

RESCAP-MED SECOND NEWSLETTER



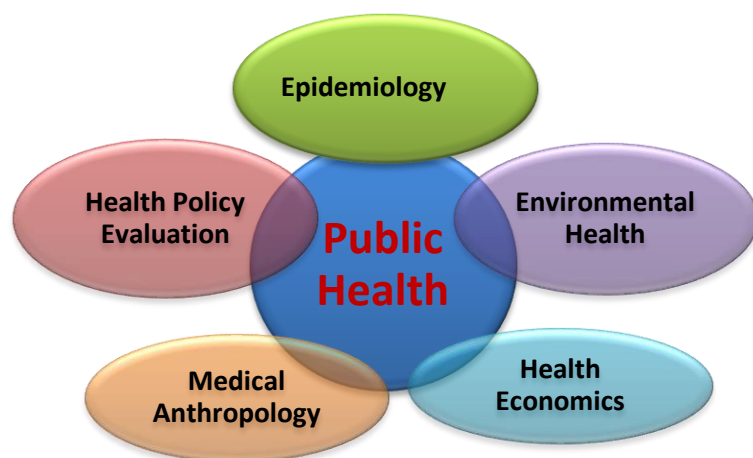
What is RESCAP-MED?	02
The RESCAP-MED second PMC meeting	03
Training needs assessment	04-05
Economic Evaluation Workshop	06
Upcoming events	07
Web-based learning	08
Istanbul Symposium	09
The visiting fellowship programme	10
Sustainability of programme	11

What is RESCAP-MED?

RESCAP-MED aims to build research capacity for public health in countries around the eastern and southern Mediterranean. Its purpose is to develop research skills for the challenge of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their social determinants: specifically the skills to address the burden of cardiovascular diseases (CVD), diabetes, and cancer.

RESCAP-MED links 11 partners. Six of these are academic institutions around the Mediterranean: Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Four are academic institutions within the EU (in the UK and Ireland) and one is an international organization: the WHO East Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO). RESCAP-MED is funded by the European Commission for three years (2012-2014).

RESCAP-MED aims to create a Mediterranean regional network for NCD researchers, in five key public health disciplines: epidemiology, health economics, environmental health, medical anthropology, and health policy evaluation.



RESCAP-MED Website

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/rescap-med/>

The RESCAP-MED second PMC meeting

**The RESCAP-MED second
PMC meeting was held in
Izmir, Turkey during 22nd
and 23rd January 2013.**

The leaders of Work Packages
(WP) as well as Project
Management Committee
(PMC) attended the meeting.

During this meeting, the project framework was developed and finalised. The partners developed and agreed on common guidelines to be adopted for conducting the capacity building in the six study countries, liaising with all partners. Based on the needs assessment done by WP3 team the guideline for workshops and fellowships has been developed liaising with all partners.

The RESCAP-MED team would like to thank Dr Gojka Roglic for her contribution to the project over the last year, and welcome Dr Heidar Abu-Ghosh as the new Chair of the ProMAC.



Training needs assessment



Niveen Abu Rmeileh PhD, MPH A Research Fellow of Statistical Epidemiology and the Coordinator of the Epidemiology Unit at the Institute of Community and Public Health, Birzeit University. Her research interest is focused on epidemiology of chronic diseases, reproductive health and psychometrics. Dr. Abu-Rmeileh is a member of several national committees seeking to reform and rationalize the Palestinian health care system, including the 'Health Information System Thematic Group, the 'Cancer Control National Committee', and the 'National Population Forum'.

The training needs assessment was led by the Palestinian team to identify priority training needs related to NCDs in partner countries, searching for commonalities and differences and relating them to available services and resources.

The training needs assessment was based on three phases:

- ✚ Mapping health institutions involved in health related research
- ✚ Assessing young researcher training needs (individual level)

- ✚ Assessing the institutional context and needs.

A country mapping for health institutions involved in health related research was completed in the six partner countries (Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, oPt, Tunisia and Turkey) using a tool developed by the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) that was customized for the RESCAP-MED purposes. The mapping phase took place between March and April 2012.

The training needs assessment survey targeted young researchers with bachelor, master, and PhD degrees with various years of experience in health related research. Medical doctors and specialists were also represented in the participating group. The survey took place between June and August 2012. The assessment focused on exploring the participants' current standing in terms of skills, knowledge, abilities, and research in selected disciplines.

Training needs assessment



Rula Ghandour BPharm, MPH An Assistant Researcher at the Institute of Community and Public Health –Birzeit University since 2007. A pharmacist by training. Awarded her Masters in Public Health from the Birzeit University 2007. Her research experience included pharmacoepidemiology, reproductive health and child's health. Currently she is focusing on the epidemiology of non communicable disease mainly cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

The highest reported training need was health economics in all countries. Health policy ranked second in the oPt, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia but third in Turkey where the second rank was environmental training needs. Epidemiology and medical anthropology were ranked as fourth and fifth in all countries.

In-depth interviews were conducted with key informants in each country to assess the institutional need. The interviews took place mid September 2012. The key informants noted that basic research skills are lacking at the national level. It was evident that there is both a high and variable need in different topics related to NCDs research in all participating countries.

RESCAP-MED is aiming to contribute to bridging the identified gap between need and availability through an ambitious training program that combines short courses, fellowships, and e-learning components.

Economic Evaluation Workshop

EMRO/EGYPT, 16 – 18 DECEMBER 2012

A three-day Capacity Building Workshop was organized by WHO-EMRO to introduce researchers from partner academic and research institutions in the RESCAP-MED project to the principles of Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes and its application as related to NCD prevention, surveillance and management. This was the first of a series of workshops aimed to build research capacities in the area of Economic Evaluation in the partner countries.

The purpose of the Workshop was to build national research capacities in the area of Economic Evaluation of health programmes.

The workshop covered the following topics:

- ✚ Principles of Economic Evaluation
- ✚ Types and features of Economic Evaluation; e.g., Cost-Effectiveness, Cost-Utility and Cost-Benefit Analyses
- ✚ Country-applications of Economic Evaluation to aid priority setting and encourage immediate action to deliver an effective, realistic and affordable package of interventions and services for people with NCDs.



List of Participants

JORDAN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mohammed Liswi • Dr Sheren Batayneh • Dr Nader Tashtoush 	TUNISIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ali Mrabet • Dr Wafa Aissi • Dr Afef Skhiri 	TURKEY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Duygu İşlek • Dr Mahmut Yardım • Dr Sabanur Çavdar
LEBANON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mona Osman • Dr Ghada Farhat 	PALESTINE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Rula Ghandour • Ms Randa Ranttissi 	UNITED KINGDOM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Shahaduz Zaman
Facilitators		
Dr Awad Mataria	Technical Officer, Health Economics, Legislation and Ethics	
Dr Kaan Sözmen	Temporary Adviser	

Upcoming events

Professor Yousef Khader



Dr Awad Mataria



Topic	Date	Venue
Istanbul Symposium	May 6-7 2013	Istanbul
Health Policy Workshop	June 2013	Jordan
1st Writing Workshop	Sept 2013	Dublin
Medical Anthropology	Nov 2013	Beirut
Environmental Health	March 2014	Tunis
3 rd PMC	April 2014	Jordan
2 nd Writing Workshop	Link to next PMC	Jordan
Epidemiology	May 2014	Izmir
Beirut Symposium	October 2014	Beirut

A key purpose of **RESCAP-MED** is to strengthen regional South-South cooperation in building research capacity on the selected NCDs

Web-based learning



Polly Basak, NETPH Coordinator. A Research Project Manager at St Georges, University of London. Following a BSc degree at the University College London and a MSc at the University of Oxford, Polly has worked as a Researcher on a number of academic projects specialising in areas including smallpox eradication, child development, refugee health and pandemic influenza. In particular, at the University of Hertfordshire, Polly managed and edited the European Public Health Law Network as part of an EC funded project across 32 European states.

A survey to assess prior familiarity with web-based learning, reviewing existing relevant literature, and websites with web-based learning materials, and developing a framework for delivering e-learning resources was performed.

To assess web-based behaviour amongst early career specialists a questionnaire was designed and distributed by partners in Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and Tunisia. A total 133 responses have been received and the results are currently being analysed.

An extensive e-learning and literature search was undertaken to identify relevant literature and online resources connected to public health in the

RESCAP-MED regions. The results and findings will be submitted for publication.

The e-learning website, **NETPH (the North African, Eastern Mediterranean, and Turkey Public Health)** network is currently in its final stages of development.

The network contains the following pages: Home, About, RESCAP-MED Project, News, Events, Features, Links and Publications. We have received contributions from project partners and these will appear on the front page of the website.

To coincide with the upcoming launch of the NETPH network we are pleased to announce that a new twitter site has been set up:

[**https://twitter.com/NETPHN**](https://twitter.com/NETPHN)

Twitter followers are invited to join us for public health news and updates in North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Turkey. In addition, our facebook group, '**the Eastern Mediterranean Network for NCD Research**' is now publically accessible on the internet.

Istanbul Symposium



Yucel Demiral MD, PHD A medical doctor and has a PhD in Occupational Health in Dokuz Eylul University, Izmir, Turkey. Currently he is an associate professor in Dokuz Eylul University, Medical Faculty, Department of Public Health. He served as National Secretary for Turkey in International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) between 2000 and 2012. He worked in different national and international projects including WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, Employment Conditions Knowledge Network (EMCONET). His research activities focused on psychosocial work environment, cardiovascular diseases and inequalities in health

RESCAP-MED International Symposium on Social Determinants of NCDs in Mediterranean Countries, Istanbul, May 6-7, 2013.

The symposium seeks to share knowledge on the global status of inequalities in health and how inequalities affect different population groups; how to measure those differences, and how this knowledge may help to identify and promote effective policies and institutional changes to reduce health inequalities derived from these social factors.

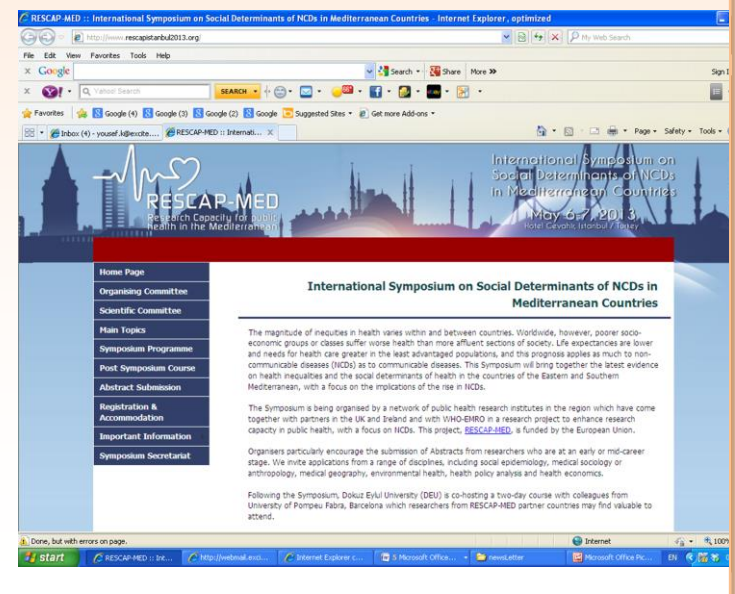
With this regards there will be keynote lectures on fundamental information on social determinants of health. Employment and gender related inequalities will be accounted for the in-depth review. The oral

and poster paper sessions will provide up-to date research agenda in the field. The special country profile reports will provide practical information in the partner countries. Younger researchers who are interested in social determinants of health and NCDs are one of the main target groups of the symposium.

Following the symposium, a two-day course entitled “Social Determinants and Health Inequalities: An introduction” will be organized with the collaboration with International Research Group on Inequalities Health in University of Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (GREDS).

All relevant information about the symposium and the post symposium course are found at the symposium website:

<http://www.rescapistanbul2013.org/>



The visiting fellowship programme

The visiting fellowship programme exists to enable new skills and knowledge to be acquired by researchers within the Mediterranean partner institutions, over a longer period than is possible through workshops. Fellowships will cater for those early in their research career or those at a mid-career stage. Fellowships are intended to:

- ✚ involve exchanges of personnel both for mentoring as an independent researcher and for pursuing research collaborations
- ✚ operate on both a south-south and south-north basis

The RESCAP-MED Fellowship Programme Application form, details on host institutions and other information are available on the RESCAP-MED website

<http://research.ncl.ac.uk/rescap-med/activities/fellowships/>

Host institutions and types of fellowships

Country (centre)	Hosts and expertise	Type of fellowship can host
Turkey (DOKUZ EYLUL UNIVERSITY)	3 named; 2 epidemiology, 1 health policy	Training & research & paper writing
UK (SGU London)	3 named; respiratory epidemiology, CVD epidemiology and physical activity	Mainly research based (but with some training from June 2013 onwards) & paper writing. Specific details on certain projects provided
UK (Liverpool)	2 named (SC and MOF); Epidemiology, public health, modeling and policy evaluation	Training in research & paper writing, around MedCHAMPS, IMPACT models and writing of papers for these.
Jordan (Jordan University of Science and Technology)	4 named; 2 epidemiology; 2 Biostatistics	Run a master programme, support for training in epidemiologic methods and statistical analysis, research and paper writing.
Ireland (TCD)	KB; CVD epidemiology, statistics, linked databases. Also Pharmacoeconomics available.	Training and research (epidemiologic models, prescribing, statistics) & paper writing
Newcastle University	Medical Anthropology, Health Policy, Qualitative research methods.	Training, research, paper writing

Sustainability of Programme



Wasim Maziak, MD, PhD A Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology, Florida International University (Miami). He is also the founder and director of the Syrian Center for Tobacco studies, a pioneer research and capacity building institution in the Arab World. His research focus is on cardiovascular disease risk factors within Arab societies, and has been amongst the pioneers to study the emerging risk of waterpipe smoking. He has more than 100 peer reviewed publications and trained scores of public health researchers in Syria and the Arab World.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/100218610103673/?fref=ts>

Search for people, places and things

Rada Al-gaud Find Friends Home

Eastern Mediterranean Network for NCD Research

About Events Photos Files Cancel Request

Open Group 176 members

This network is to suport NCD research and researchers in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

RECENT POSTS

Adam Coutts
<http://blogs.aljazeera.com/topic/syria/world-health-organisation-says-typhoid-has-broken-out-rebel-held-eastern-syria>

satire m at

World Health Organisation says Typhoid has broken out in rebel-held eastern Syria - Al Jazeera Blog
blogs.aljazeera.com

World Health Organisation says Typhoid has broken out in rebel-held eastern Syria

Share Tuesday at 8:19pm near Beirut, Beyrouth

2 people like this. Seen by 24

Adam Coutts
[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(13\)60265-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(13)60265-2/fulltext)