

# **MATRA TRAINING FOR EUROPEAN COOPERATION**

**(MTEC)**

***APPLIED PUBLIC HEALTH***

**November 30 – December 13, 2008**



## Introduction

Public health issues increasingly transcend national boundaries and governments. In a globalising world health problems and solutions reach across national borders, resulting in the need for international cooperation. Emerging infectious diseases are a good example of the necessity for this cross-border cooperation.

In the new member states and the (potential) candidate member states in Central and Eastern Europe and in the neighbouring countries of the European Union (EU) an increasing need for collaborative and cross-border public health training is felt. There is a demand for opportunities to exchange expertise and experiences, to network and to develop joint action to protect, promote and improve the health of the population. A distinct prerequisite for strengthening the public health expertise is to get acquainted with proactive approaches for public health in order to meet the health needs of the population.

## Applied Public Health Training Course

The two-week course Applied Public Health is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) of the Netherlands. The Netherlands School of Public & Occupational Health (NSPOH) in consortium with the Social Medicine Department of the Academic Medical Centre/University of Amsterdam have been contracted to organise the course. Close collaboration will take place with the Ministry of VWS and the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

The course is organised under the Matra programme of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The objective of the Matra Training for European Cooperation (MTEC) training courses is to train public administrators and officials on matters relevant to joining the EU and to strengthen the relations between the new EU member states, the (potential) candidate-member states and the EU neighbours. Another important objective of the courses is the creation of networks by bringing together people from the fore-mentioned countries in the Netherlands.

The MTEC programme is executed by EVD/CROSS.

## Goal and objectives of the course

The goal of the MTEC course Applied Public Health is to strengthen the strategic collaboration in the field of public health between the new EU member states, the (potential) candidate-member states and the EU neighbours.

The objectives are:

- To strengthen expertise and exchange experiences in general and specific aspects of the systems, policies, organisation and programmes of public health;
- To update knowledge in relation to public health policies and programmes in the EU;
- To upgrade competencies, necessary for an effective development and implementation of public health (e.g. policy making methods; project cycle management; management of change);
- To upgrade expertise in order to transfer the acquired knowledge to relevant public health bodies and experts in the home countries;
- And to increase mutual understanding and to strengthen the working relationships between (governmental) policy makers and experts of public health institutes.

## Eligible countries and participants

The course is offered to the following 16 countries:

- New member states of the EU: Bulgaria and Romania
- Candidate member states of the EU: Croatia, Macedonia and Turkey
- Potential candidate member states of the EU: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo
- Eastern and southern EU-neighbours: Russian Federation, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Morocco and Jordan

The course is aimed at public health policy makers and experts with a senior position in governmental bodies or a position in national public health agencies/institutes with ample experience in public health, research and education.

Since the course is highly interactive and 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 3-4 representatives from the 16 MTEC countries.

In summary, the following selection criteria will be applied:

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

## The content of the course

The course consists of:

1. Modules;
2. Workshops;
3. Competence training;
4. Site visits.

### *Ad 1. Modules*

The modules address:

- Public Health Systems (diversity in systems; rationale, structure, organisation)
- Public Health and the EU (EU-policy, guidelines, programmes)
- Public Health policies, strategies and monitoring (concepts of innovative public health, e.g. global health, health in all policies; health determinants; public health information/indicators; health monitoring and reporting)

### *Ad 2. Workshops*

Workshops are organised around the following topics:

- Infectious diseases
- Inequalities in health and ethnic groups
- Environmental health
- Public mental health
- Health promotion (focus on physical exercise, tobacco, alcohol, nutrition)
- Organisation of health care

All workshops address the sequence of monitoring health and health determinants and the development, implementation and evaluation of public health programmes. Specific attention will be paid to EU-guidelines and programmes.

#### *Ad 3. Competence training*

To facilitate the learning impact, practical exercises are integrated (e.g. project management, management of change, presentation skills and training-of-trainers methods).

To support the transfer of the acquired knowledge and information, the participants are invited to compose an action plan.

#### *Ad 4. Site visits*

Site visits are foreseen to public health services in the Netherlands, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and to the EU in Brussels.

### Educational / training approach

The NSPOH applies interactive educational and training methods. Active learning is the 'driving force' for the course. It enables participants to make optimal use of their existing expertise and experiences in public health.

The following educational methods will be applied:

- Problem Based Learning
  - Interactive learning sessions
  - Small group discussions
  - Group work and assignments
  - Self-study
  - Simulations games and role-play
- Interactive plenary information sessions
- Parallel workshops, providing in-depth insight in specific issues
- Skills-building sessions
  - Interactive policy making
  - Project management
  - Management of change
  - Presentation skills

The course will be supported by a web-based learning environment.

### Organisation

#### *Dates and place*

The course will take place from Sunday November 30 (arrival) – Saturday December 14, 2008 (departure) at the NH Hotel in The Hague, The Netherlands.

#### *Costs*

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). Lunch and coffee/tea during the course are organised and dinners are taken care of as far as possible. All other personal expenses are for the participants.

### *Consortium*

The course is organised by the NSPOH, in consortium with the Social Medicine Department of the Academic Medical Centre/University of Amsterdam. The consortium will cooperate closely with the RIVM and the Ministry of VWS.

The **NSPOH** is the leading institute for organisations and professionals in the field of *public & occupational health*. The NSPOH participates in international networks, such as the European Public Health Association (EUPHA), the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) and the European Association of Schools of Occupational Medicine (EASOM). We work closely together with universities, such as the University of Amsterdam, the Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Vrije Universiteit of Amsterdam (Free University) and the University of Groningen.

The **Social Medicine Department of the Academic Medical Centre/ University of Amsterdam** focuses on public health and the health care system. The emphasis as to public health research is on the relationship between health and social determinants (such as ethnic background and socio-economic status), and on intervention and evaluation research. Regarding the health care system, the research is directed on comparative research, performance indicators, and community-based care. Staff of AMC participates in international networks and in the NSPOH courses.

### *Teaching staff of other institutes*

The programme is developed with the RIVM and other renowned institutes in the field of public health. The teaching staffs of all participating institutes consist of senior lecturers and trainers/facilitators and have broad international expertise.

## 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](http://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 the 10th of October, 2008**, 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, e.g. pre-paid tickets, from the candidate's employer.**

## Information and course organisation

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For further information on the courses developed under the MTEC programme, you can contact either the Royal Netherlands Embassy or EVD/CROSS:

### **EVD/CROSS**

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