

# Notes on IHOD Team Building Visit in Bukhara State Medical Institute

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*Meetings Dates: Thursday 23rd and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019*

## **Attendees:**

Prof. Mary Casey - IHOD Project Coordinator, UCD

Ms. Valerie Carbon - IHOD Project Administrator, UCD

Dr. Matluba Badritdinova

Ms. Mashura Atoeva

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The meetings spread over two days and took place between the UCD representatives and the Bukhara State Medical Institute (BSMI) staff members working on the Erasmus+ IHOD project. The following summary provides a comprehensive description and observations on the current situation in BSMI relating to the project's various aspects.

## Background information

Part of the morning was spent at an international student's conference. We were asked to give a short presentation about IHOD to introduce the cooperation between BSMI and the partners on the Erasmus + IHOD project. This was picked up and aired on regional TV later that day.

## Project Implementation

- ✓ Bukhara has set up a Local Operational Committee (LOC) for the IHOD project, it is chaired by Dr. Maksud Tairov and includes students representatives.
- ✓ There is a dedicated page to the IHOD project on the institute's website which is available in 3 languages:

<http://www.bsmi.uz/index.php/en/activities/international-relations/current-projects/1216-a-3>

<http://www.bsmi.uz/index.php/ru/devatelnost/mezhdunarodnye-otnosheniya/dejstvuyushchie-proekty/1215-a-2>

<http://www.bsmi.uz/index.php/uz/faoliyat/xalqaro-alogalar/xorij2/1212-a>

BSMI plans is to publish the news related with the project's activities on the institute website and on social media networks like Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BuxMI/>

- ✓ The funds have been received to pay for staff costs. The equipment was discussed with the IHOD project manager and agreed on.

### Curriculum Development

- ✓ The staffs involved in the project are developing skills on information collection and comparative analysis.
- ✓ There doesn't seem to be awareness around curriculum development models but the upcoming Train the Trainer visit facilitated by UCD will be cover this topic thoroughly.
- ✓ BSMI local modules have specified Learning Outcomes and are based on standardised module templates. There are procedures in place for accreditation locally.
- ✓ Masters (Masters Students are not called students) are involved in the local curriculum development process.
- ✓ The participants to the project's teaching and learning activities are identified trying to the best possible a gender equality at 50/50. The average age group is 30-40 years old. They have more than 5 years' experience in teaching and are part of the Department of Internal Diseases and Endocrinology or the International Department or have a teaching chair in Public Health.
- ✓ The chosen IHOD modules will be implemented and taught in Master's degree programme and used for third course bachelor's degree programmes.

### Impact at Individual Level

- ✓ IHOD contributes to the career development of the local HEI staff by improving their competences through team work locally and globally, enhancing their knowledge in project management, enabling them to collaborate with partner universities to conduct scientific projects and by introducing new methods of teaching.
- ✓ The BSMI team is expecting IHOD to provide them with improved skills in terms of Communication, Management, Research and speaking the English language.
- ✓ The involvement of the HEI staff in international cooperation, activities and the acceptance of new teaching tools has brought the staff in BSMI an opportunity to "think outside the box", a template to create new modules and to take a greater sense of responsibility when approaching tasks.

### Impact at Institutional Level

- ✓ As Uzbekistan is preparing to implement a credit module system, the project serves as a very good preparation.
- ✓ The staff involved in the project is bringing back to the institution some new management and teaching methods.

- ✓ The image of BSMI is improved by taking part in IHOD and the outlook of staff and students returning from study tours changes.
- ✓ Relations between BSMI and Tashkent Medical Academy (TMA) have been intensive throughout the project and close ties were made with the project's partners in Russia, Lithuania, Spain and Ireland. As a result, joint research activities have been undertaken and a book will be published in co-authorship with Kaunas University. Finally, outside the IHOD project, they also co-organise and attend joint conferences and seminars.
- ✓ At local level, IHOD enabled BSMI to gain some credits in the indicator system prepared by the centre of control of the quality of education. It increased the ranking of the institute among HEIs in Uzbekistan and subsequently the number of visits by foreign specialists. It also generated exposure on local TV when a snippet of the short presentation made by UCD representatives at the International Students Conference was aired.
- ✓ To improve the English speaking abilities of the staff and students on the project, special internal trainings were organised with the English Language Department of the institute.

#### Impact on the HEI Sector

- ✓ The following 3 IHOD modules will be integrated with existing programmes in Public Health Master Degree programme but 10 modules are relevant:
  1. Health Informatics & Global Health
  2. Epidemiology & Chronic Disease
  3. Leadership & Management
- ✓ Accreditation is envisaged.
- ✓ The project us bringing about some change in the medical culture.

#### Impact on the Society as a Whole

- ✓ The project is expected to participate in increasing the life expectancy of the population and decreasing the government's expenses for healthcare.
- ✓ Already several spinoffs have emerged from the project, the collaboration on publishing a book, a local television appearance, and two double Masters with Moscow and Kazan universities.
- ✓ Stakeholders are showing some willingness in participating in similar projects as it gives them the opportunity to track current developments in the field. Furthermore, employers have a keen interest in students who trained based on new modules.
- ✓ The project will contribute towards life-long learning programmes and Continuous Professional Development programmes.

#### Sustainability

- ✓ BSMI assisted the project in the initial stages in making contacts with different stakeholders, helping to conduct a survey and issuing institutional orders to facilitate the work carried out by the project.
- ✓ Acquiring some distance learning resources will greatly benefit the sustainability of the project's results.

#### Partnership and Cooperation

- ✓ The Institute has an important role in the project and is actively involved in it. It is participating in the elaboration of the module and is in contact with all partners of the project.
- ✓ The LOC's staffs are very motivated and eager to learn, their participation enables them to create new links and networks which are beneficial for their career. They will also be involved in the implementation phase of the project.
- ✓ The LOC's team feels that their needs are taken in consideration by the project management teams.

#### Relevance

- ✓ The project's objective supports the medical Masters, the General Practitioners and the population in terms of promoting Prevention and raising awareness around risks factors.
- ✓ Health strategies are being implemented: a Public Health policy in health insurance will be introduced in 2021.
- ✓ There is no MSc in Public Health at the moment, BSMI is planning to create one - the project offers the best base to do so.
- ✓ As BSMI is working towards accreditation, being involved in the project aligns them with EU policy objectives, ECTS, Bologna process and Quality Assurance activities.
- ✓ IHOD contributes to the development of Public Health, social sustainability by improving the understanding of the principles of working with patients with chronic diseases.

#### CONCLUSION

BSMI's level of interest, engagement and commitment to the project is good. The IHOD local project team will benefit from a stronger communication between all members of the LOC and the TMA LOC. An update of the Team Drive's content is awaited.