

SPICE Expert Registry for implementation support in resource-limited settings

Terms of Reference

Background

There is a global need to have access to expertise to find sustainable solutions for infectious disease care: from infection prevention to infectious diseases management.

Radboudumc is hosting a global Specialized Programme for Infectious disease Care Everywhere (SPICE) registry of experts to provide effective tailor-made mentorship and expert support for Infectious Disease Management (IDM), Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) and Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) programmes, especially in resource-limited settings.

The SPICE registry is largely based on partnerships with international organisations, government institutions, professional societies and other stakeholders, including the Dutch Programma Uitzending Managers (PUM), Europe for Health (EU4H) Programme of the European Commission, the International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS), the Dutch Public Health Institute (RIVM), the ESCMID Study group on Antimicrobial Stewardship (ESGAP), and so forth. These partnerships foster bidirectional exchange of experience and expertise intended to assist healthcare settings, governments and countries in implementing specialized infectious disease care and management in a sustainable way.

Scope and objectives

The SPICE program is providing expertise in:

- Infectious disease management
- Microbiology and diagnostics
- Infection prevention and control
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Implementation science and behavior change

SPICE experts are expected to contribute to this scope and objectives through providing:

- Know-how to host institution on the basis of your experience and knowledge and
- Expertise and support for implementation of plans addressing the needs of the host institution with regards to the above areas of expertise.

All experts represented in the registry can also ask for expertise within the SPICE registry by filing a support brief at the SPICE homepage.

Methodology, tasks and timeframe

As much as infectious disease problems are universal, every healthcare setting is different and has particular human and infrastructural capacity and organizational culture that is put in use to serve their specific population. Therefore, the challenge – and at the same time the

value – comes from this diversity, which the SPICE program addresses through assigning expert support after a careful matching of institutions’ needs with experts’ experience. The initial matching is consulted with the host institution and the expert for their mutual agreement on the tasks, timeframes and expected outcomes. Usually, each host institution is assigned one expert consultant to work with them throughout the idea development, planning and implementation, over a period of six months to one year.

The expert consultants are expected to provide their expertise and knowledge through:

- Online support, providing mentoring and advice
- Onsite support, providing advice and supervision or
- Combination of online and onsite support, providing mentoring, advise and supervision.

Terms and conditions

The participation of expert consultants in the SPICE expert consultancy program is governed by this Terms of Reference and the general terms and conditions of providing expert support. In addition, following a successful matching, the host institution and the SPICE expert sign a confidentiality agreement and other necessary documents to enable implementation of the expert support.

Expected engagement

Depending on experts’ preference declared in the application process, experts are expected to engage through:

- Online/e-mail consultations and providing advice – with expected level of effort of approximately 1-2 hours per week and/or
- Onsite visit in duration of 7-10 days (depending on the expert availability and needs of the host institution).

During the implementation support period, experts are required to submit a short mid-term and final reports of their activities and accomplishments with the support, as well as any observations and recommendations they have for the future.

Following the provided expert, the host institution is also asked to provide a feedback report on the collaboration and support received from the expert.

Costs and remuneration

Any costs associated with the travel of the expert to the facility (travel, accommodation, visa), will be covered by the SPICE program, based on prior approval. As SPICE has a social mission, experts are not entitled to remuneration or expert fee, except for experts from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The remuneration for the experts from LMICs is defined based on the availability of project funding. At present, SPICE is supported only for ICARS, EU4H and PUM-related activities.

Advantages and benefits

Successful completion of expert consultancy will be awarded with a SPICE expert certificate, formal acknowledgement of the provided support by SPICE registry and the host institution, as well as featured story on the SPICE website (with agreement from the expert).

In addition, the experts benefit from providing implementation support include: possibility to share and exchange expertise with peers from other countries, continue implementation support through additional funding provided by SPICE partners (for selected countries only), and enrich their experience with new challenges and skills.

More about the SPICE program and activities can be found [here](#).

To express interest, please visit and complete the [registration form](#).