

MATRA TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION

(MTEC)

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

March 11th - 25th, 2006



Introduction

Communicable diseases are becoming more and more a health threat to the people in the European Union (EU) and are getting more attention because of that. On a global scale, the situation is worrying because of worldwide epidemiological developments with respect to certain communicable diseases like Influenza, SARS and bio-terrorism. Regarding the European Region, communicable diseases are on the rise in several countries in Eastern Europe. In particular the incidence of tuberculosis, HIV/Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) is increasing.

In the EU, where many millions of citizens cross the borders, a closer collaboration in the area of Communicable Disease Control (CDC) is needed between the member states, the candidate member states, the neighbour countries of the EU and the WHO. A distinct prerequisite for establishing and strengthening this collaboration is that CDC policy makers and experts from these countries get acquainted with the Acquis in this area and are prepared to improve EU systems for risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. Most of these countries are now fully engaged in health care reform processes and in search for more proactive approaches to CDC and intensified intersectoral approaches. Exchange of experiences between the participants and presenting best practices during this course may facilitate these processes of change.

Objectives of the course

The main objective of this MTEC training course for senior policy makers and senior experts is to strengthen the strategic collaboration between new EU member states, candidate member states and EU neighbours in the area of CDC. The specific objectives of this training programme can be described as follows:

- To strengthen the knowledge, skills and attitudes of participants in relation to risk assessment, risk management and risk communication and update them on the most recent developments in the EU and WHO in the area of communicable diseases;
- To develop specific skills necessary for effective CDC, such as planning skills, project cycle management, management of change, SWOT analysis, negotiation and communication;
- To increase mutual understanding and strengthen the working relation between policy makers and senior experts of public health institutes about their respective role, responsibilities and professional knowledge, skills and attitudes;
- To prepare participants for developing a “back home” action plan.

Educational approach

In order to make this course successful (in terms of quality, effectiveness and sustainability), active participation of the participants will be the "leitmotiv" during this course. This will enable them to make optimal use of their existing experiences, knowledge and skills in the field of CDC, either related to policy or execution. The following educational methods will be applied:

- Principles of Problem Based Learning
 - Interactive learning sessions
 - Small group discussions
 - Group work and assignments
 - Self-study
 - Role-play sessions
- Plenary information transfer sessions
- Parallel sessions giving in-depth insight in specific issues
- Skills building workshops
 - Writing policy paper
 - Negotiation skills
 - Presentation skills
 - Management of change
 - Project cycle management
- Site visits. These include visits to the Netherlands Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the National Institute of Public Health and Environment and a number of Municipal Health Services.

Organisation

The organisation of this MTEC course on Communicable Diseases is a joint effort between the Netherlands School of Public and Occupational Health (NSPOH) and the National Institute for Public Health and Environment (RIVM). In combining efforts, a synergy of educational and content-related expertise is realised.

NSPOH is an independent organisation supported by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, in which the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Amsterdam and the Free University Amsterdam have combined educational efforts in the field of public and occupational health. The mission of the NSPOH is to improve the health of the population by providing a high level of professional and academic teaching, stimulating public health research and supporting public health organisations. The NSPOH believes that co-operation and networking are prerequisites to public health and therefore actively looks for working relationships with public health and academic institutions, also internationally. The NSPOH is a member of the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER).

RIVM is a recognised leading centre of expertise in the field of health, nutrition and environmental protection. It works mainly for the Dutch government, but also shares its knowledge with international organisations and supranational bodies around the world. The results of the research, monitoring, modelling and risk assessment are used to underpin policy on public health, food, safety and the environment. RIVM's mission is to benefit people, society and the environment, matching expertise, knowledge and research with that of

colleagues from around the world. With over thirty laboratories and topic centres, policy on public health, environmental risks, external safety and nutrition and food safety is supported, both in the Netherlands and internationally. This is done by conducting research, monitoring and risk assessment.

Dates

The course will take place in the Netherlands from March 11th - 25th, 2006.

Fees/accommodation

The Dutch government pays for all costs (travel to and within the Netherlands, board and lodging, health insurance, the course itself and the study materials). All other personal costs are to be paid by the participants themselves.

Participants

The MTEC programme is designed to develop, support and coordinate training and education in The Netherlands for the benefit of participants from the following target group countries of the MTEC programme:

- New member states: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia
- Candidate member states: Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Turkey
- Potential candidate member state: Serbia and Montenegro
- Eastern neighbours: Belarus, Ukraine and The Russian Federation
- Southern neighbours: Jordan and Morocco

The course is aimed at senior policy makers, working in the area of public health in a local or national governmental agency, and senior experts working in the area of communicable diseases in a local or national public health institute and with perceptible affinity with international strategic policy development. Since the course will be held in English, the participants are required to have a *good passive and active knowledge of the English language*. The course organisers will select 2-3 representatives from the 20 MTEC countries.

In summary, the following selection criteria will be applied:

- Senior position in government or public health institute (> 3 years);
- Proficiency in English;
- Able to transfer knowledge to other policy makers and experts in the area of public health;
- Motivation.

Application

Applications should be made through the Netherlands Embassy in the applicant's country. Application forms should be downloaded from the website: www.cross-agency.nl.

Go to Downloads, click on application form for the relevant course, click on your country; you can then download the application form.

Applications (duly signed by the applicant and his or her employer) should be submitted before Friday, the 3rd of February 2006, through the Royal Dutch Embassy in the applicants' country. By this date, all forms, including the signed employer statement, must be received by the Royal Netherlands Embassy. Please note that the application instructions on the website need to be followed carefully.

Only fully documented applications will be considered. The total number of applicants will be limited to 50. Admission will be on a competitive basis.

Applicants who have been accepted for the course are expected to duly attend. In case of no-shows or (too) late cancellations (i.e.) within three weeks before the course commences) the course organiser has the right to claim all costs incurred from the candidate's employer.

Information and course organisation

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E-mail: t.vankeulen@nspoh.nl

Contact person: Mr. Pim van Arkel, MD, MPH; Course leader

More information on the courses developed under MTEC programme:

- The Royal Netherlands Embassy in your country can supply more copies of this leaflet and information about other courses
- For further information you can either contact the Royal Netherlands Embassy or EVD/CROSS:

EVD/CROSS

P.O. Box 17355

2502 CJ The Hague

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Telephone: +31 70 778 81 39

Website: www.cross-agency.nl

E-mail: crossonline@info.evd.nl

Contact person: Mr. Diederik ter Haar