



## Master Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health

### ➤ What is the Master Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health?

The Master Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is a comprehensive training programme that equips health-care providers and policymakers with the tools to integrate sexual and reproductive health into national action plans and training curricula. The programme, created by members of the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG) and distinguished faculty from leading medical institutions in Europe, describes best practices and guidelines for SRH management for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) regional context. Upon completion of the programme, participants are empowered to advocate for SRH priorities, create and implement SRH action plans, and develop training curricula to build capacity in the region.

### ➤ Why is it necessary?

The majority of countries in the EECA region approved the World Health Organization's *European Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health*, the goal of which is to accelerate progress towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health. But many countries in the region lack the technical expertise and human-resources capacity to achieve this goal. This training programme helps countries achieve progress towards universal access by providing concrete strategies for incorporating the crucial components of SRH – including regional priority issues such as maternal mortality, cervical cancer and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) – into national health systems, and for building providers' local capacity.

### ➤ How does it work?

The training package, available in English and Russian, consists of training modules, best practices and background literature, and a proposed course agenda that includes guidance for group working sessions. The six training modules address the full spectrum of SRH service provision – from assessing existing service gaps and unmet needs, through developing an action plan, to implementation and finally monitoring service provision. The curriculum also includes training strategies and curriculum plans to introduce and institutionalize SRH training into bachelor's or post-graduate medical education.

In 2017, UNFPA and distinguished European obstetrics and gynaecology faculty from EBCOG piloted the course programme for eight EECA countries. The package is available for adaptation and implementation at a national level by public health schools, universities and professional associations, with specific quality-assurance mechanisms advised by EBCOG.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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