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*(Short course)**Stand-alone or as
an option for the
MPH-CM course*

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Although diseases conventionally referred to as tropical are by no means confined to the tropics, they represent a high burden in terms of mortality and morbidity in developing countries. Their control is a challenge for these countries and their health services because of the specific context and limitations into which a specific programme has to evolve. Health professionals require an 'ad hoc' knowledge and skills to meet this challenge. The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for its research, training and interventions on diseases such as malaria, schistosomiasis, sleeping sickness, TB, HIV/AIDS and others.

2. OBJECTIVES

This course draws on the unique expertise of the Institute and its network-partners, combining in-depth knowledge of specific diseases with extensive experience in the organization and evaluation of health services.

The course is intended for health professionals and scientists involved in, or responsible for disease control programmes.

3. COURSE PROGRAMME

Students receive up-to-date training in problems and controversies pertaining to specific diseases as well as on the elements necessary for the formulation, management and evaluation of control strategies. The focus is on the appraisal of their public health importance and the development of specific control methods, with emphasis on integrated strategies and intersectoral collaboration.

The main themes include:

- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria
- TB
- Neglected Diseases
- Project Cycle Management & Logical Framework

After completion of the course, participants will have learned how to:

- Assess the importance of the different aspects of health problems at national or more local level and critically appraise possible strategies in disease control
- Formulate and prioritise specific strategies for prevention and control of diseases within the framework of the existing health system
- Implement those strategies within existing health structures, focusing accessibility, affordability and sustainability
- Monitor and evaluate specific disease control programmes
- To integrate the acquired knowledge, skills and attitudes to health problem-solving in their working context.

4. TEACHING METHODS

Teaching consists of interactive lectures, seminars, discussions and practical sessions. There is a strong emphasis on case studies and practical exercises involving participants in the design of control programmes appropriate to their country of origin. Small group sessions are a substantial part of the course.

ITM staff, all experienced specialists in their field, are the major contributors to the course. A number of internationally known experts from other academic institutions and international organisations will be invited to complement specific areas of expertise.

5. EVALUATION AND DIPLOMA

Individual progress, i.e. oral communication skills, participation in discussion and teamwork, is being assessed continuously. At the end of the course students present the results of their personal project in a poster format which is evaluated on content, methodology and format.

Students receive a Certificate of the International Course on Planning and Management of Tropical Disease Control Programmes.

6. THE DURATION OF THE TRAINING

The course takes place at the Institute of Tropical Medicine and lasts 10 weeks, from March until May.

7. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Holders of a university degree in health sciences or a professional bachelor in nursing sciences can apply by duly completing the appropriate application form (available from MDC-MCM@itg.be or the ITM website www.itg.be), and send it to the course secretariat before 1 November. A selection committee will evaluate all applications on a comparative basis and notify candidates as soon as possible of the outcome.

Candidates should be proficient in epidemiology, statistics and public health. A Master of Public Health degree (MPH) or a similar training is an asset.

The course language is either French or English, alternating yearly. Please consult the overview table. A good knowledge of the course language, certified by an accredited test or equivalent is required. Participants in the French course are also expected to have a working knowledge of English.


8. ACCREDITATION

This course has been accredited as an advanced module within the tropEd Masters in International Health (MIH) with 12 ECTS credits.

9. TUITION FEE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

You will find information on the exact fee and scholarships in the general ITM course overview and on our website or you can contact the ITM Student Service at education@itg.be. Students from developing countries and the European Union are eligible for a scholarship through the ITM.

The registration fee should be transferred into the ITM's account nr. 220-0531111-72 (Fortis, Warandeborg 3, 1000 Brussel), BIC/SWIFT : GEBABEBB, IBAN BE 38 2200 5311 1172. Bank charges are at the applicant's expense.



**INTERNATIONAL COURSE
ON PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT OF
TROPICAL DISEASES
CONTROL PROGRAMMES**

(Short course)

EN