Background

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Advisory Group on Public Health Microbiology (‘national microbiology focal points’), public health microbiology is a cross-cutting area that spans the fields of human, animal, food, water, and environmental microbiology, with a focus on human population health and disease. Its primary function is to improve health in collaboration with other public health disciplines, in particular epidemiology. Public health microbiology laboratories play a central role in detection, monitoring, outbreak response and the provision of scientific evidence to prevent and control infectious diseases.

European preparedness for responding to new infectious disease threats requires a sustainable infrastructure capable of detecting, diagnosing, and controlling infectious disease problems, including the design of control strategies for the prevention and treatment of infections. A broad range of expertise, particularly in the fields of epidemiology and public health microbiology, is necessary to fulfil these requirements. Public health microbiology is required to provide access to experts in all relevant communicable diseases at the regional, national and international level in order to mount rapid responses to emerging health threats, plan appropriate prevention strategies, assess existing prevention disciplines, develop microbiological guidelines, evaluate/produce new diagnostic tools, arbitrate on risks from microbes or their products and provide pertinent information to policy makers from a microbiological perspective.

According to Articles 5 and 9 of ECDC’s founding regulation (EC No 851/2004) ‘the Centre shall, encourage cooperation between expert and reference laboratories, foster the development of sufficient capacity within the community for the diagnosis, detection, identification and characterisation of infectious agents which may threaten public health’ and ‘as appropriate, support and coordinate training programmes in order to assist Member States and the Commission to have sufficient numbers of trained specialists, in particular in epidemiological surveillance and field investigations, and to have a capability to define health measures to control disease outbreaks’.

Moreover, Article 47 of the Lisbon Treaty states that ‘Member States shall, within the framework of a joint programme, encourage the exchange of young workers. Therefore, ECDC initiated the two-year EUPHEM training programme in 2008. EUPHEM is closely linked to the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET). Both EUPHEM and EPIET are considered ‘specialist pathways’ of the two-year ECDC fellowship programme for applied disease prevention and control.'
This report summarises the work activities undertaken by Name, cohort 20XX of the European Public Health Microbiology Training Programme (EUPHEM) at the name of the centre/Institute Text.

All EUPHEM activities aim to address different aspects of public health microbiology and underline the various roles of public health laboratory scientists within public health systems.

Pre-fellowship short biography

Methods

This report accompanies a portfolio that demonstrates the competencies acquired during the EUPHEM fellowship by working on various projects, activities and theoretical training modules.

Projects included epidemiological investigations (outbreaks and surveillance); applied public health research; applied public health microbiology and laboratory investigation; biorisk management; quality management; teaching and public health microbiology management; summarising and communicating scientific evidence and activities with a specific microbiological focus.

The outcomes include publications, presentations, posters, reports and teaching materials prepared by the fellow. The portfolio presents a summary of all work activities conducted by the fellow, unless prohibited due to confidentiality regulations.

Results

The objectives of these core competency domains were achieved partly through project or activity work and partly through participation in the training modules. Results are presented in accordance with the EUPHEM core competencies, as set out in the EUPHEM scientific guide1.

1. Epidemiological investigations

1.1. Outbreak investigations

Supervisors:

Title
Text

Title
Text

Training modules
Text

1.2. Surveillance

Supervisors:

Title
Text

Title
Text

Training modules
Text

2. Applied public health microbiology research

Supervisors:

Title

3. Applied public health microbiology and laboratory investigations

Supervisors:

4. Biorisk management

5. Quality management

Supervisor:

6. Teaching and pedagogy

7. Public health microbiology management
Summary of work activities, Month YEAR

Title
Text

Training modules
Text

8. Communication

Publications
1. Text

Reports
1. Text

Conference presentations
1. Text

Other presentations
1. Text

Other
1. Text

Training modules
Text

9. EPIET/EUPHEM modules attended
1. text

10. Other training
1. Text

Discussion

Coordinator’s conclusions
Text

Supervisor’s conclusions
Text

Personal conclusions of fellow
Text

Acknowledgements of fellow
Text