

Certified Colposcopy and Cervical Cancer Prevention Course

➤ What is the Colposcopy and Cervical Cancer Prevention Course?

The Training Course in Colposcopy and Cervical Cancer Prevention in Eastern Europe and Central Asia is a multimodal training programme for clinical colposcopists, designed to build service providers' technical skills in colposcopy and case management of cervical cancer. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Federation of Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (IFCPC), and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) partnered to create this unique online programme, based on an assessment of the capacity needs of national health systems in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The program is a modified version of an existing IFCPC course, updated to reflect the Eastern European and Central Asian context and translated into Russian. Its ultimate goal is to build institutional capacity to strengthen cervical cancer prevention programmes throughout the region.

➤ Why is it necessary?

Cervical cancer is the only preventable cancer of the reproductive system, but because of a lack of regular screening and prevention activities, the mortality rate from cervical cancer is up to 10 times higher in Eastern Europe and Central Asia than it is in the European Union. More than 18,000 women of reproductive age die annually from the disease in the region, and 90 per cent of those cases could have been prevented. A 2014 UNFPA assessment found that the majority of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia lack organized cervical screening programmes – mostly due to capacity gaps.

➤ How does it work?

The six-month online training course is available in English and Russian, with the goal of creating a new generation of competent colposcopists and future colposcopy trainers in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region. The course consists of four modules. First, students gain theoretical knowledge through video lectures and assessments, and are shown new case images each week to build image recognition skills. Then, viewings of video-recorded case interviews help students learn clinical case management skills. Following the online component, students attend an accredited colposcopy trainer's clinic to perform 50 directly supervised cases, followed by 100 indirectly supervised cases. Finally, students will complete a clinical examination and successful trainees will receive a certificate from IFCPC-IARC.

In 2017, IFCPC provided programme licenses free of charge to 150 participants nominated by UNFPA's Eastern European and Central Asian country offices. Other interested parties can learn more about this course and register on IFCPC's website: <http://www.ifcpc.org/en/education/colposcopy-cervical-cancer-prevention-course>.

For more information, please contact:

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every pregnancy is wanted
every childbirth is safe
and every young person's
potential is fulfilled