



Infectious Diseases at the 8th European Public Health Conference

# Report 2015 of the Presidency of the EUPHA Section Infectious Disease Control

16 October 2015  
Milan, Italy



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## EUPHA-Infectious Disease Control

The EUPHA Section Infectious Disease Control (IDC) was founded in 2002 in Italy and has by now 891 members throughout Europe. The unique selling point of the EUPHA section IDC is that it offers a platform for research, policy and practice, bringing together people from various domains of expertise in order to frame the public health relevance of IDC.

## Goals

We aim to build up a strong organization in which as many as possible members are actively involved. Furthermore we aim to reach out to other sections within EUPHA, and European organizations (such as the ECDC and WHO-Euro) preferably by organising joint workshops/preconferences during the future European Public Health Conferences. We aim to disseminate the knowledge generated by these joint sessions to a larger public health audience by regular publications in international journals. We want to strengthen the communication within our organisation through creating a LinkedIn page and sending out a newsletter once every three months to our members. The section web page will be permanently monitored.

## EUPHA-IDC core group in 2015

The core group of the section Infectious Disease Control was created in January 2013 and consists of members from various professional backgrounds and countries in Europe. The names of the core group members are:

Michael Edelstein (Sweden), Jeannette de Boer (Netherlands), Karlijn Kampman (Netherlands), Ewout Fanoy (Netherlands), Magdalena Rosinska (Poland), Caroline Rumble (UK), Anja Schreijer (Netherlands), Günter Pfaff (Germany, Vice-president section IDC), Valentina di Gregori (Italy), Maria Ganczak (Poland), Erik Ruland (Netherlands, since 2014), Elisabeth Aichinger (Germany) and Aura Timen (Netherlands, President section IDC).

The core group meets regularly to discuss topical issues regarding the section.

## Meetings of the EUPHA-IDC core group

The core group has kept in touch through conference calls. In February 2015 we had the first conference call of the year, well attended by core group members from seven different countries. The core group discussed the proposals for the scientific programme of the EPH 2015 in Milan. We also evaluated the EPH 2014 in Glasgow, where we presented the member survey. The second conference call

took place in April 2015 and was dedicated to the preparation of the final programme of the EPH in 2015 and to explore collaboration with other sections. For the final fine-tuning of the EPH in 2015 we had our third conference call in July.

## Member survey

One of the core group members (Michael Edelstein) drafted a member survey to capture past experiences and future needs of the members. This survey was administered through the mailman system and was available to be completed on line in autumn 2014. The survey reveals that the majority of members are highly qualified and that they are keen to be involved and willing to contribute to the section's activities. Though, there is little contact and/or collaboration between the members, and the demand for this is high. An email newsletter is considered to be the preferred communication channel. There is low attendance at the EPH congress of our members, so this is not yet an effective way to facilitate collaboration. This survey has made us focus on reaching out to new members, on members who want to take an active part in the section and on increasing congress attendance. Also, we should direct our efforts into preparing an disseminating the newsletter and being 'loud and proud' about the section's achievements.

## 2014 EPH conference spin-off

The main findings of the preconference on health promotion and infectious diseases (organized together with the ECDC) were summarized in a publication in EUROHEALTH entitled: Learning from each other: where health promotion meets infectious diseases (authors: Erik C. Ruland, Irina Dinca, Valerie Curtis, Margaret M. Barry, Karl Ekdahl and Aura Timen). The workshop on Ebola led to a publication in the European Journal of Public Health, in January 2015, in which global perspectives were discussed. (Authors: Timen A, Sprenger M, Edelstein M, Martin-Moreno J, McKee M).

## Preview EUPHA-IDC at the European Public Health Conference 2015, Milan

The 2015 European Public Health (EPH) Conference is themed: 'Health in Europe – from global to local policies, methods and practices' and will be held between 14 - 17 October 2015 in Milan, Italy. The EUPHA-IDC group organizes a workshop on Ebola and a lunch meeting entitled "Lost in translation" concerning the communication gap between professionals and politicians and oral presentations. There is a full track on infectious diseases and all time slots are fully booked with either workshops or oral sessions and pitch presentations/posters

EUPHA and SiTi (Italian Society of Hygiene Preventive Medicine and Public Health) will organize a workshop on vaccines in Europe, with participation from EUPHA-IDC in the discussion panel. The ECDC will organize a preconference on vaccine hesitancy, with participation from our section.

## EUPHA IDC represented in a High Level Hearing in Luxembourg on Joint procurement of medical countermeasures

On behalf of the European Commission, Public Health England organised a workshop entitled “High-level Hearing on the Implementation of the CR on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination” in Luxembourg on 30.04.2015. The main objective was to identify concrete measures as a way forward to improve the current state of play and to increase influenza vaccination coverage rates. The main target of reaching seasonal influenza vaccination coverage of 75% has not yet been fulfilled; however, monitoring of uptake is not being reported for many target groups. Reasons for non-vaccination are complex and multiple. Free of charge vaccination for target groups, with personal invitation, central coordination of the immunisation program, and GP’s involvement are potential drivers to increase vaccination coverage. The European Commission workshop on seasonal influenza vaccination was successful in identifying measures for the improvement of vaccination coverage rates. Comprehensive understanding of the consequences of influenza and the benefits of immunisation among health care professionals and at a community level is needed to increase vaccination coverage. Maria Ganczak (Poland) represented EUPHA IDC at this meeting.

## Webpage IDC-section

<http://www.eupha.org/infectious-diseases-control>

## Representation on behalf of the EUPHA

In September 2013, Aura Timen became a member of the advisory forum of the ECDC on behalf of the EUPHA and thus participated in all meetings of the AF.

## Secretariate EUPHA-IDC

Contact us at: [secretariat\\_EUPHAIDC@rivm.nl](mailto:secretariat_EUPHAIDC@rivm.nl).

Milan, 16 October, 2015

Aura Timen, Karlijn Kampman and Klazien Groeneveld on behalf of the core group