

## TRAINING PROGRAM IN RESEARCH METHODS FOR GUIDING POLICY AND EVALUATION WITH SPECIAL APPLICATION TO POPULATION AND HEALTH



### APPLICATION FORM

[www.arabpsynet.com/Congress/CongJ24TrainingProgAnnexAUC.doc](http://www.arabpsynet.com/Congress/CongJ24TrainingProgAnnexAUC.doc)

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[www.aucegypt.edu/src/rm.html](http://www.aucegypt.edu/src/rm.html) [rm@aucegypt.edu](mailto:rm@aucegypt.edu)

### SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER

#### AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

The Social Research Center (SRC) of the American University in Cairo (AUC) was established in 1953 to conduct and encourage multi-disciplinary research and training in the social sciences and social policy in Egypt and in the Middle East. It strives to inform policy formulation and implementation while contributing to knowledge. The Center aims to contribute to developing skills and building institutional capabilities in the region, as well as to advance public debate about important social issues.

For five decades, the Center has carried out a broad range of research. Earlier studies included the resettlement of people, the historical and ecological development of Cairo and evaluation of family planning programs. Recent research activities include studies of population and fertility, poverty, political participation of women, the effects of economic liberalization, urbanization, social epidemiology, maternal and child health and the environment.

SRC activities emphasize two directions. The first is a policy support direction, where the research produced by SRC is influencing policies and SRC is a resource center linking research with action. The second is a regional orientation producing quality comparative research, providing multidisciplinary population/health training and building close regional ties.

The policy support direction involves building close ties with civil society in Egypt, linking closely with the National Council for Women, collaborating with ministries and developing service sites on the web.

The regional orientation is captured by close ties with institutions and scholars in the region. These include the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics and the School of Health Sciences of the American University of Beirut.

Another important regional activity is the service of SRC as a resource center. Example of such a service includes the collaboration with UNICEF Gulf Office, as well as the conduct of two regional training workshops on Reproductive Health and Research Methods for Guiding Policy and Evaluation.

### PROGRAM CONTENT:

The training program consists of four modules:

#### Module I: Development Challenges in Arab Countries and Introduction to Social Research

This module aims to provide fundamental knowledge and understanding of the nature of the population and health

concerns in Arab countries. It is designed to orient trainees with the research planning process including ethical considerations, as well as developing a research proposal.

#### Module II: Quantitative Research

This module covers techniques of quantitative research, interpretation and reporting of research findings. It reviews quantitative data collection and analysis as used in the fields of epidemiology, biostatistics, demography, health and social planning. It also includes consideration of the strengths and limitations of the quantitative approach. Special emphasis is placed on computer-assisted applications. It also introduces secondary analysis and writing of a scientific article.

#### Module III: Qualitative Research

This module seeks to familiarize participants with the basics of qualitative research. The module is designed for the non-specialist adding to quantitative research a complementary and enriching perspective. It also introduces participants to basic concepts and skills in qualitative data collection and analysis focusing on research experiences in the Arab world.

#### Module IV: Evaluation and Policy Recommendations

This module aims to introduce participants to the policy process and the link between policymaking and evaluation. It is planned to enhance the knowledge, skills and capabilities of participants in evaluation. The module is also concerned with reporting research results and their translation into relevant policy recommendations.

### PARTICIPANTS

The course is designed to address a wide audience of practitioners and researchers who are engaged in and/or utilize research for guiding policy. It is also suitable to those with programmatic interests in the development field in the Arab countries, with emphasis on population and health issues.

### PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The training program consists of four complementary modules, which are seen as an integrated package that extends from basic elements and skills in the research process up to the ultimate objective of drawing policy implications and presenting them in a format appropriate to the needs of senior policy makers.

Each module provides basic tools and concepts that cut across many policy areas and social science fields, as well as specialized knowledge on population and health issues in the Arab region. In this program, health equity is incorporated into every module rather than being handled as a separate topic.

The program also contains actual applications on topical concerns identified by the trainees. These applications include development of research proposal, design of questionnaire, data entry, data analysis and scientific writing.

#### AIM

The program offers multidisciplinary training in social science research methods with substantive focus on their application in the field of population and health. The purpose of the course is to acquaint participants with principles of research methods and the use of computer in all stages of research.

The program develops the skills needed for data collection and analysis with an emphasis on orienting research towards producing policy guidelines. The technical skills acquired are illustrated in the field of population and health. Participants are also required to apply the tools and concepts they learn in their special field of interest.

#### DISTINCT FEATURES

- The integration of skills and tools from different disciplines in social science.
- The use of innovative teaching techniques such as active and cooperative learning, as well as self teaching computer modules.
- The emphasis on development concerns in the Arab region and the utilization of research for guiding policy.

The integration of a health equity lens in the course particularly in terms of the implications for health policies.

#### LOCATION

The course will be held at the Social Research Center of the American University in Cairo.

#### COST

Tuition: EGP 18,000 (or equivalent in US \$)

(Tuition does not cover living expenses and travel).

#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Applicants needing financial help to cover tuition and/or living expenses are advised to approach donors, international agencies and regional agencies. Limited full and partial scholarships are offered on competitive basis and are funded by Wellcome Trust and Hewlett Foundation.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

Detailed information on the course and application form are available at SRC website: [www.aucegypt.edu/src/rm.html](http://www.aucegypt.edu/src/rm.html)

Applicants should complete the application form online or return it by email, fax or mail to:

Research Methods Training Coordinator

Social Research Center,

The American University in Cairo,

P.O. Box 74, Cairo 11835, Egypt.

Tel: (+20-2) 2615.1315 - 26151441

Fax: (202) 27974926

E-mail: [rm@aucegypt.edu](mailto:rm@aucegypt.edu)

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