

EAN News

Newsletter of the EPIET Alumni Network



www.epietalum.net

October 2010

Editorial

Dear EAN Friends,

It's that time of year when the leaves have started changing colours in the majority of Europe and where you are more interested in sitting in front of the fireplace than preparing your poster and oral presentations for ESCAIDE!

But wait! You still need to read your EAN newsletter, the October 2010 edition! Why, you ask? Because in this issue we cover the monumental occasion of the 15th anniversary of EPIET with contributions of members of the cohort that started it all, cohort 1 (!) as well as a perspective from former and current EAN presidents about what this anniversary means to them. Also, there is a submission from a current EPIET about her mission to Serbia for mass gathering surveillance. And if you are dying to find out who is part of the new Cohort 16 and which new babies have been born into the network, then keep reading. Finally, a few new epi-tools and an epi cartoon to stimulate your epidemiological thinking!

We will try and bring a few printed copies of the newsletter also to ESCAIDE in Lisbon in November. We hope to see most (if not all) of you there!

The EAN Board

From the EAN Board

So... where did the board go?

You might have noticed that the EAN board has gone through a few dramatic changes in the last 3 months. Following some changes in jobs, unexpected increases in workload as well as the arrival of new EPIET baby (see below), three of the elected EAN board members decided to resign from their positions in the board. We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the work contributed to EAN by Ioannis, Gerd and Ariane!

And so, after an email (that masked our desperation) was circulated to the network in July, three eager

volunteers presented themselves to replace in the interim the three lost board members.

The new EAN board composition is as follows:

President: Lorenzo Pezzoli

Interim Vice president: Andreas Gilsdorf

Treasurer (2 positions): Christopher Williams, Helen Bernard

Interim Secretary: Florian Burkhardt

Interim Deputy Secretary: Annick Lenglet

Call for candidates for new EAN Board

As every year, we will have the annual election to fill the current vacant positions in the EAN board during the EAN General Assembly (GA) at ESCAIDE. For those of you that didn't already know, it is potentially the best job in the world! If you are interested in presenting yourself for the vacant positions (Vice-President, Secretary and Deputy Secretary), send the EAN board an email (eanboard@gmail.com) with a brief description of yourself, the position you would like to put yourself as a candidate for and why you think you would be good at it. We will ensure that this information is disseminated to EAN well before and during ESCAIDE (for any last minute candidates). Voting can be done by those that attend the GA and we will also establish internet-voting through the EAN website for those that are not able to attend.

EAN Membership

EAN is currently comprised of 283 members. All graduates and current fellows of European Field Epidemiology Training Programmes can join the EAN. External applications from colleagues working in public health epidemiology are also very welcome; they need to be endorsed by 2 EAN members. If you want to join, please send an email to eanboard@gmail.com to request the application form. Our statutes specify that external members may not exceed 10% of the regular members; therefore there is a waiting list for external members.

EAN membership fees

The annual membership fee is €20. New fellows are exempt from this for the first year of their fellowship. Starting from the second year of fellowship every member should pay the fee. We kindly ask you to contact the EAN board (eanboard@gmail.com) in case you want to get information on your membership payment (put in the subject: **membership payment**).

For the time being we are using our bank account in Malta. Please indicate your name and membership year as reference in the bank transfer and also send an email to eanboard@gmail.com to inform us about your payment (sometimes names are not correctly transmitted with the transfer).

Name of Bank: HSBC Malta

Account Holder: Epiet Alumni Network

Account number: 85110443451

IBAN: MT41MMEB4485300000085110443451

BIC/Swift: MMEBMTMT *Delete the blanks!*

Sort code: 44853

EPIET 15th Year Anniversary

The autumn of 2010 is a special time in the history of the EPIET programme as it marks 15 years since the first introductory course for Cohort 1 was held in Veyrier du Lac, France. It also marks 10 years since EAN was established. There will be several further activities to mark this important anniversary, but the EAN has requested a representative of the original Cohort 1 to reflect on what the EPIET experience means to them now. We have also asked all former and current EAN presidents to reflect on EAN and how it has developed over the last 10 years.

EPIET - the start of something great

By Ulrich Vieth (EPIET Cohort 1)

The start of something great and we were part of it. That's how we all felt, back in November 1995 on the premises of the Fondation Merieux, at Veyrier-du-Lac during the first-ever EPIET introductory course and the two years that followed it as part of EPIET Cohort 1. Most of the facilitators were younger than me, and they were as enthusiastic as us.

Personally, the EPIET-experience has completely changed my medical way of thinking for the rest of my career. Even though I have since moved from outbreak control to other fields of public health, I could write a book about it, and maybe some day I will. But for the time being here are just a couple of sentences that stick out in my mind:

- “Is this an outbreak?”
- “What is the baseline?”

These were the questions that like a red threat were present in nearly all the lessons and practical experiences.

These questions today still help me keep cool when everybody else panics.

Or Mike Rowland's advice: “There is such thing as timeliness”

Or Lyle Petersen (from CDC who coached Andrea Ammon, Outi Lyytikäinen and myself at the RKI): “Get your lab-specimen and get them fast. They may not be there tomorrow.”

And above all: “What's the denominator?”

So just recently, reading about the handful of severe cases in pregnant women with Mexican Flu: What's the denominator? And what's the baseline?

A message from the EAN presidents: past and present

By Natasha Crowcroft (Cohort 1), Richard Pebody (Cohort 2), Susan Hahné (Cohort 5), Barbara Schimmer (Cohort 10) and Lorenzo Pezzoli (Cohort 12)

Natasha Crowcroft → In 2010 we are marking the 15th anniversary of EPIET. At the same time we can also celebrate the anniversary of its younger sister, the EPIET Alumni Network, EAN. EAN has now reached somewhere between 9 and 12 years of age, depending on your preferred case definition (should we start counting at conception, at birth, or at legal registration?).

As soon as the first cohort of EPIET Fellows graduated in 1997 it became clear that we needed some way of connecting different cohorts together if we were going to meet the longer term objective of creating a strong network of European epidemiologists. Within each cohort there are strong bonds borne of shared experience. However, it is harder for different cohorts to know each other. And there are strong advantages to knowing what other cohorts have done and tried to do, and to have the support of the whole EPIET family at hand. For example, academic recognition of EPIET training was a hot topic of discussion at a meeting of Fellows in Rome during our biostatistics module in February 1997, but no means existed to keep that conversation going with new EPIET Fellows as they arrived each year. I called this process of linking together cohorts “vertical integration”. No one else seemed to understand what I meant by this term, but this was normal since it was generally acknowledged amongst my fellow Fellows (affectionately) that they couldn't understand anything I said.

In September 1998 we had an informal meeting in the sunshine on the grass in the spectacular gardens of

Les Pensieres in Veyrier du Lac. Everyone unanimously agreed that some kind of alumni organization was needed and that I, being the most naive person present, and not quick enough to avoid the task, should lead the process. It was in part an advantage to come from the first cohort of EPIET - we were known to be quite a strong group of characters. We had felt like guinea pigs in an experiment and had taken a big risk to join a completely new programme that was full of unanswered questions. Now we had a new role to try to support existing and future EPIET Fellows and the accumulating Alumni.

We assembled a team, drafted a constitution and picked a name. The first President was Natasha Crowcroft, Vice President Richard Pebody, Treasurer Christine Meffre, Vice Treasurer Olivier Ronveaux and Secretary, Ralf Reintjes. We operated quite informally at first but soon established strong roles supporting the EPIET Steering Committee and the EPIET Scientific Seminar as well as in circulating jobs and organizing professional development. We carried out a survey of members' needs that told us we should continue to do what we were doing and more.

We decided that we needed to become formally constituted as EAN would inevitably get larger with every new EPIET cohort and we would need to manage our finances properly. It took a little more time to get our legal basis established. As Christine, our Treasurer, was in France it made most sense to establish ourselves under French law and the "Declaration d'une association" was finally made in August 2001. The baby had been conceived, born, named and legally registered. Having laid the groundwork, I stepped down in 2001 and Richard was duly elected to continue the work as President.

Richard Peabody → A new team took up the challenge of nurturing the baby for the next four years - Christine Meffre, Susan Hahné, Viviane Bremer, Marta Valenciano, Isabelle Bonmarin and Richard Pebody. As some left, others joined the Board: Philippe Guerin, Biagio Pedalino, Julia Fitzner and Ulrike Dürr. The EPIET spirit certainly continued. The ideas and energy flowed as the EAN baby became a child and grew from 70 members to almost 130 by 2005. The Board worked hard (and played hard) with regular teleconferences and face-to-face meetings to take forward various activities.

A few of the highlights of our work and play:

A further training needs assessment highlighted a hunger for post-graduate training opportunities. This generated enthusiasm amongst the board to organise a series of short training modules. The first to be organised and delivered by EAN for EAN was in Madrid in 2002 (on new survey methods). This also provided an opportunity to strengthen links with PEAC, the Spanish national field epidemiology training programme and to experience late-night Churros. This was followed by other modules: one in Lyon on Syndromic surveillance and another in Stockholm on

Training the Trainers hosted by SMI. Besides the important learning this was also an opportunity for alumni from different cohorts to put into practice "vertical integration" as Natasha calls it.

The EAN took on an increasingly large role with EPIET in co-organising the EPIET Scientific Seminar - alumni reviewed abstracts, developed the programme and moderated sessions. Indeed as the EPIET family has grown, so has the seminar. The Seminar has gone from a one-day event with 13 oral presentations at the 1st Seminar to a three-day seminar with 39 oral presentations, 60 posters and two round-table discussions in 2005. By 2005, with the foundation of ECDC and the move of EPIET to Stockholm, EAN proposed to the EPIET Steering Committee that a European Conference for Field Epidemiology be established to replace the EPIET Scientific Seminar. The idea for ESCAIDE was borne.

There were plenty of other EAN initiatives: a country-specific resource for new fellows (Ulrike organised a collection of practical material to help fellows settle into their new country); an annual year book (which aimed to provide further "glue" for members by providing details of all EAN members to facilitate collaboration and exchange - Julia and Johannes played did a sterling job for several years) and an annual report (providing a summary of the year's professional developments and general gossip). By 2005, it was time to hand over the baton. I stood down and Susan Hahné took over the reins as new President.

Susan Hahné → Being elected as the new presidential seemed a great idea during the yearly party at the Scientific Seminar, when most people present at the 'Club Maritimo' in Mahon, Menorca, were offering to buy me drinks. The next morning things looked a bit more challenging, particularly when at breakfast I was confronted with the question: ' So, new president, what will be your strategic plan for EAN for the coming years? '. However, the plan soon developed, and consisted basically of consolidating what was outlined in the founding aims and regulations of EAN.

During my two years presidency, I worked with a great board including Angie Rose, Barbara Schimmer, Biagio Pedalino, Gabie Breugelmans, Lara Payne, Mirna du Ry and Ulrike Dürr, with memorable board meetings in Paris and Noordwijk (The Netherlands) and a Training course on 'Laboratory methods for Epidemiologists' in December 2006 in the Netherlands. In addition to the now routine EAN activities, we re-started the EAN newsletter in 2007, closing the 7-year gap after the first newsletter in April 2000.

During 'my' two years, ECDC came into existence, in 2005. As is has the explicit aim to coordinate European networks, EAN is an obvious partner. It is therefore great to see EAN fully acknowledged by ECDC, being part of the scientific organisation

committee for the ESCAIDE and the EPIET advisory forum, in addition to having many individual links between EAN members and ECDC.

During the years, the usual EAN discussion themes kept coming around: Who can vote during the EAN General Assembly? Should we aim to obtain funding from the private sector? Should EAN open-up to non-EPIET or FETP alumni? Can we professionalise EAN? Should we start a more formal mentoring scheme for fellows by alumni? On some issues, such as voting and membership, the founding statutes gave very clear guidance, which I always felt very sensible and useful. Other issues still need further discussion, such as proven by the lively discussion during the GA in Stockholm in 2009 on private sector funding. I believe the intensity of these discussions reflects the commitment members have with EAN, resulting from the experience of having undergone an intense, two-year training programme, with ample opportunities to bond with fellow cohort members and others. As this commitment to EAN makes it an invaluable network, I feel creating these opportunities to facilitate horizontal and vertical integration should be a priority, particularly given the large increase in cohort-size.

Ever since I arrived back in the Netherlands early 2005, outbreaks of vaccine preventable disease have not stopped occurring and work got very busy. I therefore decided to step down in October 2007 and handed-over to Barbara Schimmer.

Barbara Schimmer → Having already been in the board of Susan, I was glad that I could count on her experience, as we work in the same institute. The new board with Agnes Hajdu (cohort 11), Marion Muehlen (cohort 9), Gianfranco Spiteri (cohort 10), Chris Williams (cohort 11), and Mirna Robert (cohort 8) was very motivated. During the election I felt the alumni were a bit worried that new board only had members of cohort 8 or higher. I felt it was important to keep the connection with the alumni from the early cohorts. As board we went further with the newsletter and the establishment of a new EAN website that had more functions and allowed more interaction. The website was further developed with input from the alumni. With the new treasurer, Gianfranco, the bank account moved to Malta and we got a proxy mail address at the ECDC for EAN to improve the routes for official correspondence. We also made an inventory of the training needs and preferences for topics of upcoming EAN modules. As EAN is represented in the scientific committee of the ESCAIDE. it was a great experience to be involved in the organisation of the ESCAIDE conferences in Berlin and Stockholm. In Berlin, EAN organized a pre-ESCAIDE workshop on Critical Review of Scientific Manuscripts. EAN took the responsibility for collecting and managing travel grants for the ESCAIDE for participants that had an accepted poster or oral presentation but were not able to pay for the travel. During the first board meeting in Noordwijk, we

discussed the advantages and disadvantages of moving towards a more professional network, and our contribution to the future teaching and training activities of the ECDC. For this part of the discussions on the future of EAN we were joined by Susan Hahné, former president of the EAN board and Arnold Bosman, former EPIET chief co-ordinator and current head of the epidemiology training section at the ECDC.

The EAN membership increased and EPIET was growing rapidly with more fellows per cohort. We started to look how we could increase the membership by reaching out to fellows that had finished FETP programmes. We actively invited FETP coordinators to submit a list of FETP fellows and alumni from several European countries (a.o. France, Spain) and Turkey. In that way we could also accept more external members on the waiting list as we had already reached the 10% quota of external members. In 2008, Lorenzo Pezzoli (cohort 11) and Gerd Falkenhorst (cohort 10) came on board. At that stage EAN had 204 members. The new board held its annual meeting in Amsterdam in January. We noticed countries were not equally represented in the abstracts presented at ESCAIDE. Of the 407 abstracts presented in 2007 and 2008, 10 countries (9 EU and 1 EEA) accounted for 328 abstracts (81%). 27 of the 53 countries in WHO-EURO presented no abstracts, including 5 EU countries (Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Slovakia) and 2 accession countries (Croatia and TFYR Macedonia). As EAN has a role in the organisation of the ESCAIDE, and in the awarding of travel grants to enable participants to present their work, we wanted to use our influence to encourage contributions from under-represented countries with the so-called outreach project. During the meeting we discussed future ideas for the EAN, the mentorship programme for EPIET fellows, the further development of the website and the organization of a more in-depth GIS for epidemiologists module. The three years in the EAN board have been a great experience for me and I really enjoyed it. I really believe that the alumni have enormous potential and together we are the voice of field epidemiologists in Europe. In 2009 it was time to hand-over and Lorenzo Pezzoli became the new president.

Lorenzo Pezzoli → Reading the truly inspiring words of all the EAN Presidents make me very proud of my current position. It also makes me a bit worried. These are very big shoes to fill and my legs shiver a bit (luckily I am sitting at my desk).

Since that day on the 19th November 2000 in Veyrier-du-Lac when our founding fathers (and mothers) approved the Statutes, EAN has walked a long way. We are also growing up. We are now 10 years old. Like anyone our age, we should still have lots of fun, but we should also start thinking about the future. As a 10 year old boy dreams of becoming an astronaut or an explorer (allow me the very biased and subjective statement), a 10 year old association has dreams too.

EPIET Flash News

Welcome to EPIET Cohort 16 and EUPHEM Cohort 3

On September 27, 2010, a new cohort of unassuming EPIET and EUPHEM fellows embarked on their initiation into the exciting world of field epidemiology and public health microbiology by attending the EPIET introductory course in Lazareto, Menorca, Spain. Initial reports from the quarantine island, suggest the course went well



EPIET Introductory Course participants and Week 1 facilitators

The new EPIET and EUPHEM fellows, their country of origin and their hosting training sites are:

- Saverio Caini, Italy, NCE Budapest
- Erik de Jonge, the Netherlands, DGS Lisbon
- H el ene Englund, Sweden, LGL Bayern, Oberschleissheim
- Alin Gherasim, Romania, SMI Stockholm
- Sofie Gillesberg Lassen, Denmark, RKI Berlin
- Bernardo Guzm an Herrador, Spain, FHI, Oslo
- Ellen Heinsbroek, The Netherlands; HPA-CFI, London
- Galena Kuyumdzhieva, Bulgaria, HPS, PHA (HPS-NI/RHPS), Belfast
- Georgia Ann Frances Ladbury, United Kingdom, RIVM, Bilthoven
- Arnaud Le Menach, France, HPA-London Reg
- Petra Matulkova, Czech Republic, HPA-SW, Gloucester
- Francisco Nogareda Moreno, Spain, InVS-DMI, Paris
- Ida Prantner, Hungary, HPS Glasgow
- Javiera Rebolledo, Belgium, HPSC Dublin
- Ettore Severi, Italy, HPA-SE, London
- Vinciane Sizaire, Belgium, ISCIII Madrid
- Oktawia W ojcik, Poland, SSI Copenhagen
- Anna Zielicka-Hardy, United Kingdom, NIH Warsaw
- Giovanna Jaramillo Gutierrez, Belgium, RIVM Bilthoven
- Katherina Zakikhany, Germany, HPA-CfI London

It is time to work on our dreams with the help of all our friends. We are now 283 members, not only from the EPIET programme but also from the other European training programmes, other international friends (also known as external members) and last but not least the first graduates from the newly established EUPHEM programme. With such growing numbers in the network there is the need to be moving from a circle of friends to a professional association devoted to strengthening public health in the EU (and elsewhere).

The current EAN Board has this dream in mind. We are very honoured to know that many training programmes around the world look at us for inspiration to create their own alumni network. We continue to liaise with other epidemiology networks and training programmes around the world (TEPHINET, AFENET, and the newly created APARET programme, just to cite a few), dreaming one day of a seamless global public health network. We are also working to give to the EAN an independent financial status. In this same sense, we are also looking into the possibility of formalizing the EAN office in a fixed location and also continuous administrative support. In order to offer support to all our members in an increasingly professional way, as they deserve.

We have now reached Cohort 16, with 20 enthusiastic fellows from EPIET and EUPHEM who have just completed their introductory course. Seeing their traditional group photo at the entrance of Lazareto framed by the clouds and the blue sky fills me with memories and also great expectations. I guess we are the only network that can say that being at the entrance of a quarantine island fills you with energy and hope. Let's work on our dreams and bring on the next adventures. Happy birthday EPIET and EAN!



Natasha Crowcroft, EAN's first president



The 4th European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) will be held in Lisbon from 11 to 13 November 2010. We hope to see as many of you there as possible!

As each year, EAN has awarded several travel grants to financially support the travel expenses for persons who have presentations accepted at ESCAIDE.

EAN and EPIET babies

The EAN and EPIET families have been very productive in other aspects also in recent months.

Esther Kissling (Cohort 12 and our famed epi-cartoonist) and Tim welcomed baby Thomas.



Ariane Halm (Cohort 13 and former EAN Board secretary) and Joost became proud parents of Laura.



Erik de Jonge (Cohort 16) and Naomi became parents to Fenna who joins her sister Sterre.



Stories from the Field

Mass gathering surveillance at the Guča Trumpet Festival, Serbia, August 2010.

By Hana Orlíková (EPIET Cohort 14)

I applied for a mission in Serbia. The objective was to support local epidemiologists in activities regarding mass gathering Trumpet Festival in Guča. In my mind the word “mission” was associated with converting to the right religion in some exotic setting. But luckily for this mission, no conversion was needed as we all believed in field epidemiology.

Serbia, is a country of 7,5 million inhabitants with 23 regional Public Health Institutes under the coordination of the Institute of Public Health in Belgrade. Guča is a small town, of above 2000 citizens, near the city of Čačak, in the Dragačevo region of western Serbia at around 3 hours bus-ride from Belgrade. Each year during the Trumpet Festival Guča changes its peaceful nature and accepts hundreds of trumpet bands and few hundred thousands of festival visitors from Serbia and worldwide. 2010 marked the 50th year of the festival, and for this the festival was organised to last for 10 days during August with around 600,000 visitors expected. This year, local media even reported that there were 800,000 visitors to the festival - quite the

mass gathering for this small village and country! Organisers invited 2000 trumpet players and other musicians the Serbian Republic, Slovenia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Poland, France, Turkey, Israel, USA, Australia and Morocco. Participants and guests were accommodated in three camps, with local families, in hotels and hostels in Guča itself and neighbouring towns and villages. Medical support was provided by the local medical health care centre, “Dom Zdravlja”, in Guča, in addition to three emergency first aid points and mobile teams operating on a 24/7 schedule.

During the mission I was based at the regional Institute of Public Health in Čačak. The overall objective of the mission was to implement a reporting system for all health events for this mass gathering. In collaboration with the director of the local medical centre and three friendly and experienced epidemiologists, we analysed all data related to ‘health events’ for patients attended during the festival. As is common with these mass gathering events, the majority of health events were related to alcohol consumption and injuries. And apparently, 2010 was a ‘quiet year’ as no murders had taken place...

My Serbian colleagues also assured me that in previous years of the festival not a single infectious disease outbreak had been reported at the festival. But, this year there was the suspicion of a clinical case of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection in a horse few kilometers from the festival site and a gastroenteritis outbreak in a police unit that was on-duty during the festival. The first one was of particular ‘touristic’ interest for me because it allowed me to participate in the field investigation in a true rural area surrounded by deep forests, where the family owning the horse lived. For the first time in my life I could see the special charcoal kiln that is used for producing wood-coal. This horse was never confirmed as a case of WNV infection as the laboratory diagnosis remained inconclusive. For the police outbreak, efforts were focused on prompt implementation of control measures and avoiding negative media attention. We also tried to implement a case control study among the policemen to try and identify the source of infection but unfortunately policemen are hard to convince to provide stool samples for the investigation and when we wanted to start administering the questionnaire, we realised that the cases and controls had disappeared to other parts of the country and were replaced by non-exposed colleagues!

From a professional side, the Guča Trumpet Festival has been a unique ‘field mission’ experience for me. And I would say to any EPIET that is offered the possibility to go in future years that you will really enjoy it, but that knowledge of Slavic languages and Cyrillic writing will be an advantage.

From a personal perspective, I would recommend anyone that is interested in experiencing a music festival that is like no-other, unspoiled by globalization, traditional and crazy at the same time, the the Guča Trumpet Festival is for you! Don't expect some parade of structured brass orchestras, march-like music or jazz. It is far from that. In Guča, music is very wild, noisy, lively, energizing and really special. There will be many brass bands of six-ten members competing for your attention in each corner of crowded streets, in open restaurants and on the stages. Many of the bands are Gypsies and people are dancing the traditional Serbian kolo all over the place. The special atmosphere is multiplied by the traditional foods, which are tasty and risky (epidemiologically speaking), at the same time. Imagine hundreds of pigs and lamb grilled just in front of your eyes in open fire and adding ketchup, sauce or vegetables to your typical "pljeskavica" (hamburger) using the same spoon that was used by hundreds of people before you. A hungry epidemiologist forgets about modes of transmission. Alcohol is available everywhere, mostly beer (sold in cans to avoid injuries from glass bottles) and also Rakia prepared from plums matured on Serbian sunshine.

The day after the festival ended, Guča was empty and the special atmosphere disappeared. The only reminder that something had been going on in the previous ten days was the rubbish, empty bottles and cans, and food handlers packing their equipment. The village will return to its peaceful self until the next Trumpet Festival in 2011.

The Serbian people are a beautiful mix of cheerful, sporty, welcoming and strong senses of humor. They have learned from their own experience that the war can change your life unexpectedly and therefore enjoy life seriously. Many persons I spoke to shared stories of having lost family members during the war from military duty as well as having to leave home and family and friends urgently and not knowing about the fate of their loved-ones for several months. These days, my Serbian colleagues were very curious about current life in European Union and they were very positive about the existing cooperation with ECDC.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks my Serbian colleagues for their collaboration and help during my stay, specifically Jelena Obrenović (Institute of Public Health in Belgrade), Aksentije Tošić, Ana Mišović, Davor Obrenić (Institute of Public Health in Čačak) and Dusan Šuluburić (director of Dom Zdravlja in Guča). I would also like to say thank you to Francisco Santos O'Connor (ECDC) for telling me that I would have a lot of fun during this mission (he was right) and for his supervision during the mission.



Alcohol at the festival...



Musicians...



The epidemiologists: Davor Obrenić, Hana Orliková (EPIET), Ana Mišović, Aksentije Tošić

EPI Tools

Piface

University of Iowa's statistic professor Russel V. Lenth has written a very beautiful Java applet named "Piface" for calculating sample sizes for a variety of study questions. It offers more choice than Episheet and approaches the problem from a different angle.

You can download it from his website at <http://www.cs.uiowa.edu/~rlenth/Power/> for offline use. On his website, Russ also comments on the widespread habit of calculating retrospective power.

Next time you need some power, give Piface a try. Kudos to Russ!

EPI Cartoon



Ambushed by the Random-Intercept-Model, the intrepid EPIET fellow ponders her next move.

This edition's Epi Cartoon is kindly provided by Esther Kissling and Florian Burckhardt from their www.disease-detectives.org initiative.

Upcoming Conferences and Courses

Click on the titles with Ctrl-mouse click to be directed to EAN website:

- August 7-11 2011, IEA World Congress on Epidemiology, Edinburgh, Scotland
- June 7-11th 2011, 29th Annual Meeting of the Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID), The Hague
- May 26-27 2011, European Conference of National Strategies for Chlamydia trachomatis and Human Papillomavirus, Jurmala, Latvia
- April 1-4th 2011, Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) Annual Scientific meeting, Dallas, Texas
- January 27-30 2011, 1st International Conference on Controversies in Vaccination in Adults (CoVAC), Berlin, Germany
- December 13th-17th 2010, Sixth Tephinet Global Conference, Cape Town
- Dec 5-10 2010, 15th International Biometric Conference, Florianopolis (Brazil)
- December 3-5 2010, Women's Health in Asia, Beijing
- November 12-13 2010, HPV and Cancer, Amsterdam
- November 11-13 2010, 2010: 4th ESCAIDE in Lisbon (Portugal)
- November 6-9 2010, Epidemiology and Public Health in an Evolving Europe, Florence, Italy

Contribute to the next EAN Newsletter!

We are currently looking for contributions for the next newsletter. Would you like to share an interesting experience? Are you doing an exciting job somewhere in the world and beyond? Please e-mail your story to EANboard@gmail.com.