



# tropEd JUN GA (Tanzania / hybrid) 2022

June 09 - Jun 11, 2022

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Executive Secretary:	Guenter Froeschl (LMU)
Secretariat:	Guenter Froeschl (LMU)
President Elect:	Jani Puradiredja (BNITM)

## Participants (registered)

Gunter Froeschl (GF)	LMU
Sarah Scholze (SS)	LMU
Karin Gross (KG)	Swiss TPH
Alberto Matteelli (AM)	Brescia
Beatrice Formenti (BF)	Brescia
Govert van Heusden (GvH)	ITM
Bruno Broucker (BB)	ITM
Rodney Reynolds (RR)	Individual
Marie Lindkvist (ML)	Umea
Angelica Johansson (AJ)	Umea
Jani Puradiredja (JP)	BNITM
Yolanda Amat (YA)	ISGlobal
Nuria Casamitjana (NC)	ISGlobal
Hans-Friedemann Kinkel (FK)	Charité
Eva Mertens (EM)	BNITM
Georgina Pearson (GP)	QMU
Seydou Doumbia (SD)	USTTB
Francine Egberts (FE)	KIT
Lisa Hoffaeller (LH)	LMU
Ralf Weigl (RW)	Witten Herdecke
Farzana Yasmin (FY)	Witten Herdecke
Anne Fabricius (AF)	Heidelberg
Maria Martins (MM)	IHMT Lisboa
Miriam Müller (MMü)	Student representative
Sven Gudmund Hinteraker (SGH)	Bergen
Kafuruki Shubis (KS)	IHI
Dickson Lwetoijera (DL)	IHI

Institutional Members: 16

Individual Members: 1

10:45 - Explanation of hybrid procedure, overview of the agenda for the upcoming days, brief round of introduction

## Welcome Ifakara Health Institute 11:00-11:15

Present: AM, BF, YA, MMü, NC, RW, SS, GF, LH, JP, ML, KG, BB, FE, AF, GP, RR, FY, GvH, AJ, DL, KS, EM

## Session 1: Office Update 11:15-11:30

### Reviewing Feb GA Minutes

- No objections to Oct GA Minutes, **voting:**
  - **Unanimously accepted**
  - **12 in favour**
  - **1 abstention**

### Office Update / News from the Secretariat

- Romy Kümpfel has left the tropEd secretariat. A job offer has already been issued and published by the office but no replacement has been found yet. For now GF is running the secretariat up until a replacement has been found. Communication can still be done via the secretariat email address.
- Small things concerning the website. SGH
- Application for German GLOHRA funding (Jani Puradiredja)
- Acceptance request of maximum study period by Beatrice Formenti for tropEd Recognition (voting)
- Application for the German Glohra funding:
  - JP: idea for proposal was to offer a virtual training program relating to the issue of Global Health with partnerships outside Europe. Tandem program was intended
  - We received good feedback for the proposal but it was not granted. It was unclear how interdisciplinarity should work with such a large network.
  - Other possibilities and opportunities for funding should therefore be found together as a network in the upcoming future.

## COVID-19 measures and war in Ukraine

- Low threshold adaptation of courses during pandemic in the past years, revised accreditation sheet was introduced and accepted, yet now:
- Institutions are required to submit complete course accreditation sheets with a distinct format of teaching (online, hybrid, in-presence)
- Temporary measure due to the secretarial vacant position: institutions have to keep their own course accreditation deadlines in mind.
- Involvement in the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine. Documents has been issued offering expertise and help to ensure that research projects are still running. Inviting also scientists from Russia
- Acceptance request of maximum study period by BF for tropEd recognition - **voting**:
  - The decision to award a Master's degree usually lies within the university. Yet: the request by BF is whether the tropEd network will or could allow for an extension for the tropEd recognition
  - tropEd recognition should be separate from the Master's degree completion.
  - At the moment of voting 12 member institutions were present, voting with:
    - **8 votes in favour**
    - **4 abstentions**
- Membership issues
  - Bonn (process of self-report), self-report has not been submitted yet.
  - Khon Kaen (dropout July 2022), four years of membership service was still open, the institution paid half of the amount and will be officially out of the network by July 2022. Unclear about the reasons for dropout so far.
  - Individual Membership Michael Galatsch: was a representative for Witten Herdecke, but wants to continue as an individual member - **voting**

Discussion of the number of individual memberships is increasing over the years. What is the position of tropEd for this?

As individual members do not have voting rights and it is foreseen in the statutes of the network. For now it is a rather small number

BB: we need to avoid having more individual members than institutions and the network should keep that in mind.

GF: Maybe consider other criteria for individual memberships. Considerations for future discussions

- **11 votes in favour**
- **1 abstention**

With this Michael Galatsch is formally accepted as an individual member of the network

- University of Caracas, Venezuela (Letter of Interest)
  - JP: It would be beneficial for the network to have more members in the region of South America.
  - GF: As per membership regulations, with a letter of interest there is no voting by the members so far, yet it is up to the EC for now. Once they (Caracas) have self presented we will have a voting at the next GA in fall.
  - Discussion about membership criteria introduced by NC as other members were not accepted in the past. GvH: keep network manageable is a goal of ours, manageability was unsure at a time, for which we did not accept new members.
  - NC: also issue of transferability of credits to be considered.
  - RR: question if it is possible for the network to implement some “check-in” for new members to see whether they establish all the goals or whether the network can help them achieve their outcomes? Especially for members coming from the Global South or relatively new members?
  - GF: General Assemblies should also be used for those check-ins.
  - NC: Minnesota has expressed interests yet not issued a letter of interest. If we open this, probably more will follow.
  - GF: We should not object just because of membership interest coming from the US. with the probability of more institutions
  
- Feedback from the WG's
  - Scientific Session (Marie Lindkvist) → postponed for second session
  - Teaching in Times of COVID-19 (Jani Puradiredja):
    - JP: We have submitted a manuscript, which in the end we received some minor adjustment. Now only a few formalities need to be addressed which hopefully leads to a successful publication of the paper.
    - Questions remain to what extent we should stick with online format for our courses. How well did they work? How should we assess all the advantages from the beginning of the pandemic? This is an area of interest for the network how different institutions have perceived this - from the lecture site, also the students. Students might be difficult to allocate as most of them have already graduated. Interest in constituting a new working group composition for this.
  
- tropEd Core Course (Marie Lindkvist) → postponed to the Scientific session
  
- Accreditation Procedure (Guenter Froeschl): Change from only in presence GA's to online meetings, we have introduced a flipped classroom procedure, in which the accreditation process was transferred to be done before the GA's

leaving only the result announcement for the GA's - should this become the new formalised way? Idea of introducing an online forms tools, which was then rejected. We should now keep up with the accreditation process as it is

- Accreditation procedure group will formally be closed with this.
- NC: with this new way, we are losing the training aspect for accreditation for new members.
- GF: the individual accreditation groups should be increased to ensure the learning environment and therefore discussion of the accreditation procedures.

## Course Accreditation

GvH: The number of to be accredited courses is very low this time. Was there any reaction from the secretariat? Where institutions reminded?

GF: since Romy's position was then and still is vacant, GF did not send out reminders to institutions.

- Marie (red group): two courses from Heidelberg, both re-accreditation, received a Cat. 1 and Cat. 2, comments were already submitted.
- Jani (green group): SwissTPH received a Cat. 2, reaccreditation from Core Course Antwerp received a Cat. 1
- Günter (blue group): KIT course received a Cat: 2, comments were already submitted. Core Course from Charité received a Cat. 1

## Financial report (Axel Hoffmann)

Update: We have to state as a network not only who is the executive committee, but also how those positions were elected. Still waiting for a response from the notary. Still not quite clear, how many people have to come to the lawyer, if all 5 have to go, it might be problematic time-wise and financially. Online meetings are not allowed.

Financial report: Excel file is shared

Total of fees of membership fees: **26.723 EUR** (some transfers have certain fees by banks, which explains the uneven number while having even membership fees)

### Expenses:

Lawyer (Steuerberater) costs: 1837,60 EUR

No travel costs

Secretary costs: 30.050 EUR

Bank costs: 146,74 EUR

Website costs: 2305,63 EUR

→ total expenses of **34.339,97 EUR**, with 9141,28 EUR still being in the account and 26.723 income by membership fees, our current account stands at: 1524.31 EUR.

Nuria Casamitjana: Formally request to accept the financial report and to release the executive committee of the financial report of 2021 - voting:

- **13 in favour**

## Session 2: Scientific Session

### Executive and Recognition Committees (Günter Fröschl)

*Voting Executive Secretary & Ex Officio member (vote online until Thursday midnight, EAT; results presented Saturday) (google forms) and call for 2 Volunteers for Recognition Committee (Govert van Heusden)*

- Ex-officio only candidate suggested: *Rodney Reynolds* - votings are open until midnight.  
→ RR is very interested in continuing in this role within the network and to continue to engage.

#### **13 votings in favour**

- Secretary position only candidate suggested: *Günter Fröschl* - votings are open until midnight  
→ GF is also very happy to continue with this position and all the tasks attached to it.

#### **10 votings in favour**

- Call for 2 Volunteers for Recognition Committee (Govert van Heusden):

New procedure on the website, recognition handbook that was agreed upon during the last GA in February 2022.

Call for two volunteers gets introduced by GvH. GvH would like to step down from this position. Brief discussion whether two volunteers are necessary and whether there are suggestions to change the procedure.

GF: two volunteers are good with having one volunteer that is always overlapping with the next batch of volunteers. Suggestion if GvH is willing to fill this position for another year to overlap.

BB: would volunteer to do it together with GvH overlapping.

GvH: It should not be two persons from the same institution and that we should appoint

somebody else.

GF: suggestion that BB will be part of the team with another volunteer.

FY: likes to volunteer

RR to GvH: different recommendation for process of recognising degrees other than 2 volunteers?

GvH: two persons ensure to divide the work as such. Number of requests for recognition not always easy to foresee. 4 eye principle is beneficial

→ Voting for **Farzana Yasmin** taking up position of recognition committee team member and for **Bruno Broucker** to start collaborating as recognition team member as of the first GA early in 2023

Farzana Yasmin:	<b>12 votes in favour, no abstentions</b>
Bruno Broucker:	<b>12 votes in favour, no abstentions</b>

## Annual report (Günter Fröschl)

Annual report survey being conducted for 2021. 19 institutional members participated (5 did not) → report is available online.

Remarks on the survey:

- Changed survey program to Google Drive
- Questions regarding accreditation process added
- Further enquiry about new format of GAs and how this should be dealt with in the future

Institutional changes are being listed and presented by GF, e.g:

- Teacher exchange between institutions decreased to 26,3% of the institutions reporting to have had an exchange of facilitators.
- Number of applicants to programs
- Number of students being enrolled
- Number of publications by students enrolled
- Number of tropEd accredited courses.
- Mobility in the network and its main challenges (financial, COVID, language skills, timing of courses, logistics concerning visa and application procedures, visibility and awareness of tropEd)
- Alumni activities in different institutions
- Opinions on tropEd accreditation criteria by different institutions
  - Important comment was, that learning aspect of accreditation with online and flipped classroom procedure gets hampered as too few reviews, few content experts
- Things to improve in the future (economic situation, homepage not always up to date, improve advertisement, adaptation of teaching methods among other things)
- 

Comments on the report:



NC: adds how students complain about lack of information since IS Global somehow did not show up in the report.

GvH: inability of saving questions in Google Drive is a real problem. Answers should be able to be stored in this survey.

RW: low mobility should call for making it as easy as possible for students to move between institutions. We should figure out a process for this.

## Scientific Session (Chair: Marie Lindkvist)

- Topic: IHI research landscape and contribution to International Health
- Only one meeting before this GA was being held. Survey was sent out by Romy Kümpfel
- **Dickson Lwetoijera** is presenting the topic, see presentation attached:
- Followed by questions and answers by the network

### discussion:

- Master thesis opportunities at IHI are considered possible by the institute itself within a research period of time for tropEd students from other institutions
- Yet, collaborations between institutions should be open for both sides.
- Contributions to the network by IHI and how the network can benefit IHI: Vector biology expertise and course offered to the network. At the moment it does not seem feasible to send students from IHI to another institutions due to financial restraints, receiving students for research is possible.
- Another possibility might be that the research at IHI will have a certain set of questions, that require 3-4 months of work and then look for someone that covers them. Having a list to be shared within the network e.g.
- Joint publication should always be considered in collaborations proposed like this.
- Building links between students from different institutions with this approach.

Presentation by **Alberto Matteelli** on Working Groups on Scientific sessions - see presentation attached

### Comments:

- Other suggestions are of course welcome
- Hosting institutions of GAs could give insight into educational training of their institution during a GA as an add-on to the Scientific sessions
- Is it too much having two scientific sessions during a GA? - to be discussed
- More pedagogy desired
- Members of this suggested committee should come from different departments/institutions
- Fixed procedure and structure for Scientific sessions that overregulate them not recommended by GF.
- Working group should stay established to constantly develop a list of topics
- Is there anything the Working Group now needs as support?

- At the moment the work of WG s is feasible, any need for support will be communicated if needed accordingly.
- Flexibility in topics would be ideal

Closing of Day 1 of the GA.

## Session 3: 10:00-12:00

### WG Reform of Core Course Accreditation (Chair: Marie Lindkvist)

- Revision of core course for is presented by Marie Lindkvist, see presentation attached.
- Discussions and thoughts:
  - Additional courses to a core course should also be recognised for students
  - Maximum 20 credits might be problematic. 20 credits were designed to emphasise and encourage mobility of students
  - Room for mobility would almost virtually disappear for Master's with less ECTS credit points.
  - Discussion if program are more than 60 ECTS credits, the recognition of core course as a whole might be feasible.
  - Recognition is something different than the degree. Advanced Modules have to stay choosable by external students, for which students can also gain credits separately. Advanced Modules should not only be labelled as such but have to stay within their original purpose.
  - More flexibility with the core course is welcomed but it has to take balance with all academic courses into account.
  - Idea is to create a minimum of criteria.
  - Developing a set of learning outcomes, the requirements of the curriculum might be more important than stating the minimum number of courses, credits etc? Need to re-emphasize this point.
  - Major effect for the network and its students is mobility. One of the strong points is the physical mobility. Added value for a study at a tropEd institution should not be underestimated.
  - Virtual mobility does not replace physical one, suggestion: Teaching & Learning in ties of COVID Group could look at this in a possible next survey
  - We could think about a network wide arrangement to admit a max number of topped students to be admitted per institution without charging fees
    - Difficult to implement this in some institutions. Some institutions do require fees regardless.
    - There might be incentives beyond fees (accommodation, travel costs etc.)
  - Mobility important yes, but there could be other ways to increase the feeling of network experiences. Is mobility the only way for students? Or could we

think of other network experience for students not willing or not able to travel.  
Increased accessibility to be kept in mind.

- Institutions are very different in their realities of accrediting courses and credits which makes it difficult to find a common ground.
- Up for voting: described changes in section 8, 15 and 24 in the submission for core courses and accepting the revised coe course accreditation criteria provided by the working group:

- **11 votes In favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions**

- Accreditation handbook will be changed accordingly by the secretariat

Next tropEd GA's in 2023, date proposals, locations and hosting institutions to be discussed.

Nuria Casamitjana offers Barcelona for fall GA 2023

Ralf Weigl offers Witten for summer GA 2023 or 2024

## Session 4: 10:00-11:00

### Student session (Chair: Miriam Müller)

- Explanation of student representation since 2016
- New students are needed to take over the role of student representation
- Points to be discussed:
  - Role of student representative
  - Recruitment of new student representative
  - Lack of knowledge about tropEd
  - Identification with home institutions rather than tropEd
- **Student satellite meeting during upcoming GA in Hamburg**
- Goal: 1 student per institution
  - Who should participate? Part-time vs. full-time students
  - At the beginning of their Masters?
- BNITM: 4 rooms are reserved + travel grants for student from LMIC

#### Discussion:

- Role of student representation is not as clear as suggested by institutions, especially not for the student representative him/herself. There is a need to discuss this role again and clarify it: Why should it be beneficial for students to attend these meetings?
- How do we support students to be engaged? We could do much more to support students

- Reaching out to students pro-actively will be a good approach. Receiving emails from someone you have never heard before is challenging for students especially given the fact of lack of knowledge of tropEd.
  - Other ways to connect with students other than meetings during GA's should be encouraged! Making use of digital advantage and learnings during the pandemic for this.
  - Funding of 700 EUR per GA for students, unfortunately the tropEd budget does not allow more.
  - During GA's the idea of additional courses, educational workshops could be considered.
  - The idea of having something like a student register might have problems due to data protection laws.
  - Suggestion of also allowing newly graduated students to be part of the student representation body or even allowing other students in Master programs.
  - Student representation introduction document from 2017 needs to be updated - Miriam Müller volunteers to do so. The document then to be discussed during the next GA.
  - tropEd newsletter to be forwarded to the students of the different institutions
  - Suggestions by RR to contact a student of his who has created a platform for all sorts of exchange that could be of use for tropEd students
  - Different institutions have different roles which can influence the perception of students within those institutions
- Program for student satellite meeting will be issued and forwarded to the network.
  - Document for student representation from 2017 will be updated.

## Concluding session (Chair: Günter Fröschl)

**GA in september 2022 will be hosted by BNITM in Hamburg** (hybrid meeting) from **September 22-24, 2022**

### GAs 2023:

- February GA 2023 will be online again
- Other locations to be determined

Volunteers for the other two remaining:

Ralf Weigl: Witten Herdecke in June 2023, proposed dates: ***either June 15-17 or June 22-24***

Nuria Casamitjana: Barcelona in September 2023, proposed dates: ***either September 21-23 or September 28-30***

Doodle will be sent out to all institutions

**Upcoming Events (NC):**

- CUGH's 14th annual Global Health Conference in Washington DC on April 14-16, 2023
- No news for ECTMIH 2023!
- LERU-EGHRIN Global Health Town Hall Meeting: Healthy people, healthy societies: an integrated approach in Barcelona from June 13-14, 2022

Should sessions during GA's (hybrid) stay as short as with the current GA? Taken the problem of online fatigue into account?

- Shorter sessions will discourage people to actually coming in-person
- Some sessions e.g. the scientific meeting can be enlarged.
- Combinations of shorter sessions in the morning e.g. with larger sessions in the afternoon / or further sessions for in-person participants / Zoom sessions for online participants can be considered.
- Working group / topic on decolonizing Global Health curricula might be highly interesting.

Preliminary agenda for Hamburg GA is being discussed

Closing remarks by Alberto Matteelli

Closing remarks by Dickson Lwetojiera and Kafuruki Shubis