



Network for Education  
in International Health

## Annual Report 2015

**tropEd Secretariat**

Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute

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## Letter from General Secretary

Dear tropEd colleagues.

During the General Assembly meeting in Basel in early September 2015 we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our network. Definitely a success, although we should also critically reflect that the enthusiasm of the early years might have decreased over time. What started two decades ago as a network aiming at fostering mobility of students and teachers, has become a network much more looking at quality of courses and programmes and taking the role of an ambassador for high quality teaching and education in the field of international and global health. And we can say, that for this we are well renowned – tropEd has become a label which attracts students but also institutions.

But it would be a big mistake to rest on our laurels – too many challenges are ahead! How can we show students that the “old” tropEd model of taking courses in different institutions might enhance the individual competences? How can we find a balance of sending and receiving students for the member institutions – as by now we have sending **or** receiving institutions? How can we deal better with possible employers of our students and with funding agencies, to convince them that capacity building especially in low and middle income countries is an investment into the future but needs financial support?

I would like to thank all the colleagues from all member institutions for their contributions throughout the last year, especially those from the Steering Committee. Let’s face the challenges and work on them.

  
Dr. Axel Hoffmann





The tropEd Network held two General Assemblies during 2015, respectively in:

- **Institute for Global Health (ICH),  
University College London, UK**  
**25th to 27th February 2015**
- **Swiss Tropical and Public Health  
Institute, Basel, Switzerland**  
**3rd to 6th September 2015**

In these two meetings, a total of 50 representatives from full member institutions and collaborative institutions. Overall, around 69% of full members have participated in the General Assembly meetings along with around 38% of Collaborating members.



Six EC meetings were held before, during and after the two GA meetings in 2015. The EC phone conference through SKYPE lasts normally for about 60 minutes.

Six EC meetings:

- EC Skype conference 11<sup>th</sup> February
- EC SKYPE conference 23<sup>rd</sup> March
- EC SKYPE conference 27<sup>th</sup> April
- EC SKYPE conference 16<sup>th</sup> June
- EC SKYPE conference 08<sup>th</sup> October
- EC SKYPE conference 14<sup>th</sup> December

The members of tropEd [Executive Committee](#) in 2015:

**President:**

*Dr. Pauline Grys*

**President-Elect:**

*Dr. Rodney Reynolds*

**Past President:**

*Dr. Carina Kallestal*

**Executive Secretary:**

*Dr. Axel Hoffmann*

**Ex officio Member:**

*Dr. Curt Lofgren*

## Course accreditation

46 courses were submitted to the GA during 2015. Of those 21 are for new courses, and 25 for re-accreditation.

33 courses received Category 1 or 2 in the first round, which is 72% of all courses. Through the whole year, there were 33 courses accredited in GA and EC meetings.



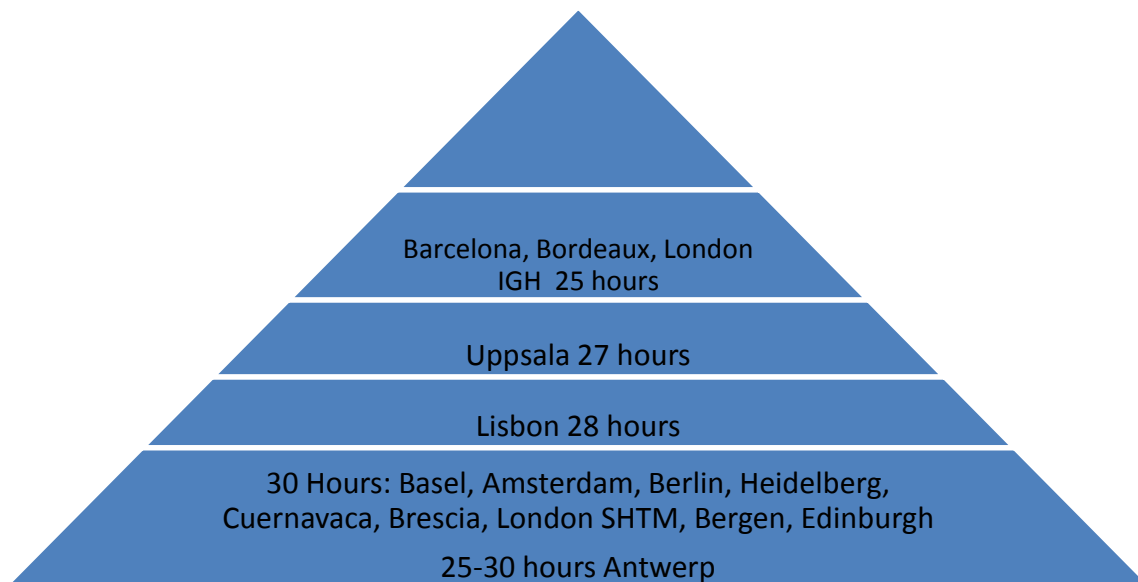
The accredited courses are:

- **Antwerp** Electronic Short Course on Antiretroviral Therapy (eSCART)
- **Amsterdam** Analysing health systems in fragile and conflict-affected environments
- **Amsterdam** Health Policy, Governance and Finance in fragile and conflict-affected environments
- **Amsterdam** Qualitative Methods in Health Systems Research
- **Barcelona** Health Economics
- **Barcelona** Responses to Humanitarian Crises from the Global Health Perspective
- **Basel** Medical Priorities & Clinical Tropical Medicine in South East Asia
- **Basel** Health in detention
- **Bergen** The HIV pandemic: Research challenges to improve prevention, support and care
- **Bergen** Qualitative Research Methods for International Public Health (6)
- **Bergen** Qualitative Research Methods for International Public Health (4)
- **Berlin** Clinical Management of Tropical Diseases (CMTD) with optional supplement: Occupational Medicine in International Health (OMIH)
- **Berlin** Parasitology in International Health
- **Brisbane** Mental Health Across the Globe: Challenges and Opportunities
- **Edinburgh** Emerging Challenges in the Global Health Workforce
- **Edinburgh** Sexual and Reproductive Health
- **Edinburgh** Core course
- **Edinburgh** Global Mental Health & Psychosocial Wellbeing
- **Edinburgh** Strengthening Health and Health Systems in Fragile and Conflict-affected States
- **Edinburgh** Gender, Health and Development (GHD)
- **Heidelberg** Leadership and Change Management in International Health
- **Heidelberg** Public Health and Disasters
- **Jogyakarta** Data Analysis for Demographic Health Survey (DHS) using STATA: a

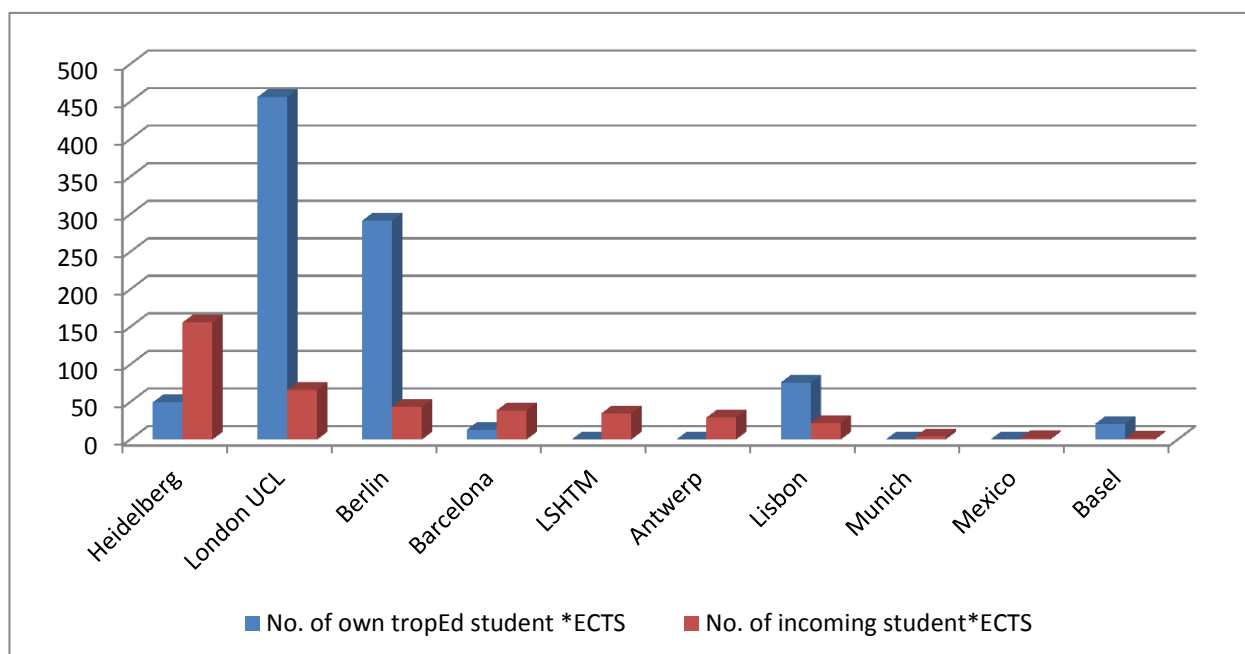
- **Jogyakarta** workflow of programing for big data set
- **Jogyakarta** The Link between Globalization and Women's and Child's Health in the Developing Countries
- **Jogyakarta** Surveillance to measure burden of non-communicable diseases
- **London IGH** Anthropological perspectives on global health
- **London IGH** Evaluating Interventions
- **London IGH** Climate change and health
- **London IGH** Evaluating Interventions
- **Munchen** Infectious Disease Diagnostics
- **Munchen** Learning Science
- **Shanghai** Introduction to Modern Statistical Methods in Public Health Research
- **Uppsala** Global Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights /GSRHR

### How many hours of SIT is formally one ECTS credit in institution?

Until Sep. 2013 in tropEd network we only allow to count 30 SIT hours per ECTS. However, for several institutions this is contradictory to the national regulation. According to the ECTS user guide, the GA agreed to allow counting 25-30 hours SIT equal to one ECTS credits. But in one week still 45 hours of SIT cannot be exceeded. However, member institution must make their calculation according to their national regulations. Follow this new regulation, some institute has changed the SIT hours/ECTS credits and some remain unchanged.



## Advanced modules taken by tropEd students in 2015



## Student and course data in 2015:

City	No. of applicants to the MIH programme	No. of newly registered tropEd students	No. of tropEd students completed	No. of accredited courses in total
LSHTM	0	0	0	25
Heidelberg	142	4	1	19
Basel	18	15	12	10
London UCL	24	4	3	10
Berlin	150	24	20	9
Barcelona	7	11	0	8
Antwerp	15	7	2	6
Brisbane				5
Uppsala	0	0	0	4
Lisbon				4
Bordeaux	0	0	0	3
Mexico	0	0	0	2
Munich	0	0	0	2
Brescia	13	2	0	1
<b>Total:</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>108</b>

Resource: Institutional annual report 2015

# tropEd Membership

## New Collaborating member:

Institute de la Francophonie pour la Médecine Tropicale (IFMT) in Vientiane, Lao PDR

## New full member:

Centre for International Health (CIH), LMU, Munich

Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå University changed from collaborating member to full member.

**Member excluded:** Karolinska Institute Stockholm

## Membership applicants:

- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
- Geneva Centre for education and research in humanitarian action
- Middlesex University Dr Carmen Aceijas, PhD, Senior Lecturer Applied Public Health,
- Facultad de Salud Publica, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Magaly Blas, MD, PhD , Profesora e investigadora,

## New potential partner institutions from members:

**Antwerp:** ITM and the University of Pretoria (Dept. of Veterinary Tropical Diseases), will jointly propose a One Health module (Under ITM responsibility)

**Mexico:** Universidad Federal Do Rio Grande Do Brasil, Universitat Du Montreal au Quebec, Universidad Los Llanos and Universidad El Bosque (Colombia), University of Washington, University of Texas San Antonio.

**Barcelona:** ISGlobal just merged with the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology

**Barcelona II:** Western University of Canada and American University of Beirut

## Changes in member institutions during 2015

### New tropEd representatives:

- **Lisbon:** Maria do Rosário O. Martins
- **Brescia:** **Cancelled:** Silvia Odolini and Alberto Matteelli
- **Brisbane:** Dr Jo Durham

### New address:

- **Berlin:** Augustenburger Platz 1, Südring 3b, D-13353 Berlin

## Information from Members to be shared with the network

- **Berlin** After moving to the new location, the maximum number of students that can be enrolled per year increased from 32 to 42.



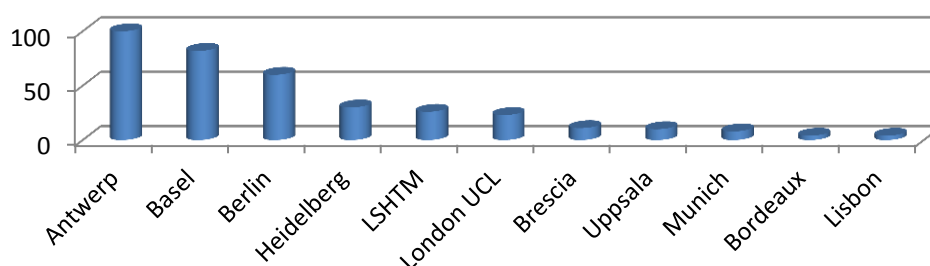
- **London UCL** UCL requires us to develop Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) with each of our tropEd partners. For practical reasons we will prioritise drafting MOAs with the partners who send their students to IGHs advanced/optional courses as well as those institutions that our home students go to for external advanced/optional courses.
- **Munich** Existing well-running modules are prepared for accreditation by tropEd as advanced modules.

### Changes from Member institutions foreseen for the next year

- Antwerp** Stepping-up the promotion of the MIH (at ITM called MPH-IH), two new advanced modules in the pipeline: prevention of antibiotic resistance in LICs; systematic reviews and local translation of evidence
- Uppsala** We will change the present program for which the last intake will be autumn 2016, thus the accredited courses we give will run last time 2017. There will probably be a year of intermission before we will be back with new courses for accreditation.
- Berlin** Re-accreditation of MSchH.
- London UCL** In 2015-16 academic year UCL has changed number of ECTS associated with all of its MSc programmes from 72 ECTS to 90 ECTS in line with the HE sector in the UK. We have negotiated with UCL to run a parallel credit system whereby for our home UCL registered MSc tropEd students their MSc will have 90 ECTS, but for visiting tropEd students on IGH tropEd accredited courses these will continue to have 6 ECTS per course.
- Munich** TropEd students participating for the first time in tropEd accredited courses at CIHLMU in 2016, additional at least 1 advanced module handed in for accreditation in 2016 (planned to run as a tropEd course in 2017 for the first time)
- Barcelona** Our Master of Global Health will be 100% in English and all courses offered as independent advanced modules will also be in English
- Barcelona II** To introduce case based learning

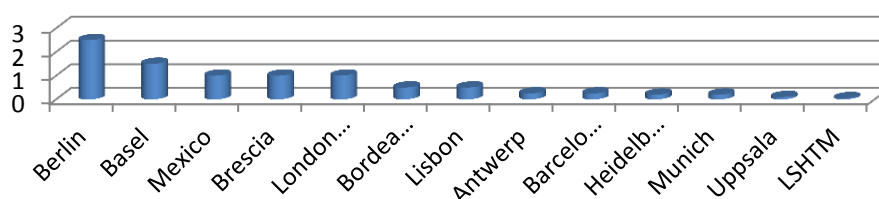


## No. of academic staff actively involved in tropEd courses and thesis supervision in 2015



Resource: Institutional annual report 2015

## Estimated costs for the coordinating tasks related to tropEd in FTE (full-time equivalent) human resources in 2015



Resource: institutional annual report 2015

## National accreditation of master's programme

Seven institutions have their master's programme accredited by the national accreditation agenda or University and namely:

**Basel:** accredited by University of Basel, Swiss TPH External Review 2014

**Antwerp:** accredited by NVAO (Netherlands Flemish Accreditation Organ, Re-accreditation is in process (expected before 30 Sept. 2016)

**Barcelona:** accredited by University of Barcelona

**Uppsala:** Accredited by Swedish Higher Education Authority, evaluated 2013 and valid for 5 years

**Berlin:** Accreditation by Die Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover (ZEvA). Period accreditation is valid: 31.08.2009 - 30.09.2016

**Heidelberg:** Heidelberg University is accredited by ACQUIN since September 2014; the master program is covered through this accreditation.

**Brescia:** The Core Course in Tropical Medicine and International Health receives annual re-accreditation by the University of Brescia. However, the tropEd Master programme cannot be recognised in Italy due to current national regulations that do not allow five-year duration.

## Erasmus + grants:

Three partners: 1. Queen Margaret University, Institute for International Health and Development (IIHD) 2. Royal Tropical Institute – KIT, Amsterdam and 3. University of Bergen, Centre for International Health writes up an application to the Erasmus+ programme with the title: “Development of innovative e-learning and teaching through strategic partnerships in Global Health Education” and received the grants for three years. The objective of this programme is to:

- Promotion of eLearning and teaching in the field of postgraduate global health education
- Increasing access to global health education for disadvantaged learners within and outside of the EU via blended learning and virtual mobility
- Widening and enhancing the shared accreditation process within the tropEd
- Strengthening existing European networks (tropEd)

The first year consortium will focus on developing of online courses, the second year will try to deliver the nine online courses and the last year will do the evaluation on students' experience. Several courses were selected to build up three tracks:

- Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in disease control programmes (KIT)
- The HIV pandemic: Research challenges to improve prevention, support and care (UiB)
- Project Design and Management (QMU)
  
- Human Resources for Health (KIT)
- Emerging Challenges in the Global Health Workforce (QMU)
- Applied economic evaluation in Health Care (UiB)
  
- -Policy and Practice in Complex Emergencies (QMU)
- -Communicable disease control in emergencies (KIT)
- -Qualitative Methods for International Public Health (UiB)

### Financial report 2015

	<u>Current acc.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Balance end of 2014:</b>	<b>28805.66</b>	<b>28805.66</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Membership fee	25510.00	
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>25510.00</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>		
Salary	-40186.00	
Administrative costs	-6785.87	
Travel costs	-1532.37	
Bank charges	-71.56	
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>		<b>-48575.80</b>
<b>Balance end of 2015:</b>		<b>5739.86</b>



**tropEd PARTICIPATION at 9th ECTMIH (2015)** The 9th European Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health was held from 6th to 10th September 2016 in Basel (Switzerland) organised by the Swiss Tropical and public Health Institute.

The conference gathered near 2000 researchers, academics and professionals from all over the world. Many representatives from tropEd member institutions participated in this conference. tropEd was present in the Swiss TPH booth.

tropEd organised a session on **Medical and public health education in Africa** coordinated and chaired by Axel Hoffmann from SwissTPH. See details on speakers and themes presented in the following figure:

Health and social systems 07.09.2015, 13:30 - 15:00		Kairo 1
<b>4.6.2. Medical and public health education in Africa</b>		
Convener and Chair: Axel Hoffmann, Basel, CH		
INV.4.6.2.001	<b>Accelerating excellence and leadership in African health research</b> Fred Binka, Accra, GH	13:30 - 13:45 Q
INV.4.6.2.002	<b>Global Collaboration: An essential element for public health and medical education in Africa</b> Kevin Marsh, Oxford, UK	13:45 - 14:00 Q
O.4.6.2.003	<b>What are the mutual benefits for universities participating in teaching networks?</b> Bernadette Peterhans, Basel, CH	14:00 - 14:15 Q
O.4.6.2.004	<b>APARET (African Programme for Advanced Research Epidemiology Training)</b> Norbert G. Schwarz, Hamburg, DE	14:15 - 14:30 Q
O.4.6.2.005	<b>A public health laboratory for global capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa</b> Marco Albonico, Milan, IT	14:30 - 14:45 Q

tropEd was also involved in the session organised by the European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA) on **The tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea is a Global Health Issue**, coordinated and chaired by Thomas Junghanss from the University of Heidelberg and Núria Casamitjana from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health – University of Barcelona. See details on speakers and themes presented in the next figure:

## SS8 European Academic Global Health Alliance (EAGHA): the tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea is a global health issue

The refugee disaster in the Mediterranean Sea, at the Southern border of the European Union, is an important global health issue. Migration is a major determinant of health – for the better or for the worse. Migrants leave their home countries to seek a new and better life elsewhere. A subgroup of “refugees” are civilians fleeing danger, such as violence or natural disasters. Under international law they are entitled to claim protection, or asylum.

The European Union's Common European Asylum System (CEAS) is intended to ensure the rights of refugees under international law. However, CEAS appears unable to handle sudden flows of people from conflict and war zones. EU member states need to establish procedures and infrastructures consistent with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

This symposium explores the role of public health experts and medical doctors in the escalating refugee crisis. The European Conference on Tropical Medicine and International Health provides a unique opportunity to view and analyse the crisis from the “Southern” and “Northern” perspective. Representatives from both sides will speak, followed by a debate. The goal is to better understand this complex situation and to explore how the global health research and academic community can work together to support the development of concepts for the health, safety, and dignity of migrants and refugees.

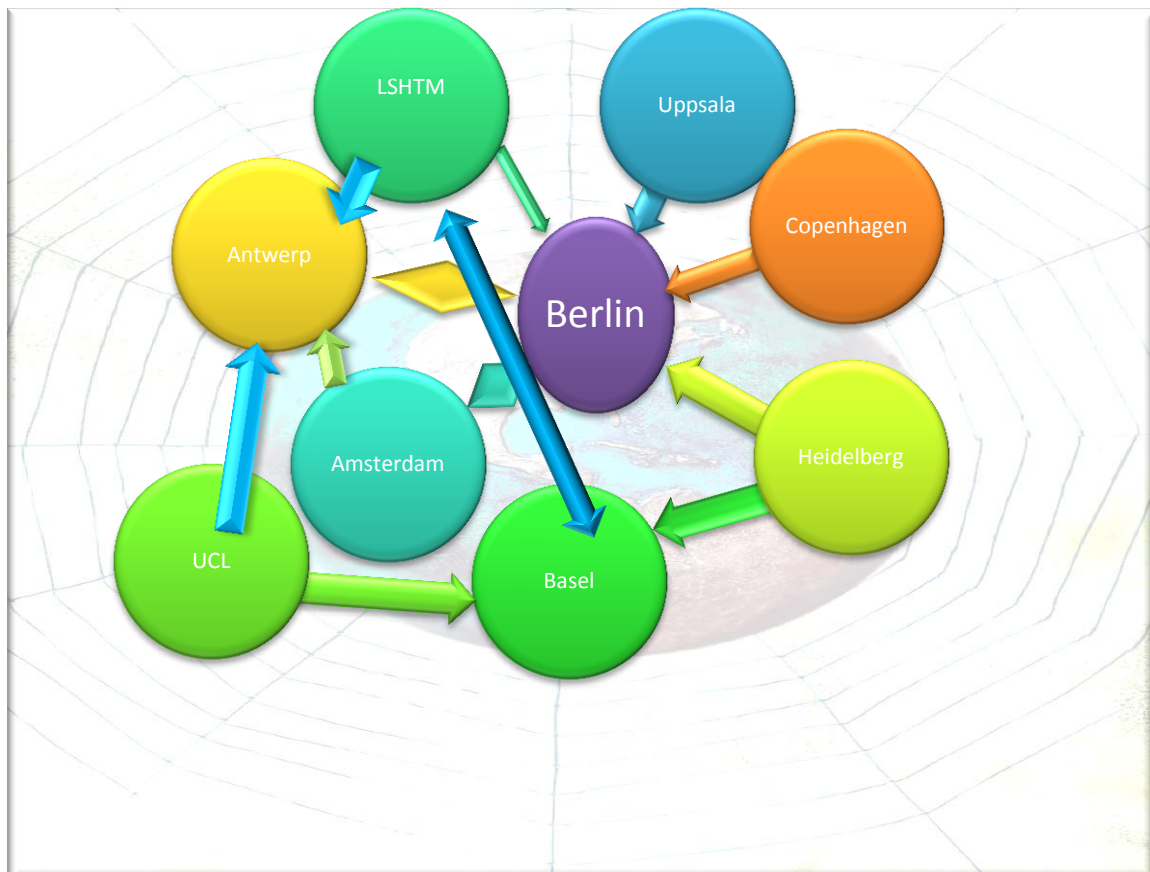
Chair: Núria Casamitjana, Barcelona, ES

Chair: Thomas Junghanss, Heidelberg, DE

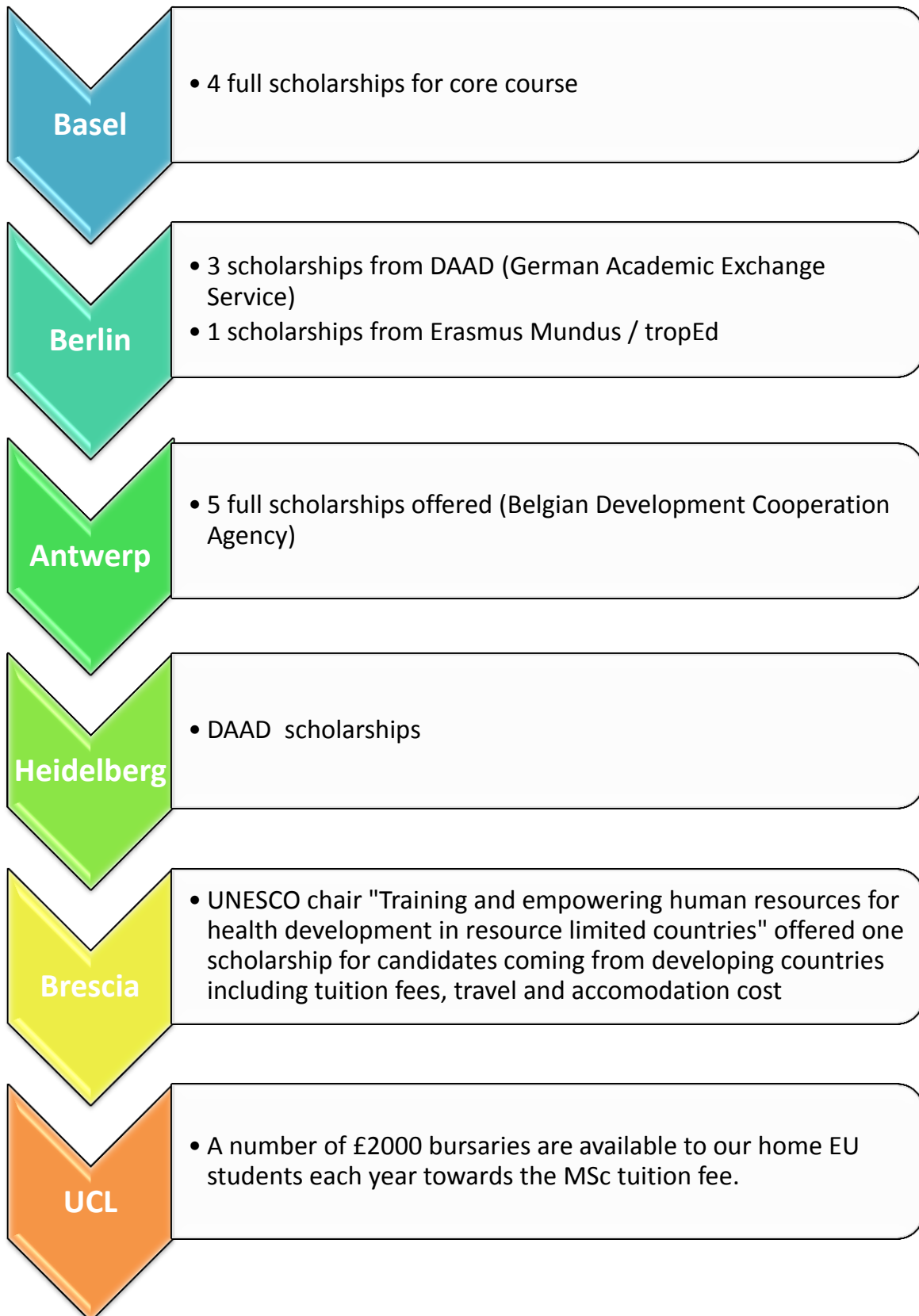
SS8.001	What are the role and research priorities for public health in a society where human rights have been declared disposable? Gianni Tognoni, Milan, IT	17:00 - 17:10	Q
SS8.002	Health of refugees and migrants. An issue for global concern, and action Olimpia de la Rosa Vazquez, Barcelona, ES	17:10 - 17:20	Q
SS8.003	The challenge of migration – the role of International Organisations Manuel Carballo, Geneva, CH	17:20 - 17:30	Q

## Networking

**Internal Exchanges within the network: 33 % tropEd member institutions have internal exchanges activities with other members within the network.**

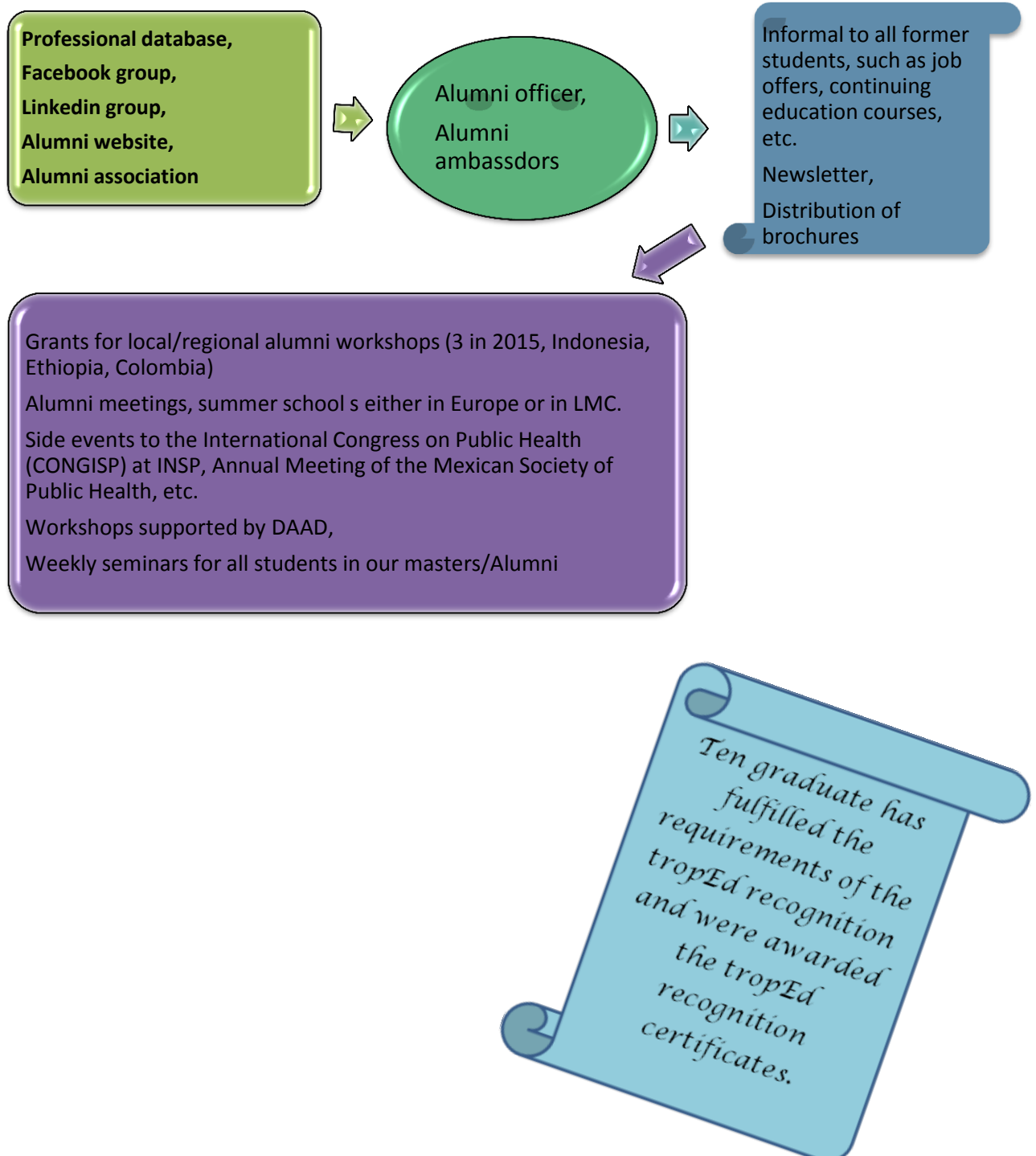


## Scholarship offered in 2015



## Alumni Activities

Most of institutions are working hard on the alumni issues. In February 2015 there was an Alumni session in the General Assembly meeting in London. All members can exchange their experiences and problems regarding alumni activities. In September 2015, tropEd organized the first Alumni Meeting in connection with the 20 years anniversary of tropEd and the ECTMIH congress. The following picture shows you what was done on related to alumni in different institutions in 2015:





## Alumni meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015

This is the first tropEd organized alumni/student meeting. After a detailed round introduction from all participating institutions, from the network, and all alumni/students, the whole group was divided into three groups and discuss on several alumni related topics. The Topics of the discussion are as follows:

- Group 1: Is e-learning/ e-classroom the future of education? How e-learning will influence the future of the masters training in international health? How can we better connect to each other? Pro and cons of using social media?
- Group 2: What are the biggest challenges I am facing after I finished my degree? Is there any competencies missing in the curriculum of my masters study? When is the time that we can play the teaching role in the education in international health? How should we make us qualified for this role?
- Group 3: How can the job opportunities better circulated in the network? How can we benefit from this and contribute to it? Working internationally as development helper in LMC and family life, is there any conflict?

In summary, we will try to strengthen the connection between student/alumni and the institute in order to get more information reached the one who need it. Some existing channels for example student representatives or home institution channel should be better used as well. The missing competences are valuable for the network to design the new curriculum. Alumni/student is a very important part of the network. We are confidence to reach a better level before the network turns to 30.







## Next tropEd General Assembly meetings:

- 11-13 February Yogyakarta
- 16-18 June Heidelberg
- October 2016 Amsterdam
- February 2017 Barcelona
- May/June 2017 Munich