

The Master in International Health of Parma University: a possible model of sanitary cooperation with developing Countries

Lorella Franzoni^{1*}, Sandro Contini*, Elisa Dallatana*, Carlotta Valesi* and Leopoldo Sarli*

¹Dip. di Scienze Biomediche, Biotecnologiche e Traslazionali – S.Bi.Bi.T.

*Centro Universitario per la Cooperazione Internazionale (CUCI) – Università degli Studi di Parma

The Master in “International Health and Medicine for Cooperation with Developing Countries” was established by CUCI, based on the evaluation that many health facilities and hospitals in the low-middle income Countries are not properly equipped to face daily emergencies.

The objective of the Master’s program is to train doctors with multi-sector skills, necessary to operate in healthcare ambulatories, hospitals and medical districts, characterized by poor infrastructures and management systems, that are typical in areas of high-poverty, facing cases of emergencies of various entities.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is funding a number of scholarships for the best candidates classified in the final selection rating and residing in African Countries. The Course is also open to Italians who wish to extend their professional skills in order to work in resource-constrained settings.

The Master course lasts one year and includes lectures, seminars, videoconferencing and internships both at the University Hospital of Parma and in other Structures / Laboratories. The final work includes a scientific section and a project work for future collaboration with the Countries from which the doctors come from.

Besides the various fields of medicine, other important themes are addressed in the course, like guidelines for hospital managements, health cooperation, development, prevention strategies.

Why this Master could be a model of sanitary cooperation? The WHO and the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research provide scientific support and they are involved in the teaching programme; the physicians formed in the course, once back in their Countries, are expected to facilitate training of the local staff (physicians, nurses and auxiliary personnel) and to continue collaboration; the project allows strengthening of partnerships with other Universities, Ministries, local and international Associations, NGO.

The feedback of the participants who have attended the previous editions will also be discussed.