



European Commission



# Development for health: preliminary qualitative results from a Jean Monnet Module

A. Lafranconi<sup>1\*</sup>, V.S. Gordeev<sup>2</sup>

1. Università Milano Bicocca (Jean Monnet Module Coordinator) 2. London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

**Background:** “Development for health: the EU role on health explained to students of health-related professions” (DEV4H) is an ongoing public health module carried out at the University of Milano-Bicocca during 2016-2019. It has been financed by the European Agency on Education (EACEA) under Erasmus+ Programme, Jean Monnet Activities.

**Structure:** The module has three parallel tiers:

- **1<sup>st</sup> tier** consists of lectures delivered mostly by the young experts in the field of environmental health (1<sup>st</sup> year), nutrition (2<sup>nd</sup> year) and healthcare services (3<sup>rd</sup> year): the EU has legal competence in these health-related fields, and their analysis enables students to have a structured approach, applicable to other issues of the legal EU competence. Frontal lectures, non-formal peer to peer learning sessions and practical activities are scheduled within the framework of a summer school open to medical students and students of health-related professions.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> tier** focuses on research. In light of DG Research, efforts to address societal challenges and research options given to the summer school participants will focus on societal questions. Open data will be analyzed in aggregate form.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> tier** fosters connections between the participants and the external environment (other universities, NGOs and civil society): during the course, students are asked to design a public health policy to be shared with academics, health policy makers and civil society. Internships in prestigious institutions, to which experts are affiliated, will be offered.

## Primary results: the Faculty point of view

EACEA identified strength	Faculty point of view
Introduction of EU angle into public health curricula	«It represents a chance to teach undercovered subjects, which are nevertheless part of our competences.»  «We involved more experienced/senior professors, to give technical insights on nutrition and environmental health. Their lectures on average scored the highest. It was challenging for them to insert an European view in their topics.»
Basic knowledge of relevant European policy and legal framework	«It was hard to motivate the students to learn institutional and legal concepts.»
Opportunity for junior researchers to lead a new innovative module	«We had to create everything, from frontal lectures to labs, from workshops to policy cafés!»
Variety of topics according to editions	«It was the hardest part of the programme!»
Opportunity to host visiting lecturers from other European universities and institutions	«We had four visiting lecturers, from universities (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Maastricht University) and institutions (United Nations, European Commission).»
Opportunity to engage with the civil society	«We organized workshops with Altroconsumo / BEUC.»

## Preliminary results: the students' point of view

EACEA identified strength	Students' point of view
Introduction of EU angle into public health curricula	«This is the first course with a direct link to Europe and policy making.»
Basic knowledge of relevant European policy and legal framework	«Policy case studies were quite useful. Legal aspects are more vague and somehow boring.»
Opportunity students to get exposed to new forms of learning	«On the second year, we had to prepare a poster to evaluate the scientific aspects and the policy impacts of Horizon 2020-funded projects. We felt overwhelmed and most of us failed in the assignment. A poster is more difficult than a PowerPoint, and science is more difficult than policy.»
Variety of topics according to editions	«I attended both years. Topics and group works were different, making the module quite attractive.»
Opportunity to host visiting lecturers from other European universities and institutions	«During the second year of the course, I realised that I have a soft spot for environmental health. I asked the faculty for support to have an internship at a European Institution. In October 2018, for three months, I will be interning at WHO Bonn offices on Environmental Health. I am extremely happy and looking forward to the on-field learning experience in European policies.»
Opportunity to engage with the civil society	«I didn't expect Altroconsumo / BEUC to be such an organized identity. Actually, I never thought of a civil society organization in that way. I was familiar with health-related NGOs, and I didn't know that something like BEUC even existed!»

## Main references

- [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/jean-monnet\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/actions/jean-monnet_en)
- <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/cplus-project-details/#project/77e54b5d-c141-4451-a8c3-15719ca3df78>
- <http://www.dev4h.medicina.unimib.it/>

**Conclusion and follow-up:** Activities will be carried out until 2019 and evaluations will take place upon completion of all modules.

**Expected impact:** increased students' knowledge of EU legal policies and competences, knowledge transfer, career coaching, extended networking possibilities, student mobility, content improvement of the current University modules.

\*Contact details



alessandra.lafranconi@unimib.it  
Dr Alessandra Lafranconi  
Jean Monnet Professor in Public Health  
School of Medicine and Surgery  
University of Milano Bicocca