



International Health Regulations (IHR) Summer School

IHR SuS

Strengthening the IHR Core Capacities to Improve Preparedness and Response to Health Crises Caused by Infectious Diseases

Duration

2016–2021

Budget/year

approx. 96,000 EUR

Partner countries

Variable

Challenges addressed by the project

The International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) provide a framework, ratified by 196 member states, for the coordination and management of events that may pose an international threat to public health. They adopt an all-hazards approach and explicitly define core capacities for different levels of health care that all countries must meet in order to be prepared for the occurrence of health hazards. The IHR Summer School adopts this approach. Its aim is to improve IHR core capacities in infectious disease surveillance and alert and response systems in interested partner countries.

Objectives

Overall objective: By strengthening the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), the IHR Summer School serves to improve preparedness for and more effective management of health hazards of biological origin.

Specific objectives

- » IHR core capacities of interested partner countries with regards to infectious disease surveillance
- » Improve early warning and response systems
- » Promote national and regional networks
- » Encourage knowledge sharing and transfer, thereby fulfilling the IHR's commitment to assist partner countries

Overview of activities

The 5-day IHR Summer School is an interactive, needs-based course on IHR core capacities that takes place annually in Berlin. The first Summer School was held from the 4th to the 7th July 2017 with 23 participants from Southeast European countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia). The second one took place from the 25th to the 29th June 2018 with 23 participants from African countries with whom the RKI cooperates in the framework of international projects (Burkina Faso, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia). In 2019, the IHR Summer School took place with 21 new participants from Southeast Europe (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia) from the 2nd to the 6th September. The 2020 IHR Summer School, planned to include participants from African partner countries, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On the basis of concrete examples from the participating



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Moderated group discussions for exchange on
country experiences, 2017 (Photo ©Schnartendorff)



Excursion to the Port of Hamburg to exchange on
Point of Entry capacities, 2018 (Photo ©Halm)



Group work during the IHR Summer School, 2019
(Photo ©Schnartendorff)



Excursion to Hamburg harbour to exchange on
routine and emergency core capacities, 2019
(Photo ©Püschel)

countries, the IHR Summer School addresses various reporting channels and procedures in the areas of infectious disease surveillance, outbreak management and points of entry (e.g. ports and airports). Another focus is the new WHO monitoring and evaluation framework, but also networking and the interaction with other sectors.

Partner institutions

National Public Health Institutes and Ministries of Health in partner countries (more than 15 institutions)

Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute

Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology

Unit 38 | Unit for Crisis Management, Outbreak Investigations and
Training Programmes

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