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The tropEd network : training international health under European standards

Established in 1996 under a German Association, tropEd is now a network of 35 (29 European, 4 Asian, 1 African, 1 South American) institutes of higher education in international / global health, offering Master programme courses under common standards of education (www.troped.org). Under each country's guidelines and rules of education, trainers and administrators of the tropEd institutions are working together to set up a European standard of education aiming to analyse international health issues, problems and situations, conduct applied research, and learn to develop adequate and appropriate responses in a global context.

Students (Bachelors, Physicians, Pharmacists, Social and Human science, with at least 2 years field experience) can register in one of the nine home institutions of the network and follow an initial Core Course with common learning objectives (main training goals: Systematic comparison of factors that affect the health of all human populations; Special focus on poverty-related health problems in low and middle income countries; Improvement of the management of health services for disadvantaged populations; Promotion of health, prevention and treatment of diseases and rehabilitation). After completion of the Core Course, they move to other institutions within countries inside or/and outside Europe in order to follow complementary learning modules. After defending a Master thesis based upon a public health subject, students are awarded the title of Master of Sciences in International health.

In 2003 TropEd entered the Erasmus Mundus Programme (erasmusmundus.troped.org). The proposed fellowships are opened to foreign students outside Europe, but also to European students who would like to study at partner institutions outside Europe.

Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2 was the first French institution to join the network in 2002 (www.u-bordeaux2.fr). More famous for its wine, Bordeaux has also a great history around tropical diseases as it was an Atlantic port of choice for the destinations of West and Central Africa. Joining the tropEd network has been boosting the local discipline of International Health, and Bordeaux is now offering both French and English Master's training to foreign, European and French students, with specific field connections in African, Asian, and South American countries. The Master program offered by tropEd institutions is giving students worldwide the opportunity to work effectively in a multicultural environment, and be exposed to multiple perspectives in a flexible modular structure, with an international recognition of education.