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**What has the tropEd network achieved since its establishment in 1996?**

tropEd is a network of 32 European (29), Asian (2) and African (1) institutions ([www.troped.org](http://www.troped.org)) of higher education in international health with a common aim to improve the health of populations in settings with limited resources, offering postgraduate training for health professionals. The current master programme consists of an introductory core course, specialised optional modules and a research project. It is intended for completion within one year (full time) and up to 5 years (part time). The programme follows a flexible modular framework where core course and thesis in the so called home institution and specialised optional modules are taken in partner institutions. Therefore the training is based on the mobility of students and facilitators and the exchange of experiences in different disciplines.

The concept of partnership is crucial to tropEd and focuses on the aim to use and establish common international standards in education and training. There is agreement among the partners on the overall learning objectives of the program as well as the content of the core course. All training modules offered by the network have to pass an accreditation process using standardised tools. All partners are using the European Credit Transfer System to facilitate the transfer of course credits between institutions at the same academic level. The institutions are requested to regularly attend the tropEd meetings and are involved in the decision making process. At this stage, the network has implemented a good quality practice which has developed over the years.

The Swiss Tropical Institute (STI) has been involved in the network from the beginning. Working with the different partners allowed each one to gain expertise in setting up a modular program and to learn from each other in different fields mainly in ensuring the quality of modules provided to the network. The network allows smaller institutions like the STI to offer a master program which would not be possible without the collaboration of partners. In addition it is seen by the students as a great advantage to get exposed to different settings during the study (see [www.sti.ch](http://www.sti.ch)).

Further goals are to include more partners from countries with resource constraints and to increase the capacity to deliver post-graduate training with a priority to involve partners from Eastern and South-East Europe. We aim to ensure new developments in international health and at further developing quality standards within the network.