



**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Eastern Europe Central Asia Regional Office (EECARO)**

**EBCOG/UNFPA Regional Master Class
Programme on Developing and Implementing
Sexual and Reproductive Health Plans and Programmes at the National Level**

**Sub-Regional Workshop for the South Caucasus and Turkey Cluster
Tbilisi, 18-20 July 2017**

Concept Note

Background and rationale:

Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is a priority for UNFPA's work in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. By assisting countries with technical and operational support for the development and implementation of evidence-informed policies, strategies and programmes in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), marked improvements in outcomes have been observed in the region. The key to this success is a multifaceted approach targeting quality of care, clinical governance, and national ownership of SRH strategy through policy dialogues, institutional capacity building, knowledge management and intercountry cooperation.

Universal access to SRH is a cornerstone of the comprehensive 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To accelerate progress on this target, UNFPA assists EECA countries in the development and implementation of evidence based, effective, impact-oriented SRH policies and programmes, following a human rights and life course based approach, and leveraging multisectoral and intercountry cooperation.

Guided by country priorities and principles of national ownership, UNFPA EECARO prioritized the development and institutionalisation of the regional SRH Master Classes for EECA countries. The training course was developed by a UNFPA EECARO partner, the European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (EBCOG), it is region tailored and incorporates international experiences and best practices compiled by leading European experts. The three-day training course is intended for current and future public health policy planners and implementers, decisions makers and managers and can be provided by universities, public health schools and research institutes to institutionalize the curriculum at the national level.

The purpose of the Regional Master Classes programme is to strengthen national institutional capacities and guide national experts on how to develop and implement evidence-based, cost-effective national action plans and strategies in SRH at the country level. After its full regional rollout, the programme will ensure that the sustainability criteria, quality standards of care, and human rights are fully embedded in national programmes in all EECA countries.

Applying the issue-based cluster approach to SRH, EECARO will pilot the programme in the countries of the South Caucasus and Turkey in 2017. The programme will be replicated in additional EECA countries in 2017-2018, thus contributing to south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation opportunities for EECA countries. After the cluster level roll outs the countries will be able to continue the training and institutionalise the training programmes at the national level.

The Sub-Regional Workshop for the South Caucasus and Turkey Cluster on 18-20 July 2017, in Tbilisi, Georgia will pilot the newly developed EBCOG/UNFPA Regional Master Classes programme on evidence-informed and rights-based action plans and programmes in Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Workshop Purpose and Participants:

The three-day Master Class will be attended by multisectoral teams consisting of trainers from universities and public health schools, policy advisors, healthcare planners, the officials of Ministries of Health and UNFPA staff from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. UNFPA COs are kindly requested to nominate the national team (4 national counterparts and one UNFPA staff member) from the government, academia and public health/training institutions, guided by:

- Country perspectives to roll out and institutionalise the master classes at the national level and the role of the respective institutions/experts in this process
- The dynamics of the development/ implementation of SRH actions plans by the countries and the role of the institutions/experts to be trained.
- It is highly recommended to nominate at least two trainers from the university, public health institute, professional society or the training center, which can be considered as a potential center for the national level roll out of the master classes.

The training will be provided by leading EBCOG experts in English, with simultaneous translation into Russian.

Participation of UNFPA staff from other clusters of EECA countries will be considered based on countries readiness to roll out and institutionalise the Master classes at the national level.

Workshop Outcomes:

The EBCOG/UNFPA Master Classes programme will build the holistic, comprehensive understanding of senior policy makers, experts and health managers on concepts and priorities around Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Rights in line with ICPD agenda resulting in:

- Countries' strengthened national commitments and institutional capacities towards achieving universal access to SRH services in line with 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- Strengthened national capacities to develop, implement and monitor comprehensive national SRH action plans and strategies;
- SRH priorities are mainstreamed in national programmes and development frameworks;
- Countries are prepared to participate in comprehensive national reporting on the implementation of national SRH strategies/action plans to the regional SRH frameworks to which they are signatory;

Practical skills to be acquired during the Master Classes programme include:

- Defining concepts of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH);
- Mapping the factors affecting SRH of a target populations;
- Identifying the global challenges of SRH and its long-term impact;
- Developing and assuring the quality national strategies in sexual and reproductive health.

- Defining the indicators of unmet SRH needs;
- knowledge and skills to plan and deliver high-quality clinical services; and

Structure and Methodology:

Experts' presentations will be complemented by working groups and strategic exercises with national partners, during which key strategic priorities for conceptualising and addressing multidimensional SRH needs and resulting strategies/action plans will be discussed. The programme will also include opportunities for professional networking and facilitate south-south and triangular cooperation among regional participants. Workshop participants will receive a certificate of attendance.

Feedback from the participants of the pilot sub-regional workshop will be used for adapting the programme to be delivered in other UNFPA EECA cluster countries.

Workshop Logistics and Financial support:

The conference package, accommodation cost and airport transfers of the participant will be covered by EECARO. EECARO may share the cost of the national delegations with COs, based on overall cost of travel and number of participants in national delegations.

Cost of the conference package and accommodation of UNFPA staff, nominated to represent other EECA cluster/s will be also covered by EECARO, based on Cluster/country plans to roll out and institutionalise the programme in 2018.