



Note to the media: European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Berlin 19-21 November 2008

Stockholm, September 22, 2008: More than 500 health experts from across Europe and beyond are expected in Berlin for the second annual European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology – ESCAIDE – from November 19-21. Hosted by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control – ECDC – in partnership with the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) and TEPHINET EUROPE (Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network), this event is becoming an annual ‘must’ in the calendar of Europe’s disease control experts.

“These annual conferences are a key means by which we are strengthening and expanding the network of all those involved in applied infectious disease epidemiology. I am convinced that the topics discussed at the Conference will be of interest not just to epidemiologists, but also to microbiologists, clinicians, public health experts, and veterinary and environmental health experts,” says ECDC Director, Zsuzsanna Jakab. *“This annual event is a unique opportunity for frontline professionals from national disease control institutes to share scientific knowledge and experience, and to engage with each other and the wider scientific community. I am also proud that through ESCAIDE, we provide a platform for trainee epidemiologists from across Europe to present their work.”*

Key issues being tackled at this year’s event include:

- Migration and communicable diseases in Europe
- Special needs in communication. How to reach the hard-to-reach?
- The expansion of vector-borne infections in Europe: are we prepared for it?
- Old and new vaccines, old and new challenges.

Speakers in the plenary sessions on these topics come from Austria, Denmark, France, Greece, Romania, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. The experiences to be discussed in breakout sessions cover an even wider range of countries, from Canada to Thailand, from Mayotte to Moldova, from the Ivory Coast to Vietnam, as well as in and across Europe.

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Further information

The full programme, information on how to register for just €150 and on conference hotels and special rates can be found at www.escaide.eu

The conference will be held in the heart of Berlin at the Berliner Congress Center on the historic Alexanderplatz in the shadow of one of the city's leading landmarks, the television tower. Originally designed by Hermann Henselmann, an architect strongly influenced by the Bauhaus school, the centre has been fully renovated.

Notes to editors

The ECDC

Set up in 2005 and headquartered in Stockholm, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is a EU agency which aims to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases. ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases.

*In order to achieve its mission, ECDC works in partnership with national health protection bodies across Europe to strengthen and develop continent-wide disease surveillance and early warning systems. By working with experts throughout Europe, ECDC pools Europe's health knowledge, so as to develop authoritative scientific opinions about the risks posed by current and emerging infectious diseases. **For further information see** <http://ecdc.europa.eu>*

EPIET

*EPIET is the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training, which provides training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology at the national centres for surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the European Union (EU). Presentation of EPIET diplomas will be the closing event of the Conference. **For further information see** <http://www.epiet.org>*

TEPHINET

*Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network Inc (TEPHINET) is a professional alliance of field epidemiology training programs (FETPs) located in thirty-two countries around the world. Trainees of these programs master a set of core competencies, vital to the practice of public health, while providing a valuable public health service. TEPHINET's credo is that public health policy ought to be based on good science, and that the most effective way to train field epidemiologists is through an apprenticeship program. **For further information see** <http://www.tephinet.org>*

Note to Editors (not for publication):

Journalists who have accredited in advance are welcome at ESCAIDE and dedicated facilities will be available. Daily press briefings are envisaged if there is sufficient interest, and we shall be happy to set up interviews with key speakers. For more information and to accredit, contact:

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