



Summary of the 7th International Summer School “Occupational Health Crossing Borders”

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The summer school offered by the Unit for Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology & Net Teaching of the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine (ISSOEM) of the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) was a good experience and opportunity to know very important aspects of the development of Occupational Safety and Health and interchange OSH experiences with other colleagues from different countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The summer course lasted two weeks in Munich, Germany. In this course participated 27 professionals with high OSH qualifications from Bosnia, Romania, Greece, Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, India, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile and Peru. Our participation was supported by the Center for International Health (CIH) and by the DAAD.

The first day of the course began with the welcome and introduction of the program by Professor Dr. Nowak and Professor Dr. Radon, who are the heads of the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational Social and Environmental Medicine and the Unit for Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology & Net Teaching, respectively. Then, we made small groups in order to meet all our classmates and to break the ice. After that we received an introduction to the European and Bavarian Culture which was very helpful to understand the cultural context and to know some important data for enjoying our study trip.



The difference with the other Summer School in which I took part in Latin America as a master student of the Master International Occupational Safety and Health of the LMU, is that this course was carried out in the buildings of the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine of the LMU, which allowed us to know their facilities and the research work being done in the field of OSH. This was possible thanks to the tour and hands-on session in the ISSOEM that were part of the program. It was a great/good experience for me which allowed me to broaden my perspective about how to work in prevention of occupational diseases.

As a part of the course, we had to present a poster related to the OSH system in our country. But, before that, we had the presentation of the Social System in Germany. I consider this was useful in order to have a critical analysis of the differences of each OSH system from the different countries. In that context we could take more advantage of the poster presentations.

One of the most exciting parts of the program for all OSH master students was the presentation of our study project carried out in our countries, because for some of us it was our first experience to deliver a presentation in English. Moreover, this was a good opportunity for getting a feedback from our tutors and classmates, who were very helpful for us in order to improve our future presentations.

In the following days, each master student started to work in the elaboration of a concept draft of a teaching intervention for our study project with our group, which was formed by two or three participants of the Summer School. The participation of our partners was very helpful to us because they supported us with their experiences and their good ideas while learning more about teaching methods.



In contrast with other Summer Schools carried out in Germany, we were very lucky because we could participate in the World Congress on Safety and Health in Frankfurt for almost 3 days. For me, this congress was useful to know and compare different aspects of OHS in the world, and also to interchange experiences with other colleagues from different countries. Additionally, the congress allowed me to know our level of making a poster as master students of LMU and put into practice everything that we learned in the mastery about analyzing posters. Now I know that I can evaluate the quality of scientific posters.

But not all was studying in the summer school. We had the opportunity to tour Munich city; to see the main buildings in the downtown and to know a little more about Munich history.

In conclusion, this summer school was very good and useful for our professional development, for improving OSH labor in our countries and for increasing our OSH networking.