended to use ECTS guidelines and not more the ABCD table to avoid discrepancies. Relative percentage, where the student score in terms of percentage. The other institution decided according to their scale how to transfer. You give the mark according to this, but you don't calculate anymore yourself. You use then the grading table.

RR: this is an inaccurate exercise. We try to update the scale every 5 years, to keep it real and fair with the students.

FK: if you all agreed in an absolute scale then I think the comparison table can apply. The relative percentage rank of the marks could be a solution. It is more work, but I will be willing to do that.

GvH: the grading table as proposed by the ECTS guidelines is the percentage rank

AH: the percentage rank need years of course running and a relatively big among of students taking part

GvH: the performance of the student will get a rank for this curse, not an overall mark of the program, specific course.

ML: we don't use relative grades. We only use absolute scale, which only depends on their own achievements and not in comparison with all students.

GvH: at the institution level is ok, but when it comes to transfer the grades, that comes the problem

ML: for this we use the ECTS grading table

JP: no experience with the grading procedure. How should we do it now? Is there are any options?

NS: absolute scale is better for cooperative experience. To make this to depend only on the students is unfair because maybe you had a very bad cohort.

GF: Friedemann, perhaps you could share the collected information with the network. It is very useful to have some references from different institutions.

Documents and Templates

Martina presented several documents, which could be seen in **Annex 7**.

Q&A session:

LG: How do you make the local grading table? Could you explain it?

GvH: important is what kind of grades you do give, and which percentage of students get a certain grade, you decide how. This table explain only your own system. The more details you have the more precisely to transfer them.

GF: very different ways to grade things, not only competition but also certain philosophies in different faculties.

NS: relative grade system can only work if you work with big groups.

FK: relative scales are maybe not to transparent with the students as absolute scales, based only on their achievements; the problem comes with the mobility and the transfer of credits.

GvH: should we use these templates? Because if this only an example, what should they appear on the Homepage? This could be confusing for some members.

BP: the template for the tropEd recognition is missing. Perhaps it should be added to the documents package.

ML: I found quite useful, especially for no home institutions. It will also help us to make tropEd more visible to students

FK: in Berlin, we must keep university branding without changes, and we can't add any logo; the degree is given by the University

JP: In our case, it is different. We are offering only modules and no degrees. Can we use here the tropEd logo?

FK: normally the degrees are provided by the universities, not the institution, you should ask your lawyers.

GF: these documents are meant for support, to help especially the new members, who may not have this kind of documents, but its use isn't mandatory or compulsory.

Martina Manhart announced that she will leave the CIH at the end of the month to take a new position closer to her home and expressed her interest to stay in the network. She will apply for the individual membership.

Bernadette presented the location and dates for the 25 tropEd anniversary meeting, which will be organised by Basel.

A doodle request will be sent to the members asking their willingness to assist to the GAs in Brescia (fulfil the university's requirements) and Basel (facilitate the enquires for reservations). This time was requested an individual vote. The results will be presented during the last session of the GA.

SESSION 4, 14:30-16:00PM (CEST)

TropEd strategic vision (this part of the minutes was resumed by Govert)

We discussed 4 themes: Reference Role, Membership (chair and report by BB), Accreditation (chair and report by CE) and Teaching vs Learning Network (chair by BP and report by LG). The most important ideas summarised by the group chairs divided into breakout rooms could be read in **Annex 8**.

Some ideas from the discussion:

FK: although we consider ourselves more as a learning network, the teaching is an essential part of it. We contribute to the quality of teaching by supporting the institution to provide well trained health worker professionals in global health. The network isn't directly teaching itself but support the main focus be addressed by the institutions.

BB: the quality culture is never mention, institution to prove quality but not to improve quality. tropEd can stimulate the quality culture in this field. In Europe we have done enormous progress in the quality of the programs and institutions. Standards and policies have been established, what we could do is to set some quality culture in our field, that could be very beneficial for us

Action: This topic, Quality Culture, should be discussed in coming meetings in a proper way. A scientific session for the next GA "Brescia" should be organised.

CE: Accreditation is central and main issue for tropEd in relation to quality assurance but also in terms of our brands and our learnings. There are some disagreements about tropEd recognition, which will be discussed thoroughly.

BB: we should show more explicit the values of the network for the members and what the expectations of the network are.

RR: tropEd needs to improve visibility and tools to share ideas and practices.

NC: when we talk about sustainable development, we all focus on our inputs but not in our outcomes. We know how many students per course we have, who gets the recognition, how many courses we have accredited, but we don't know what our students are doing afterwards. This is direct with our mission statement and this completely missing.

Agreement: Pick up the surveys again. Maybe we should produce an Annual Report in concise form to be published in the outside, including the results from the surveys.

GF: Sometimes we forget that tropEd is seen as a reference role, perhaps we can claim this role by showing this data to the outside world.

FK: we are all in the network because has a value: 25-year work. We are selling our programs better if we have a tropEd logo on it.

GvH: we have got already an input from this exercise, although there were not so many people in the groups. You would agree that the EC proceed with the next step.

Nuria reported the upcoming events

- The meeting with the director of the Consortium of universities of Global health in March in Washington was cancelled. Next one is March 2021. Nuria keeps trying to set a video conference and see how they can interact.
- The ECTMIH is happening in Bergen in October 2021 and coincided with the Bergen GA. Maybe we can submit a contribution to this meeting.
- Interest of join the Global Network. Guenter shared the Doodle results (13 votes in favour, 2 abstentions, 0 against). Decision to initiate the process to become a member. Once there are costs, we will have to rethink. The votes were per institution no individual.

Guenter shared the results of the Brescia and Basel surveys. In both cases 16 members have confirmed so far. More details will be given to the institutions in the coming weeks.

Beatrice presented the dates and location for the next GA, which will take place in October 2020 in presence if the situation allows us. See **Annex 10**. The decision if the university will allow to host the GA will be decided in a meeting on 18 June.

Upcoming GAs: Guenter announced that Bergen confirmed the Fall GA 2021 and he will enquire Tanzania to host the Summer GA 2021. Kafuruki, present at the GA and Guenter will talk about it.

Norbert volunteered to present a session about the impact on teaching and training due the politics of the public health authorities. The EC asked him to provide one page on how he will structure this session.

Reflections on this online GA

GvH: I missed the social activity

LG: from me come only compliment. We may not like it in many aspects but in the circumstances, I just want to give a big thanks to the secretariat how was organise it.

CE: from the organizational perspective I can't think in any way to improve it. The sessions were defined and well organised. The documents were available beforehand. It was all cleared. That's for the GA but for the accreditation, I think maybe there are other comments.

MM: I found the accreditation process also very well structured and efficient and much easier to follow.

RR: I hope some of the practice of sharing documents can be kept in the following GAs. I would like to keep having the documents beforehand and be able to do some of the work for the accreditation in this way.

NC: the organization was good, and the document repository is also very practical and avoid us from printing a lot of documents, so I really appreciate that. Accreditation was very straight process, but I missed the learning part of it. For me the best were a combination of both. The prework but also to keep the part we learnt from each other in some way.

CE: I also missed the learning and feedback of the colleagues during the accreditation process, especially the reasons behind the comments.

BB: we need something in between and maybe that every group work in the same way. Wonderfully organised.

GvH: I don't like the restricted number of reviewers participating in the accreditation.

BP: In Switzerland we had some problems with the documents, as google drive isn't permitted. Perhaps could we emigrate into another system?

Guenter closed the Online GA thanking all participants. "I don't remember having so many overseas partners in a meeting". I am very happy about it (Mexico, Rabat, Hanoi, China, Tanzania)

The recording will be used to produce the minutes and then will be deleted.

The first tropEd Online GA was officially closed on Friday, June 12 at 16:45 PM