

Global ICF education - including open access culturally sensitive practical examples - is crucial for ICF adoption in pediatric contexts

ICF electronic open access courses in Latin America: lessons learned

Verónica Schiariti MD MHSc PhD

Division of Medical Sciences, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC, Canada

ICF EDUCATION/USE DESCRIPTION

- The **objectives** of this e-course are:
 1. To review the ICF model and introduce the ICF Core Sets for children and youth with CP.
 2. To understand how the ICF and the ICF Core Sets can promote interprofessional collaboration.
 3. To enhance learners' application of the ICF and ICF Core Sets in everyday practice, with case scenarios.
 4. To encourage the introduction of environmental interventions - such as assistive devices - in order to reach optimal functioning.
- Primary **audience**: multidisciplinary professionals working with children and youth with physical disabilities, including students and trainees
- Educational **level**: basic and intermediate
- **Format**: This online course consists of 3 modules and lasts 3 weeks. Each week, participants have access to an online presentation lasting 30 minutes. Participants can access presentations any time during the course. Participants have open access to all reading materials, including presentations, through an educational platform. Pre and post tests assess learning impact.
- Language: **English and Spanish**
- Availability: **open access**, online e-course

IMPACT OF THE EDUCATION/USE

1. Overall, 1127 participants took the e-course in Mexico, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Colombia and Guatemala.
2. Participants reported that after taking the e-course they felt more confident in applying the ICF model in their day to day practices. The ICF e-course also facilitated interdisciplinary communication.
3. The most useful part of the e-course was the practical pediatric case studies, illustrated in the **ICF educational e-tool**
http://learn.phsa.ca/shhc/icf/story_html5.html

TYPES of EDUCATION NEEDED

- In my opinion, in pediatric contexts, there are no universal access to ICF Education. Currently, it depends on the interests of the professionals, there is no top-down mandate to invest in ICF education
- There is still no clear understanding of the benefits of adopting the ICF in organizations, services or health and education systems.

TIPS

- Adapt the content and format of the educational material to the practical needs of professionals
- Be familiar with the context and local cultural beliefs of families and children with disabilities towards healthcare.
- Include administrators, IT staff and managers in your courses as well as clinicians
- Before starting a project guided by the ICF, ensure all participants are familiar with the ICF and complete the educational e-course

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Questions for the forum

How can we facilitate a standardized accessible ICF curriculum for professionals and trainees working with pediatric populations?

Can WHO-FIC facilitate partnerships with organizations at a national level to facilitate access to ICF educational material in different languages?

How can we collaborate and work together towards common ICF educational goals?

- Questions to the audience
- In your country, are there resources in place to learn and apply the ICF?
- Who is responsible for facilitating access to ICF education?
- What are the barriers to adopt the ICF in your practice?

vschiariti@uvic.ca