

Press Release on the kick-off meeting of the project-working group

HARMONIZATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF MSC PROGRAMS IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

2020-2023

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April 15, 2021 Bishkek № 1

International Higher School of Medicine

AGENDA OF THE EVENT

1. Presentation of the project with the work plan - Dzhusupov K.O.

List of participants:

Dr. K.O. Dzhusupov, Dr. Asel Usenova , O. Denisova, Dr. A.E. Bazhanova, Dr. B.N. Imankulova, U.R. Musaev, A.A. Kamchybekova, Dr. E.E. Ten, Dr. Ch.T. Sulaimanova, M.I. Mayrikova

Dr. Dzhusupov K.O. presented «HARMONIZATION AND MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF MSC PROGRAMS IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH», 2020-2023

HARMONEE project (Harmonization and mutual Recognition of Master programmes in Occupational and Environmental Health) officially kicked off on the 11th and 12th of February, with the participation of all the partners to the virtual meeting. The 11 partners, coming from 6 Countries (Italy, The Netherlands, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) defined the guidelines of the transnational project that has been recently approved by the European Commission in the framework of Erasmus+. Prof. Claudio Colosio, coordinator of the *consortium*, from the University of Milan, introduced the priorities of the next three years and reminded all the partners that the alliance was born already some years ago and has, for the HARMONEE project, even more ambitious goals.

The project consortium consists of 5 EU educational and research institutions and 10 Central Asian countries:

- University of Milan, *Italy*
- Utrecht University, *Netherlands*
- International school of medicine, *Kyrgyzstan*
- Osh State University, *Kyrgyzstan*
- Kazakh National Medical University, *Kazakhstan*
- Karaganda State Medical University, *Kazakhstan*
- Semey State medical University, *Kazakhstan*
- Avicenna Tajik State Medical University, *Tajikistan*
- Khujand State University, *Tajikistan*
- Samarkand State Medical Institute, *Uzbekistan*
- Bukhara State Medical Institute, *Uzbekistan*

Environmental health problems in Central Asia are of pressing concern. Air pollution from industry, heating processes, vehicular emissions and open combustion of solid waste is an important issue. Moreover, zoonosis such as brucellosis & echinococcosis among farmers are persistently prevalent in the four 4 Central Asian countries part of the alliance. The lack of resources and expertise has hampered the development of systematic and appropriate MSc education in Public Health. This is essential for appropriate surveillance programmes and advice in tackling these problems.

The general aim of the project is the improvement of knowledge and practices in Public Health (involving environmental and occupational health and One Health) in line with current needs and gaps in Central Asian countries. The development of new modules for master's programs will be based on the following principles: international cooperation; a “teach the teacher” approach to ensure sustainable education in the region.

Specific objectives -

- The development of new modules for strengthening of disciplinary skills required in the field of Public Health, such as environmental epidemiology, toxicology, infectious diseases, exposures sciences, occupational health, risk assessment for MSc students.
- Building local capacity by training teachers in the development and running of MSc education in Public Health.
- Improving the level of educational and research competences and skills in participating HEIs within Public Health related fields.
- Fostering and expanding existing regional and international network regarding Public Health education.
- The implementation of an interdisciplinary approach in Public Health education.

According to the work plan, a working group was created from among the project participants.

HARMONEE Work Plan of the ISM

WP.1. Strengthening professional competencies of CA teachers- Preparation 4th stage –

Training trainers:

- 1) *Professional development course in Occupational Health, Environmental Health & Public Health;*
- 2) *Updating and development of MCs programs on Environmental Health & Public Health;*
- 3) *Summer school on blended learning & Managed learning environment;*
- 4) *Summer school on research & teaching in Occupational Health, Environmental Health & Public Health*

WP2. MSc Modules Public Health - MSc modules in Environmental & Occupational Health:

- 1) *Development and approval of syllabi of MSc modules;*
- 2) *Development, peer-review and institutional adoption of shared and locally tailored modules of MSc modules with relevant learning outcomes;*
- 3) *Development of syllabi & educational materials adopted to b-learning;*
- 4) *Development of the Practical Guide for Supervising MSc students;*

WP3. Quality Assurance System for Project Developments- The lead organisations are ISM and UU:

- 1) *Monitoring quality of the project developments;*

- 2) *Development and implementation of Quality Assurance system for MSc programmes;*
- 3) *External QA Audit;*
- 4) *Dissemination activities.*

WP4. Launch of MSc modules - The leader of WP4 are KSMU, NMU

- 1) *Enrolment of MSc students*
- 2) *Launch and Delivery of MSc modules*
- 3) *Delivery of b-learning*

WP5. Dissemination of the project results - The lead organisations are UMIL and SMU

- 1) *Working on the project website and networking*
- 2) *Organising workshops at the national level with the participation of international experts*
- 3) *Organizing and conducting of the International conference in a PC*

WP6. The Project management

Responsible members: A.A. Usenova, K.O. Dzhusupov

Expected short term impact of the project has been established

28 Trained trainers from Central Asian universities

Enhanced English language knowledge of 90 teachers from each Central Asian universities

Updated professional competences of 10 teachers from each Central Asian universities

Launch and Delivery of MSc modules

E-laboratories with managed learning environment at each Central Asian universities

Expected long term impact of the project

Increased & improved educational and research capacities of Central Asian universities

Grown cooperation and networking between EU, Central Asian universities

Better quality of teaching at MSc & PhD programs of Central Asian universities

Increased academic mobility between EU, Central Asian universities

Input in improving environmental health, public health & social well-being of population of Central Asia