Content Overview
Community empowerment and community participation are crucial in order to achieve sustainability of any community health programme. This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in participatory learning and action (PLA) methods and to understand and apply the theoretical foundations of PLA to primary health care.

- Firstly, this course will look at theoretical perspectives, e.g. critical theory that can be used to inform an action-oriented primary health care approach. Students will have the opportunity to apply these theories in a practical public health situation.
- Secondly, students learn various PLA methods, e.g. ranking, community mapping, time lines, Venn diagrams, visioning and role plays, which can be used for planning, monitoring and evaluation of community health programmes. This aims to develop the practical skills of students in the application of these methods. Close attention is paid to maintaining cultural, gender and human rights aspects.
- Thirdly, case studies to apply PLA methods to conceptual management approaches will be discussed. This enables students to enhance capabilities and skills necessary to critically appraise and apply PLA methods in planning, monitoring and evaluation of community health programmes.

Learning Objectives
At the end of the course the participants should be able to:
- Articulate an understanding of theoretical considerations underpinning participatory learning and action (PLA) methods
- Differentiate the principles of underlying participatory, collaborative and action-oriented approaches and discuss their interrelationship with the PHC concept
- Articulate the role of PLA methods in processes such as planning, monitoring and evaluation of community health programmes (including emergencies, MCH, nutrition, HIV, urban public health, CBR/mental health)
- Critique examples in the application of PLA methods in terms of cultural, gender and human rights aspects
- Apply PLA methods to conceptual management approaches such as logical framework and impact analysis
- Review critically the concept and methods in terms of opportunities and limitations of the approach
- Apply PLA methods in the design of a community health programme addressing a specific health issue

Learning Methods
Throughout the course, interactive participatory experiential learning methods will be applied with solution based, learner centered teaching approaches.

Theoretical perspectives and key concepts are addressed in interactive lectures (12 hours). Individual reading and assignments (journal club discussion) will deepen this knowledge (8 hours)
Practical skills of the application of PLA methods are developed in small groups in relation to planning, monitoring and evaluation of a community health programme (25 hours)
Furthermore, the students will conduct a critical appraisal of case studies using PLA approaches (15 hours, on individual basis, at the end of the face to face course).

Assessment Procedures
As the emphasis of this course is on practical learning,
- 20% continuous assessment will be based on active class participation,
- 40% on small group presentations on planning a community development programme using PLA methods.
Assessment Procedures cont.

- 20% on a ‘journal club’ discussion of 2 scientific publications that reports on PLA (individual presentation)
- 20% individual written assignment after the end of the course - Essay: Use of PLA methods for impact analysis of a community health programme (1500 -2000 words).

Duration / Accreditation

The course covers 5 working days in class: 60h SIT (12h interactive lecture, 25h facilitated group work, 8h self-study + 15h self-study after the course for written assignment.)
2 ECTS (tropEd, accreditation in process)

Target Group

Public health professionals, project planners and managers, paramedical staff, social scientists, tropEd students, etc.

Prerequisites

The course is held in English. Fluent English (Reading, Speaking and Writing) is required.

Course Fee

General Admittance € 750,-
tropEd students € 500,-

Unfortunately, the Institute cannot offer any scholarships. A non-refundable registration fee of € 200 is included in the course fee. The course fee covers coursework, printed materials, coffee breaks and a pass for the Heidelberg public transportation system, but it does not include accommodation, insurance or other personal living costs during the stay.

Registration

Please register as soon as possible as the number of participants is limited. First come, first serve. Registrations are as such possible as long as seats are still available, but please keep in mind the time you need for travel and visa arrangements.

Contact for Registrations

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Short Course Programme Coordinator
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Master of Science in International Health

The MSc. programme begins with a three month Core Module that introduces students to the field of International Health. Students then enter either the fixed set of advanced modules at Heidelberg or choose among a wide range of courses within the tropEd network. A Masters Thesis must also be completed for the MSc. in International Health degree. For more information please contact MSc._IH@uni-heidelberg.de.

tropEd

TropEd is a network of over 30 institutions for higher education in international Health. It offers a flexible modular structure and the European-wide recognition of a Masters Degree in International Health.

ECTS credits towards the Masters in International Health will be provided for the accredited modules offered at Heidelberg. More information on tropEd: www.tropEd.org.

Short Courses in International Health
tropEd Advanced Modules 2012

Disease Control: Strategies and Policies
January 23 – February 3, 2012
Leadership and Change Management
February 6 - 17, 2012
Improving the Quality of Healthcare Services
February 20 – March 2, 2012
Global Challenges in Reproductive Health:
Evidence and Tools for Programme Implementation
March 19 – 30, 2012
Financing Health Care: Principles of Insurance
April 16 – 27, 2012
Proposal Writing as a Consultancy Skill
April 30 – May 4, 2012
Public Health and Disasters
May 7 – 18, 2012
Health and Climate Change:
Impact and Adaptation Strategies
May 21 – June 1, 2012
French Version in Burkina Faso
approx. November 2012
Decision Making in Public Health:
Evidence, Politics or Diplomacy
June 4 - 8, 2012
Health and Human Rights
June 18 – 29, 2012
Quality Management in International Health
July 2 – 13, 2012
Participatory Learning and Action
for Community Health
July 16 -20, 2012
Consultancy Skills: Evaluation of Health Facilities, Projects & Programmes
March 5 – 16, 2012 & September 3 – 14, 2012
Mixed Methods in International Health Research
September 17 – September 28, 2012
Public Health Anthropology: Concepts and Tools
October 1 – 12, 2012
In Cooperation with GIZ and evaPlan GmbH:
Economic Principles of Social Security
February 27 – March 9, 2012 (Mannheim)
Financial Management & Controlling in Health Insurance
March 26 – April 6, 2012 (Mannheim)
Macro-Political Aspects of Social Security Systems
May 21 – 25, 2012 (Mannheim)

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