

OBSERVATORY VENICE SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

What: Health Security: from public health to strengthening health systems

The Observatory Venice Summer School 2023 is a short, intensive course – a week of learning, interacting and debating, and a chance to share experiences with other policymakers, planners, and professional. It will help participants to understand and improve Health Security.

When: Sunday 23 to Saturday 29 July 2023

The school starts on Sunday afternoon (5 pm) and ends on Friday 28 July with an evening of celebration. Departure day Saturday 29 July.

Where: The course takes place ‘live’ in Venice and cannot be followed online.

Who: The course is aimed at policy makers at national, regional and local level; those responsible for alert and preparedness systems; managers at primary, secondary and tertiary health care level; civil protection officials and all those with responsibilities for addressing health security in general and pandemic preparedness and response in particular.

Rationale and focus: How to increase health security and how to include health security when preparing and responding to threats are increasingly important concerns at European and global level. These key questions are currently discussed across Europe and beyond and in a range of settings. The course will therefore address what health security is and how it affects the different parts of health systems and different health and related infrastructures. It will explore the implications for national health systems of new European and International Legislation and look at the themes of preparedness, response, and resilience. It will also give participants the opportunity to work on how to strengthen health systems (in their public health and health care capacities) to face threats beyond pandemics.

Content: The course will include:

- An introduction to the new EU health security framework: the regulation on serious cross-border threats to health, Directive on critical entities, Regulations of new mandates of ECDC and EMA
- A review of relevant international legislation: International Health Regulations and International Pandemic Treaty
- The role of countries, supranational and international bodies
- An exchange of best practices: How countries tackle the challenges of preparedness and response using the different health systems functions to structure understanding, in particular considering lessons learnt from COVID-19
- From surveillance to response: the health security ‘spectrum’ from public health institutions through primary health care to hospitals
- Preparing for the unforeseen
- The role of the health work force
- One health, health in all policies and global health: what is behind those concepts?

Approach: The six-day ‘live’ course includes formal teaching and has at its core the practical experiences of participants. A highly participative approach and group work that cut across themes, participant presentations, round tables and panel discussions allow real engagement. The course mobilizes the latest evidence and a multidisciplinary team of experts with insights into this complex

area and is an opportunity to share perspectives with and gain insights from key international organizations including the European Commission, ECDC and WHO. The course follows in the Summer School tradition, which fosters evidence-based policymaking and encourages a European debate on health policy by raising key issues, sharing learning and building lasting networks.

Accreditation: The Summer School applies to the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and it is expected that participation will count towards ongoing professional development in all EU Member States.

Organization: The Summer School is organized by the **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies**, the **Veneto Region of Italy**, the **European Commission** and **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

Applying: The Summer School is primarily aimed at senior to mid-level policymakers although more junior professionals will be considered. All participants should be working in a decision-making or advisory function in a governmental and non-governmental context – such as ministries, (public) health institutes, regulatory or funding bodies, provider, and professional associations – that focus on health security policy in general or outbreak-related preparedness and response management at a regional, national or European level. .

Applications are welcome from all 53 WHO European Region Member States and the programme will be tailored, as far as is possible, to the backgrounds of participants. If places allow, participants from outside the region will be considered.

Potential participants are **requested to apply by submitting their CV, a photo and the brief application form**. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2023.

The cost of **€ 2,260** (teaching, 6 nights' accommodation, meals, transfer from/to the Marco Polo International airport on Sunday 23 and Saturday 29 July 2023, public transport from/to the island-Venice, high-level panel and social programme included).

Preparation:

- The course involves only limited preparation
- All materials will be available in due course at www.theobservatorysummerschool.org.

The **European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies** supports and promotes evidence-informed health policymaking through the comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe and beyond. It is a WHO-hosted partnership that includes a range of partners, including national governments and authorities (Austria, Belgium, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Veneto Region of Italy and the French National Union of Health Insurance Funds), international organisations (the WHO Regional Office for Europe, European Commission), other public health organisations (The Health Foundation) and academia (the London School of Economics and Political Science, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine).

The Observatory has three hubs based in Brussels (Secretariat), London (LSHTM & LSE) and Berlin (TUB).

The **European Commission** is the EU's executive body. It represents the interests of the European Union as a whole (not the interests of individual countries). The Commission is committed to make Europe a healthier, safer place, where citizens can be confident that their interests are protected. It has been a partner of the European Observatory since 2009 and is promoting and facilitating exchange of best practice, and the preparation of elements for periodic monitoring and evaluation.

The **Veneto Region** seeks to ensure that empirical evidence and analysis reaches national and regional stakeholders and policy-makers. It is involved in comparing health care systems across EU Member States. The Veneto Region is active in the area of cross-border health care and plays a leading role in the EU in research and policy development. The Veneto Region, which has been a partner of the European Observatory since 2004, is hosting the Summer School because it is committed to providing a European platform for political debate on health matters, linking regional authorities to the EU debate.

The **World Health Organization**, Division of Country Health Policies and Systems (CPS) aims to assist Member States assists countries with the design and implementation of appropriate health policies and systems to strengthen universal health coverage; advocates strengthening of public health leadership for people centred policies and focuses on building capacity for health systems innovation. The WHO EURO Office hosts the Observatory partnership. CPS and the Observatory work in close collaboration on a range of activities including the development of policy briefs and dialogues to support decision making and other knowledge-brokering initiatives.

For more information and regular updates on the programme and lecturers:

www.theobservatorysummerschool.org