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# The Department of International Health

Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Sciences,
Maastricht University,
The Netherlands

"Education and Research in European Public Health"



# Mission of the Department

There is a need for a Department of International Health at FHML that has a European outlook which originates from the content of the key-activities of the European Union. The "Europe" of the department, however, is not limited to the Member States of the EU, the department's activities cover the WHO-EURO region.

INTHEALTH influences national, transnational, and European policy and institutes taking advantage of the geographical situation of Maastricht in a euregional setting. Its education and research place local, regional, and national health developments into a wider European and global perspective.

Next to its educational and research activities, the department is active in European projects which are related to education and research in health.

The department is leading in and outside the faculty in conceptualizing the European perspective towards health.

The following key research themes have been identified:

- Public Health in Europe
- European Public Health
- Global Health Europe

These are moderated by the processes of:

- Europeanization
- European Integration

"Public Health in Europe" describes the different Health Systems in Europe, analyses their performance and tries to find best practice solutions.

"European Public Health" concentrates on European solutions of health problems which involve several Member States or are cross cutting issue.

"Global Health Europe" looks at Europe a zone that has to interact with the outside world.

Departing from the Department's rationale and main objectives the future development of INTHEALTH is proposed to be guided by the concept of "Europeanization" and "European Integration" in Public Health.

While European Integration describes the process of integrating states into the European Union, Europeanization offers the possibility to study the development of institutions of governance at the European level.

### Education

# **BSc in European Public Health**

As Europe becomes more unified, Europeans are more often seeking healthcare across borders and national health policies are becoming increasingly harmonised. The bachelor's programme in European Public Health is for students who want to gain a holistic understanding of national and European healthcare systems.

The first programme of its kind, European Public Health bridges the gap between health sciences and EU and national healthcare policies. From the start, the education will resemble an international working environment, requiring collaboration with a diverse range of students from all over the world. Students work in small groups, applying their knowledge to the latest, real-world international public health issues. European Public Health after all is about prolonging life, preventing disease, protecting health and promoting healthy living for all Europeans.

European Public Health is a three-year programme taught in English.

# MSc in European Public Health

The Master of Science in European Public Health provides students with the background and skills to analyse public health systems throughout Europe, and to prepare, support and monitor high-level decision-making processes in European institutions, in government, and in public and private organisations. Students will be equipped with the innovative research methods, analytical tools and management instruments needed to operate effectively in policymaking and development at organisational, regional, EU-regional, national and European levels.

The programme will help students to develop the skills and knowledge to:

- compare health and healthcare in various European settings
- · search for and identify best practices
- foster the transfer of best practices
- advise on the innovation and implementation of best practices in new situations.

This one-year research and policy oriented programme is taught in English.

### Research

The research activities of the Department of International health are embedded in the program "Comparative Health" within CAPHRI. The research vision can be summarised in the following mission statement that was developed by all INTHEALTH staff during a participatory group process:

We take interdisciplinary perspectives on health in the process of European Integration and Europeanisation.

### Recent research projects

European Union Health Policy:

- The use of Structural Funds for Health in the European Union (Health Equity 2020)
- Patients Rights in the European Union (PreMAx)
- Capacities for Public Health in Europe (PH-Cap)

Health Literacy in Europe:

- The European Health Literacy Survey (HLS-EU)
- Health Literacy in Diabetes Care (Diabetes Literacy)

Child Health in Europe:

- Childhood accident report cards on European regional level (TACTICS)
- 'Best' Child Primary Health Care (MOCHA)

Leaders for European Public Health - Life Long Learning for public health professionals (LePHIE)

Public Health in South East Europe: "The SEE Public Health Research Network"

Ethics in European and International Health Policy