

Master of Disaster Management
Head of Study, Course Responsibles, Student Representatives



29 JUNE 2023

MINUTES

Forum Evaluation meeting spring 2022, Master of Disaster Management

Meeting held 29 June 2023

Place CSS 9.2.22

Minutes-taker Jørgen Willadsen (Student Affairs)

Present

Course responsibles: Peter Furu (PF), Peter Kjær Mackie Jensen (PKMJ), and Kristoffer Vogler (KV).

Student representatives: Franknelli Araujo, Megan Doris Reid Hobbs, Rohan Sharad Kulkarni, and Stephanie Piacentino.

Other: Mariel de Guia Britanico (MGB) (from Student Affairs)

Head of studies: Peter Furu.

Absent: Emmanuel Raju (ER) and Gert Lüdeking (GL).

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and introduction to the meeting by Head of Studies
- 2) Evaluation of the courses
 - a. Geo-information in Disaster Situations
 - b. Water Supply and Sanitation in Emergencies
 - c. Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health
 - d. Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methods
 - e. Shelter and Settlements in Disasters

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3) The semester across

4) Other

Ad 1) Welcome and introduction by the head of Studies

Ad 2) Evaluation of the courses

a. Geo-information in Disaster Situations

Course responsible: Peter Furu

What worked well?

- An important course. PF: We will run the course every second year
- The real-case situation, very much like a real-life experience. A very good learning to see and learn how maps are produced
- A steep learning curve in a short period of time.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Emphasize the IT requirements and that you need to have a strong computer. PF: We notice the difficulties with MAC
- Also emphasize that students need to have IT-skills and knowledge in advance to do the course
- Suggestion to have some introduction days/time before the real start of the course to get all the technical issues solved: the desktop computers, the screen sharing with the Geneva teams, etc. PF: That is why we have a student assist present in the beginning.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- No comments.

b. Water Supply and Sanitation in Emergencies

Course responsible: Peter Kjær Mackie Jensen

What worked well?

- Appreciated that lecturers shared their work experiences from the field
- The hands on elements
- The group exercise in the last week
- Good to be challenged to think out of the box – that encouragement was appreciated
- Good balance between work load and the course

- Good alignment with learning objectives
- Communication was clear via Absalon.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Course literature and tool kits could be more updated. PKMJ: The core literature has not changed a lot, and some of the best practical books dates from the 1990ties
- Better coordination between the different phases of learning to avoid overlap with previous courses and secure progression. PKMJ: Due to the war in the Ukraine, the red cross had to change this year. Hopefully, we can include it again next time.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- As a minor thing: the local train transportation between Copenhagen and the warehouse was expensive. Suggestion to plan better transportation in advance with the university administration. MGB: We can try to arrange transportation, but it will be more costly. Students: Make it clearer in the course description that part of the course is outside Copenhagen and that you need to expect transportation costs.

c. Health in Emergencies and Refugee Health

Course responsible: Kristoffer Vogler

What worked well?

- Very well run course
- The diversity of the experience of the guest lectures, that they talked about theory and also real life experiences, including guidelines, was appreciated
- Very practical, pragmatic course. Not many of the participants had a clinical or medical background but that was leveled out because of a well-executed course.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Many guest lecturers from MSF – would be nice to hear from other organizations too. KV does agree that there were too many from MSF this year. Previous there were guests from UNICEF and Red Cross. Will try to do that again next time
- Suggestion to also include an exit strategy
- Suggestion that the child health section includes a broader focus than neonatal
- Wish to also make a link to climate change. KV: Climate change

is a big topic that we will try to incorporate, as well as protection, and behavior of health care workers. We will work on restructuring the course.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- Suggestion to try to avoid an overlap between online and on-campus teaching in the beginning, maybe to have one week online and then 2-3 weeks on campus. KV: We are limited in time, also to do visits. We would like to strengthen the on-campus part.

d. Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Methods

Course responsible: Emmanuel Raju

What worked well?

- A very valuable course
- A good introduction
- The connection with communities
- Engaged teachers
- The translators worked well
- Good support, debrief sessions and follow up from the course responsible – also about mental health. It was good learning.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Would be good to have the background tools before
- The pre-course could be earlier.

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- Request to have better engagement form the local hospital. They did not show up at the feedback. The communities were very engaging, but the end was very disappointing. Would be nice to hear if the work will be used in a valuable way. MBG: We had a meeting with local hospital about the engagement. We made it clear that it was not acceptable. We will try to explore a new partner/location for next year
- Suggestion for better accommodation in week three. Students are exhausted after the first two weeks. It would be nice with a little better accommodation with hot water, where students would also be able to work, with stable electricity and possibility to have international access. Maybe the group could agree about the budget and explore the possibilities in advance.

e. Shelter and Settlements in Disasters

Course responsables: Peter Furu and Gert Lüdeking

What worked well?

- Generally a very good course
- The online element was fantastic - the online learning and facilitation
- The vast experience of the lecturers
- The practical examples and the connection to theory was well coordinated
- The knowledge and engagement of the course responsables.

Any need for adjustment (Content)?

- Wish for more diverse guest lecturers e.g. about sexuality and climate
- Request for more contemporary examples. Too much focus on and referring to Haiti
- Wish for more material and additional literature (if available).

Any need for adjustment (Planning)?

- Wish for more in class discussions. It was frustrating to travel back to Copenhagen and then have classes on Zoom. The Zoom sessions do not give enough time to discuss or ask questions, especially with guest lecturers. A suggestion not to have 10 minutes breaks after every class. All students indicated they would be happy to have one 10-minute break between 9-12, and then one 10-minute break between 13-16.

Ad 3) The semester across

- The structure of the electives. It was a challenge to have online and face to face courses at the same time and made it difficult for students to work alongside the classes. MBG: The planning was difficult this year with 5 electives. Next there will be less electives.

Other

- No comments.