



# EVALUATION

Train the trainer on applied epidemiology and  
public health microbiology  
ECDC Summer School 2012 Stockholm, 11-15 June

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## Background

The 17<sup>th</sup> cohort of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) and the 4<sup>th</sup> cohort of EUPHEM (European Public Health Microbiology training programme) fellows started their training in September 2011. Scientific coordinators of these “learning by doing” programmes review the work of fellows and monitor their progress during the two-year fellowship. Coordinators are based at ECDC and in national public health institutes in Europe.

Supervision of EPIET and EUPHEM fellows at training sites is trusted to mid-career and senior epidemiologists and microbiologists working in the area of communicable disease prevention and control in the MS. These experts should have good skills in both field epidemiology and in mentoring and tutoring aspects.

In 2011 the EPIET MS-Track started. While the traditional format of EPIET (the EU-Track) requires exchange of fellows from their country of origin to another, in the MS-Track fellows stay in their country and sometimes in the same location and institution. Often a former colleague becomes his/her supervisor. In this scenario it's necessary to guarantee that the learning objectives of the programme are achieved, giving access to the fellow to tasks and projects related to the competencies to be acquired.

ECDC organised the first train the trainers' induction workshop for new supervisors of EPIET and EUPHEM on 4-6 July 2011. In this 2.5 day activity new supervisors received information about ECDC training activities and tools to conduct their teaching and mentoring/supervisory tasks more effectively. Methods included: lectures, case studies, role play and checklists to review fellows scientific products (study protocol, report from outbreak investigation, scientific manuscript). Training needs were assessed during the workshop. ECDC core competencies for field epidemiology were used as a reference. The EPIET Training Site Forum (ETSF) in May and participants in the induction workshop 2011 recommended a ECDC train the trainers' workshop for all supervisors, dedicating more time to scientific review.

## Vision and aim

*A competent workforce for disease prevention and control is sustained through training based on professional learning by doing, sharing experience of good practice and open civil debates about lessons learned and just choices that promote equitable access for EU citizens to public health.”*

*The aim of the ECDC Summer School is to contribute to strengthening the capacity for disease prevention and control in Europe by providing access to the most recently developed tools for training and promoting multidisciplinary collaboration.*

## Goal and objectives

The goal of the ECDC Summer School is to strengthen mentoring and technical skills of experts in the networks of ECDC, such as Fellowship supervisors, providing an opportunity for networking and scientific exchange on methods for communicable disease prevention and control, also with ECDC experts.

Specific objectives are:

1. Bring supervisors of fellowships (EPIET & EUPHEM) together to share and exchange experiences and views on supervision, coaching and creating collaborations between microbiologists and epidemiologists
2. Bring ECDC core activities and the fellowship network closer together, increasing ability for supervisors to identify projects that link to ECDC core and priority tasks, increasing opportunities for ECDC experts to be aware of and be involved in fellowship projects
3. Address expressed training needs among supervisors

## Target audience - participants

The target audiences for the first edition of the ECDC Summer School were supervisors of EPIET and EUPHEM: main supervisors, co-supervisors and also those that support fellows in specific projects. They are mid-career and senior professionals in applied epidemiology and public health microbiology.

In 2012, as a pilot, the number of seats was 50: 35 supervisors and 15 ECDC experts. Selection of EPIET/EUPHEM supervisors was done through official invitation letters to the EPIET Training Site Forum and EUPHEM Training forum. The Coordinating Competent Body of each country is informed. Eventually, 30 supervisors and 15 ECDC experts attended the Summer School 2012.

## Learning objectives & contents

Learning objectives and curriculum of the different sessions and activities are based on the ECDC core competencies for Public Health Epidemiologists and the Competencies for Public Health Microbiologists working in the areas of communicable disease surveillance and response in the European Union. They can be grouped in the following areas:

- Supervision/mentoring on the job
- Applied epidemiology (risk assessment, laboratory issues, outbreak investigation, epidemiological studies, public health surveillance)
- Public health microbiology (risk assessment, outbreak investigation, public health surveillance)
- Communication
- Management
- Training (Didactics)

## Methods

Participative methods are used including: peer learning, problem-based solving, role play, group discussions, portfolio, case studies, etc. For some workshops, readings and preparation were suggested prior to attendance.

The duration of each workshop is one whole day. Workshops run in parallel and are lead by EPIET Coordinators and other ECDC experts from different Units.

## Project team, faculty and administration

Overall coordination Summer School: Carmen Varela Santos, Marion Muehlen, Arnold Bosman

Scientific coordinators: Marion Muehlen (EPIET Coordinator), Yvan Hutin (EPIET Scientific Chief Coordinator), Aftab Jasir (EUPHEM Chief Scientific Coordinator)

Workshop directors & facilitators: EPIET/EUPHEM Coordinators and supervisors, ECDC experts

Manager of ECDC Internal Public Health Training Programme: Angus Nicoll

Administration: Laura Campagnoli and EPIET Programme Office

Supervision by pedagogical specialist: Sonsoles Guerra Liaño

## Schedule

		11 June	12 June	13 June	14 June	15 June
Plenary	09:00 09:30 Auditorium	Welcome - Karl Ekdahl Introduction, housekeeping	'What was new to me' wrap-up session			
			(mentoring) (lab 1)	(competencies)(FWD toolkit)	(sc. review 1)(Monitoring data quality)	(sc. review 2)(BCoDE toolkit)(data analysis)
Parallel Workshops	09:30 17:00	<b>Induction Workshops for new Supervisors</b>				
		<i>The life of a supervisor: Mentoring, didactics and management</i> (Carmen Varela) Auditorium	<i>Skills and competencies acquisition &amp; assessment</i> (Marion Muehlen) Auditorium	<i>Scientific review (1): Surveillance and outbreaks</i> (Yvan Hutin) Auditorium	<i>Scientific review (2): Applied research</i> (Yvan Hutin) Auditorium	<i>Scientific writing: Organising a manuscript &amp; writing a discussion</i> (Yvan Hutin) Auditorium
		<b>Technical Workshops</b>				
		Laboratory issues for epidemiologists (Aftab Jasir) Room 435	Food and waterborne diseases and ECDC's Toolkit for outbreak investigation (FWD) (Vladimir Prikazsky) Computer room	How to monitor data quality and evaluate surveillance systems (DQ) (Isabelle Devaux) Room 335	Burden of Communicable Diseases in Europe (BCoDE) (Alessandro Cassini) Room 335	From information for action to policy (AP) (Arnold Bosman) Room 435
			Data analysis with STATA (Kostas Danis) Computer room			
Plenary	17:15 18:00 Auditorium	<b>Sunset Seminars</b>				
		Evidence Based Methods in PH (Helena Carvalho Gomes)	Higher level evaluation of surveillance programmes - influenza, a worked example (Angus Nicoll)	Qualification for Authorship (Yvan Hutin)	PH Policy (José Luís Castanheira)	Evaluation & Announcement of 2013 Summer School

### Induction workshops for new supervisors

**1 - The life of a supervisor: Mentoring, didactics and management** - 11 June; Facilitators: Carmen Varela Santos, Katrin Borgen, Angela Giusti, Sonsoles Guerra Liaño, Vladimir Prikazsky, Liliya Todorova-Janssens and Pawel Stefanoff

**2 - EPIET/EUPHEM are competency-based training programmes, – what does this mean?** - 12 June; Facilitators: Marion Muehlen, Aftab Jasir, Angela Giusti, Carmen Varela Santos, Ioannis Karagiannis, Alicia Barrasa, Yvan Hutin

**3 - Scientific review: Surveillance and outbreak investigations** -13 June

Facilitators: Yvan Hutin, Katharina Alpers, Helen Maguire, Alicia Barrasa

**4 - Scientific review: Operational research** - 14 June

Facilitators: Yvan Hutin, Katharina Alpers, Aftab Jasir, Helen Maguire, Richard Dicker

**5 - Scientific review: Scientific writing** - 15 June

Facilitators: Yvan Hutin, Katharina Alpers, Helen Maguire, Pawel Stefanoff, Kostas Danis, Richard Dicker

### Technical workshops

**6- Use of laboratory results in epidemiological investigations** - 11 June

Facilitators: Aftab Jasir, Katherina Zakikhany, Camille Escadafal, Daniela Schmid, Jaime Martinez, Steen Ethelberg

**7 - Application of the ECDC Toolkit on the investigation of Food and Waterborne Diseases** -

12 June; Facilitators: Vladimir Prikazsky, Annick Lenglet, Oktawia Wojcik

**8- Monitoring data quality and evaluating surveillance systems** - 13 June

Facilitators: Bruno Ciancio, Isabelle Devaux, Graham Fraser

**9 - Estimating the burden of communicable diseases in Europe – the BCoDE project and the support toolkit** - 14 June

Facilitators: Alessandro Cassini, Edoardo Colzani, Anders Wallensten

**10 - Introduction to data Analysis with STATA** - 14 June, Computer room, ECDC - Facilitators:

Kostas Danis (KD), Pawel Steffanof, Ioannis Karagiannis

**11 - From evidence to public health policy – how intervention epidemiology, public health microbiology and public health decision making interact;** 15 June

Facilitators: Arnold Bosman, Frank van Look, Jose Luis Castanheira

## Certificates and accreditation

The PH Training Section applied for accreditation of most of the EPIET Modules and ECDC short courses under the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME , see [www.eaccme.eu](http://www.eaccme.eu) ). The activity received accreditation with 30 ECM Credits for the 5 days. Trainers receive a certificate of participation.

## Evaluation

The ECDC Summer School was evaluated using qualitative and quantitative techniques. Participants were invited to complete individual and final evaluation forms on paper or via our ECDC Training EXTRANET. They shared impressions and recommendations for improvement of future editions in a final session. Several reports (final evaluation and evaluations per workshop) were produced.

### Results (quantitative) from individual evaluations per workshop

Workshops evaluation	Respondents (n)			Objectives met	Level (%)				Enough time for discussion (%)			Changes in your work afterwards (%)			
	S	E	C		Yes (%)	Basic	Right	Advanced	Not sure	Yes	No	Don't know	Yes	No	Don't know
1 Life supervisor	N=15	14	0	1	93%	13%	87%	0%	0%	77%	23%	0%	79%	0%	21%
2 Competencies	N=11	11	0	0	91%	9%	73%	9%	9%	100%	0%	0%	73%	9%	18%
3 Sc review (surv, outb)	N=22	18	4	0	95%	0%	95%	5%	0%	95%	5%	0%	74%	16%	11%
4 Sc review (applied research)	N=13	13	0	0	92%	0%	92%	8%	0%	92%	8%	0%	100%	0%	0%
5 Sc writing	N=19	15	4	0	89%	0%	95%	0%	5%	67%	2%	11%	94%	6%	0%
6 Lab-epi	N=8	3	5	0	88%	13%	88%	0%	0%	71%	14%	14%	14%	71%	14%
7 FWD toolkit	N=15	8	5	1	73%	7%	86%	0%	7%	93%	7%	0%	53%	33%	13%
8 Eva surv systems	N=12	6	5	0	83%	8%	83%	0%	8%	82%	18%	0%	64%	9%	27%
9 STATA	N=9	2	7	0	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	88%	13%	0%	78%	22%	0%
10 BoD	N=6	3	2	0	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	50%	17%	33%
11 Evidence-Policy	N=9	3	5	0	100%	0%	100%	0%	0%	89%	11%	0%	57%	0%	43%

**Legend: S= supervisor; E=ECDC expert; C=Coordinator**

## Participants' feedback

Participants' comments provided in a session of open discussion at the end of the programmes included:

- "Definitely repeat it for ECDC and externals!"
- "Realisation that you don't know everything, there is still stuff to learn"
- "Face to face interaction is important – networking"
- Facilitators suggest longer wrap-up sessions
- Parallel technical workshops may be difficult to attend, due to conflicting time with induction workshops, especially for the new supervisors (advised to prioritise these).

Supporting supervisors on a sustained way is perceived as a need: e.g. videoconferencing, teleconferencing; also, counselling or mentoring sessions. It could be important to keep contact with participants, for example with assignments after the face to face course; other option would be to provide articles to read in advance and discuss them by phone.

Most relevant aspects highlighted were:

- Epi & Lab – good opportunity for exchange, awareness about collaboration, networking
- Review of outbreak investigation basic steps
- Scientific output
- Triangle of supervision (coordinator, fellow and site-supervisor)
- Instruments/tools available (FEM-wiki, checklists for scientific review and scientific writing, etc)
- Public health aspects further than field work

## Facilitators' feedback

At the end of the Summer School Facilitators met for a short analysis of the activity and raised the importance of:

- Repeating it; for networking it's a unique opportunity.
- Flexibility for new supervisors to choose between technical and induction workshops
- Cost-effectiveness: possibility of fees; location in countries/venues with lower costs; some activities could be done by distance (homework)
- Having an official list of supervisors

It was perceived as very relevant for the Member State Track of EPIET and for EPIET and EUPHEM coordinators.

## Conclusions

The ECDC Summer School 2012 was evaluated very positively, both by participants and by facilitators.

The combination of different target groups was a success. ECDC experts expressed that this was a unique opportunity to meet and exchange experience with supervisors, coordinators and facilitators.

Sitting together in the class-room to discuss and consolidate skills in field epidemiology and public health microbiology is very useful, particularly when some projects of the fellows have an EU dimension where the ECDC experts can play a key role in orientation.

Some participants suggested reducing it to 4 days. This and the format should be analysed.

For some technical workshops, the number of participants was quite small. In the next editions we may need to explore having a minimum number of registrations for keeping a workshop (e.g. 10?)

Sunset Seminars were evaluated as less relevant, compared to the workshops; there were also comments about the length of the days; they could be limited to 2-3 Seminars on key topics of interest (i.e. authorship) allowing participants to have one or two evenings when they leave the ECDC earlier.

The induction workshops for new supervisors were very well received; time dedicated to scientific writing could be extended; while reducing the length of the workshop on skills assessment and possibly combining it with the workshop "life of a supervisor".

A new assessment of the training needs/expectations of supervisors and ECDC experts could be conducted in January, to plan the next edition of the Summer School (tentative week 10-14 June 2013). This can be announced in the December Update of the Public Health Training Section.

New topics could be explored: for example, medical ethics and public health informatics, epidemiology for microbiologists.