



Toras-Sieppi, Finland, January 2022, photo by Alexandra Obach

## Editorial

Dear EAN friends,

Happy New Year! These last few months have been an incredibly busy time. They have seen a host of EAN-related events ranging from the serious (workshops on vaccine equity and social media for epidemiologists) to the social (EAN dinner and drinks in no less than three cities).

We have welcomed a new cohort and seen the MediPIET fellowship being moved under the auspices of ECDC leading to interesting opportunities that cohort 2021 have already seen in the inclusion of MediPIET fellows in some of their modules. At the same time, we have seen cohort 2019 graduate and become full active members of the network and even taking on two advisory board roles. Unfortunately, we have also lost two members of our network, who we are missing profoundly.

We enjoyed meeting many of you online during ESCAIDE and during the EAN General Assembly.

In this Winter edition of the EAN newsletter, you will:

- Meet the entire **advisory board**, both the newly elected members and the old ones
- Read about the preliminary results of the **EAN membership survey**
- Meet EUPHEM alumna **Heli** and find out about her experiences with EUPHEM and life after the fellowship
- Read about all the EAN activities during **ESCAIDE 2021**
- Welcome to **Cohort 2021** and congratulations to **Cohort 2019**
- **And much more...**

Enjoy the reading and see you soon.

The EAN Board

### The EAN board

#### President

Iro Evlampidou

#### Vice-President

Stine Nielsen

#### Deputy Treasurer

Timothée Dub

#### Treasurer

Charlotte Hammer

#### Deputy Secretary

Anna Maisa

#### Secretary

Laura Bubba

#### General Board Member

Justine Schaeffer

## Word from the president: another COVID-19 new year

Dear EAN friends and colleagues,

It is a pleasure to introduce myself as the new President of the EAN Advisory Board and to take over from Amrish (Baidjoe), after he has completed four years of term. I feel humbled to represent the EAN and I hope to contribute to the network's objectives through my enthusiasm, previous experience in the Board as secretary, background and personal touch.

I was hoping that this piece would have addressed something different than the ongoing pandemic, but unfortunately, 2 years plus after its beginning, we are still largely dealing with COVID-19, the Omicron variant and the booster vaccinations, at least in the West while the rest of the world is still struggling to get at least one dose. Since the previous newsletter, we saw the surge of the Delta variant worldwide that – we thought – it was too quick to replace the previous and was causing a lot of serious disease but hopefully was being covered by the increasing, albeit still slow, availability of vaccines. And just before the year ended, despite the hopes of a more relaxing festive season, Omicron, an even more transmissible variant, appeared and disturbed our plans putting us in a new frenzy route... But hopefully it seems less virulent, as new research suggests since it appears to bind less to the lower respiratory tract cells. The new situation and consequent public health measures are causing a further political, scientific and public divide, strong polarisation resulting in protests and further burn out of already exhausted epidemiologists and public health microbiologists. And contact tracing programmes are largely dropped in view of thousands of daily new cases in many countries, while now the discussion is turning into endemicity and setting acceptable thresholds.

FETP fellows and alumni worldwide are working around the clock to control the pandemic and are gaining valuable experience in field epidemiology, outbreak and cluster investigation, surveillance and COVID-19-related research. However, the quality of the training programmes and especially the networking component is heavily affected due to courses transitioning to online format, under-reporting of other types of outbreaks, less diversity of projects, very busy supervisors and lack of or high turn-over of scientific coordinators. In the EAN we've been closely following this situation and are engaging in discussions with the Fellowship Office on how

to best tackle these challenges and how to better support the fellows. In the upcoming strategic Board meeting in February, we will further elaborate on that matter as well as plan more EAN activities for members and fellows, discuss the results of the membership survey that closed at the end of November and create a calendar of training courses and social events. Stay tuned!

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a healthy, happy and colourful 2022, where we'll be able to see, touch and kiss our friends and family again and find some time to truly rest and relax!

Always look on the bright side of life :-)

Iro Evlampidou



## Interview with EUPHEM Alumna: Heli Harvala

[Heli Harvala](#) was one of Cohort 2014 EUPHEM fellows and she is sharing her experience of the EUPHEM path and how it changed her daily work at a public health organization.

*Interview by Laura Bubba, EAN secretary*

**EAN:** *Hello Heli, would you please introduce yourself and tell us where you are working currently?*

**Heli:** Many thanks Laura. I am Heli, a Finnish Medical Virologist with interest in Public Health. I come from Northern Finland (not too far from the Arctic Circle!). After completion of my first degree in Organic Chemistry and the subsequent one in Medicine at the University of Turku Finland, I followed my heart to Scotland. There I commenced my specialist training in Medical Virology. One of the most interesting moments in my career was to step out from that training in order to undertake the EUPHEM training in Stockholm, Sweden (2014-2016). From there, I relocated to England and commenced my first Consultant Medical Virology job at the UCLH, London. However, I was truly missing the national public health aspects of work, and hence took yet another opportunity to work for NHS Blood and Transplant (Colindale, London) at the beginning of 2018. I have been working here now for four years, covering largely blood donor screening, surveillance, safety and policy aspects throughout England but linking closely with other UK nations and also internationally. While enterovirus work has remained my main hobby, I have also continued to pursue research on blood safety and genomics. I am an Honorary Clinical Associate Professor in Virology at the UCL and was nominated as a Principal Investigator for NHS Blood and Transplant last year.

**EAN:** *What do you think is the main role of a microbiologist in a public health organisation?*

**Heli:** I'm not sure I am the best person to cover this question as NHS Blood and Transplant is not primarily a public health organisation. However, you could say that its wider role also includes some public health aspects and that's where I certainly feel the importance of public health microbiology. In addition to the traditional aspects of microbiology including efficient and quality-controlled testing, the microbiologist plays an important role on epidemiological and genomic surveillance bringing in the clinical and microbiological knowledge into those investigations, evaluation of the effectiveness of such testing strategies, identification of need for a policy change and accumulating evidence to support that. In a more traditional public health organisation (or even hospitals), microbiologists have a pivotal role in outbreak investigations.

**EAN:** *The EUPHEM path introduces epidemiological tools to microbiologists. How often did you use these tools in your everyday working life? Which other skills and competences did you implement in your daily duty after EUPHEM?*

**Heli:** As I said earlier on, I am not the most typical example of how a EUPHEM might be employed. However, EUPHEM skills have been very important and useful in my current role. I analyse data trends in an almost weekly basis and feel confident doing so. EUPHEM training has also provided further tools for reporting – how to make your message clear and understandable also for a non-epidemiologist.

In our previous convalescent plasma work, I have been involved in many multivariable analyses of plasma donors, and it has really helped me to be either involved or leading such work. Communication training is also one to mention; skills to summarise and present data verbally or in writing in a concise format is a vital skill to anybody working within the public health

microbiology field. Teaching and training has also a pivotal role in my job; although evaluating and setting up learning aims and goals sometimes felt frustrating, it has really made that role easier and helped to develop teaching aspects further within my job role.

**EAN:** *How important would you rate EUPHEM for networking? Did it change the way you interacted with European public health organizations?*

**Heli:** Networking is a very important component of EUPHEM training and should be rated towards the top of the pyramid. Getting to know the fellow trainees across Europe has really helped with interactions and provided the framework where to start. It has also helped me to get a better understanding of the structure of public health in many countries, and how they should be approached.

**EAN:** *You are one of the founders of the European Network for Non-Polio Enteroviruses (ENPEN) group, what is this European network and what do you think has been the role of ENPEN prior and during the COVID-19 pandemic?*

**Heli:** We established [ENPEN](#) soon after the completion of my EUPHEM training, in 2017. Since that, ENPEN has had a leading role in collating and analysing data on significant enterovirus infections across Europe, which has already increased our understanding of these infections and how to diagnose them. We have clearly seen that more hospitals from more countries have been joining ENPEN during the pandemic, although the start of our planned hospital-based surveillance programmes had to be delayed due to the ongoing pandemic. Hospitals and laboratories are keen to work together, learn from each other and support the network in its aim towards understanding the burden of these infections, especially when the poliovirus surveillance is diminishing in many countries. We have been simply amazed and delighted to see ENPEN growing, now reaching over 50 hospitals in up to 24 European countries!

**EAN:** *Before closing our chat, would you like to give any suggestions to the current and future EPIET/EUPHEM fellows (and maybe also to the previous ones)?*

**Heli:** I think it is very difficult to give strong suggestions, especially at the time of COVID-19 pandemic when we all are tired, as work has stretched often too far towards late evenings and weekends! However, it is important to trust on your instincts and do what you think is best for you and for your family. You should never underestimate the importance of life outside the work, as only a balanced mind can achieve the best.





## EAN General Assembly 2021

The EAN General Assembly (GA) and EAN Board elections took place virtually on 17 November 2021 during ESCAIDE 2021 and were attended by more than 90 people.

The main activities, the financial and membership status of the EAN for 2021 were presented by the Advisory Board members. Over the year, 44 weekly bulletins were sent, advertising for more than 500 job offers, 87 courses, conferences, surveys, or other events. Among others, work was done to improve the EAN website, and more advances are still planned. We also simplified membership fee payment options and implemented a credit card option (a request from several members) while discontinued the PayPal option. See details for how to pay your EAN membership at the end of the Newsletter. EAN also hosted and facilitated four webinars on various topics and participated in the creation of the [Epi R Handbook](#). The Board members were in close contact with the EPIET/EUPHEM fellows and the Fellowship Office, organising and participating in meetings (cohort reps, TSF), the new fellows' selection process, the newly created TSF working groups and the facilitation of modules. Despite the COVID-19 pressure and burden, the activities were back on track and connections have been maintained within the network, the Whatsapp group and the newly launched Discord server playing an important role in that.

As a member of the scientific committee, EAN was involved in the preparation of ESCAIDE 2021, participating in abstract review, contributing to the organisation of a plenary session on inequality pandemic and the BarCamp event. Two side events were also organised by EAN: the career compass and ESCAIDE's photo contest.

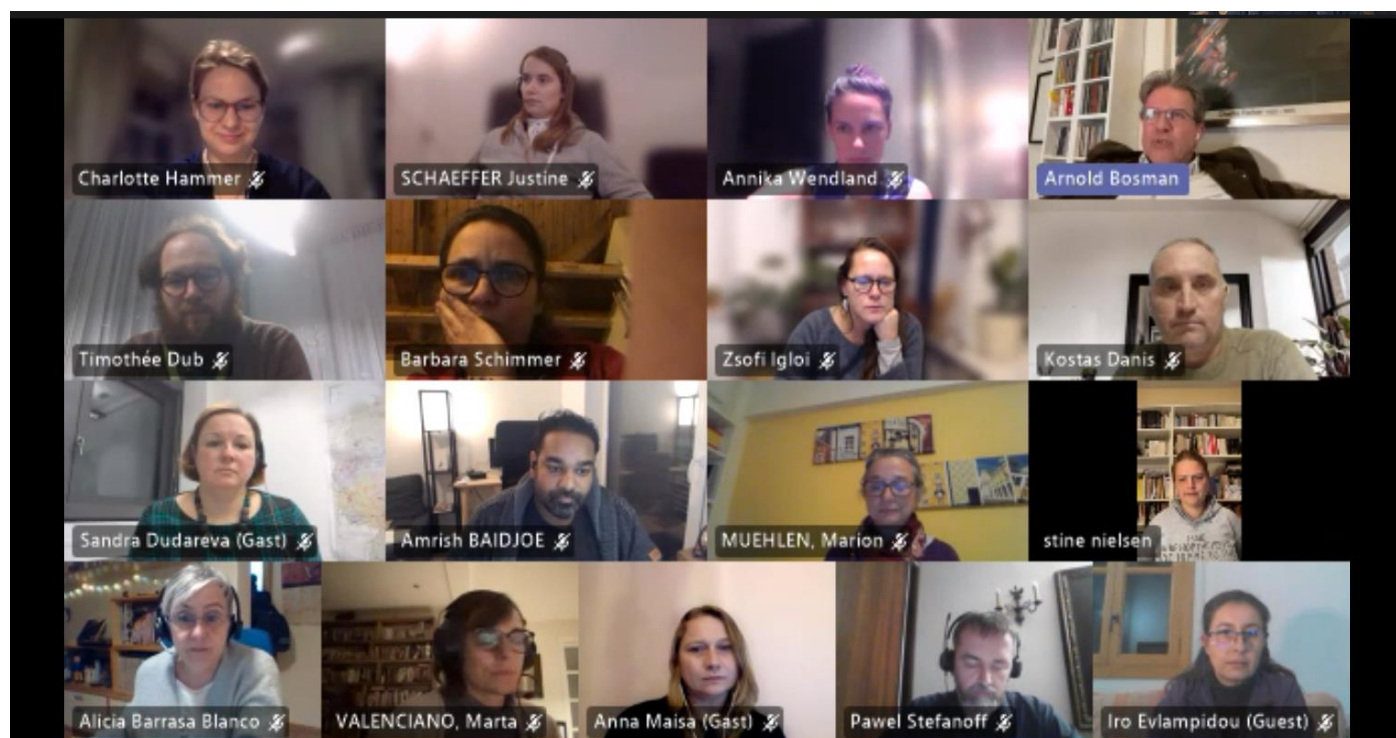
One of the major activities of the EAN over the past year was the roll out of the 2021 Membership survey. The objective is to understand EAN members' pre- and post-fellowship situation, their

opinion on the current status of the EAN and possible evolutions. The survey included almost 100 questions on several topics: fellowship experience, career progression, core competencies past and future, EAN specific questions. The response rate was 36% (280/779). Preliminary results were presented during the EAN general assembly, and further analysis are on the board agenda for 2022 (see also below).

With over 300 active members and the EAN's finances being healthy, plans for 2022 include among others the organisation of 1-2 mini-modules, proposed topics are the use of R in statistical analysis, Whole-Genome-Sequencing method, leadership, communication. Also, an event is planned to celebrate the 26+ years of the EPIET programme. The eligibility of MediPIET alumni to join EAN will also be discussed further.

This year, there were four positions for the EAN Advisory Board to fill during the annual elections. The leaving members were Amrish Baidjoe after a 4-year term as President, Amy Mikhail as secretary, Annika Wendland as Treasurer and Zsafia Igloi as general board member after 2 years of term each. Big thanks to all leaving members for their work and dedication to the Network, especially during these challenging times. The newly elected members were Iro Evlampidou in the position of President, Laura Bubba as secretary, Charlotte Hammer as treasurer and Justine Schaeffer as general board member. Congratulations and good luck to the new EAN Advisory Board members!

We would like to say a big thank you to all our members, both alumni and fellows for attending the GA and for their constructive input and suggestions! We will share the minutes of the GA with the active EAN members very soon.



## Meet the EAN Advisory Board 2022-2023

The EAN is happy to present you below the composition of the new Advisory Board for 2022-2023 together with a short biography of its members.

### **President: Iro Evlampidou, EPIET Cohort 2012 (2021-2023, newly elected)**

Dear EAN friends, I am a specialised in General Medicine doctor (2007) with a master's degree in Public Health and Health Care Administration from the University of Crete (2005) and was trained in Field Epidemiology at the European Program for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) of ECDC in Public Health England in the UK (cohort 2012).

Since 2001, I have worked with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in various medical, epidemiology and coordination positions in worldwide both in the field and headquarters. I have also collaborated with European academic and public health institutions as a researcher in environmental epidemiology and on refugee and migrant health. My most recent post was as a scientific coordinator in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Field Epidemiology Training Programme (MediPIET), an advanced FETP, teaching and mentoring fellows and organising face-to-face and online training courses. I was also the Secretary of the EAN Advisory Board in 2017-2019. I feel honoured to be re-elected, this time in the position of the President and I hope to further the EAN's objectives and meet the expectations of our members!

### **Vice-president: Stine Nielsen, EPIET cohort 2008 (2020-2022)**

I did my EPIET from 2008-2010 at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) in Berlin,

Germany. I have a Master's Degree in Public Health Sciences from the University of



Copenhagen and before EPIET, I worked as an epidemiologist for 4 years at WHO Regional Office for Europe in the unit for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections.

After EPIET, I stayed at RKI working mostly on bio-behavioural surveys among female sex workers and people who use drugs. In 2015, I moved with my Spanish husband and our daughter to Torrelodones (Madrid) and have since then been working from home as an independent consultant for clients such as WHO/Europe, ECDC, EMCDDA, RKI, Epiconcept and others mostly on projects related to viral hepatitis and HIV. In 2021, I finalised my dr.rer.med. at Charité in Berlin. I am passionate about contributing to keeping our growing EAN network active and strong.

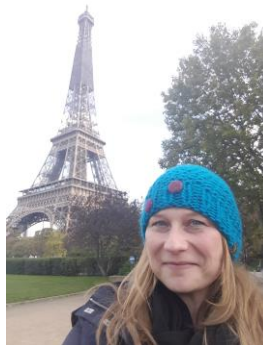
### **Deputy secretary: Anna Maisa, EPIET cohort 2016 (2020-2022)**

I am from Germany and did my EPIET training 2016-2018 at the Public Health Agency Northern Ireland in Belfast.

I studied Biology and did my PhD in Virology working on Lassa virus, including a biosafety

level 4 laboratory training. After that I worked in medical research on HIV at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne, Australia. This project sparked my interest in public health and epidemiology and I started working at the regional Centre of Health in North Rhine-Westphalia back in Germany, mostly on preparedness and emergency response, as well as surveillance of tropical pathogens. I briefly went back to lab work during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, supporting the European Mobile Lab in Guinea on Ebola diagnostics.

After completing EPIET, I went to Nigeria with MSF as a Flying Epi to work with the Nigerian Emergency Response Unit on several different projects, including



internally displaced people and childhood mortality.

Back in Germany, I have worked on hepatitis B with WHO and RKI in Berlin as a freelancer. At the moment I am living in Paris and supporting the COVID-19 team at Santé Publique France. I am happy to be able to contribute to the work of the EAN Board and reconnect with former and current fellows.

### **Secretary: Laura Bubba, EUPHEM cohort 2016 (2021-2023, newly elected)**

I am Italian and I started my scientific activity at the University of Milan in 2008. I applied for EUPHEM in 2016, working at Public Health of England in London. During my EUPHEM



experience first and my position at Global health later, I had several opportunities to work on different aspects of public and global health, focusing part of my activities on laboratory capacity building and respiratory bacterial infections. After maternity leave, I worked with the European Society of Clinical Virology (ESCV) as a freelancer mapping the SARS-CoV-2 serological testing approaches across the European countries.

Since November 2020 I am working at the University of Milan on national and European surveillance of respiratory viral infections (InfluNet & COVIDNet, DRIVE and COVIDRIVE). I believe EAN can enhance and improve EPIET and EUPHEM fellowships, helping to keep alumni updated on all aspects of public health, creating links between the European epidemiologists and microbiologists. As secretary I am happy to learn new competences and to actively contribute to the network supporting communications, meeting and modules organisation.

**Deputy treasurer: Timothée Dub, EPIET Cohort 2017 (2019-2022)**

For those who do not know me yet, I have been on the board since I graduated in 2019. After EPIET, I stayed in Finland, at Terveystieteiden tutkimuskeskus [the name of the institute and the only Finnish I know...] That joke never gets old] even though I do miss French cheese and wine. I fell in love with field epidemiology during my Public Health medical residency when staffed on projects related to the neurological consequences of Zika virus infection in French Polynesia.

Am now mostly working on a vector-borne diseases and climate change project and the development of Epidemic Intelligence tools



(MOOD: MONitoring Outbreak events in a Data science context), and of course doing my best to join and facilitate EPIET/EUPHEM modules (my favourites being TSA and vaccinology), whenever I can. In the coming year, my main aims on the board are to increase and structure exchanges between network members and friends with further implementation of the Discord platform, as well as organise relevant trainings for our members.

**Treasurer: Charlotte Hammer, EPIET 2018 (2021-2023, newly elected)**

Dear EAN family,

I am Charlotte, your new treasurer. I finished my EPIET fellowship at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare in Helsinki last year. I am now based at the University of Cambridge in the UK in the Disease Dynamics Unit and maintain a firm foot in both applied epidemiology and academia.

When I am not taking time out of my research to run off and do applied epi, right now mainly for the WHO, I research the early stages of outbreaks of emerging zoonotic diseases to develop targeted surveillance systems. During my fellowship, I was one of the cohort representatives and enjoyed it a lot. While my fellowship was during a challenging time, I found it extremely rewarding, particularly being a part of such a strong and committed group of like-minded people.

This is an exciting time for the network, the fellowships and field epidemiology and public health microbiology in general and I am grateful to have been trusted with a position that gives me the opportunity to be an active part in the general field but also in the development of the alumni network. As treasurer, I will not only be collecting your money but I am also determined to make sure it is money well spent. Additionally, I am keen to support the current cohorts and to strengthen the ties between applied and academic epis which has been extremely important these past two years, if not always successful.

I am looking forward to meeting many (more) of you in person and online (but really, I just want to meet you all in person) in the near future at various events.



**General Board Member: Justine Schaeffer, EUPHEM cohort 2019 (2021-2023, newly elected)**

I am a EUPHEM fellow from cohort 2019, and I was lucky to do my fellowship at the

Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), in Vienna, Austria. I started my studies in academia, with a PhD at the



Institut Pasteur. During my PhD, I got the chance to participate in the international efforts against the West-African Ebola outbreak (2014-2015) by working in an Ebola diagnostic lab in Guinea. It was the start of my switch, from research to public health, with first another field mission in Nigeria on Lassa fever, and then a EUPHEM application.

My EUPHEM fellowship was the opportunity to walk out of the world of viral haemorrhagic fevers, with projects on a wide range of pathogens. It included many genomic analyses, thanks to the AGES sequencing facility. Like most C2019 fellows, I had the opportunity to work on COVID-19, which led me to my current position. I am now working at Santé Publique France, in the COVID variant team, which handles the surveillance and expertise regarding SARS-CoV-2 variants in France.

As a general board member, I will support my fellow board members in all the routine tasks that are deeply undervalued but are necessary for the network to keep working. I also hope we will have a chance to start newer and more exciting projects, like some EAN modules that, if COVID allows it, will be face-to-face. They would be a great opportunity to start compensating for the missed social interactions and opportunities of the last two years.



## EAN Membership survey 2021

The long awaited EAN membership survey stopped receiving responses on 30 November 2021 and collected 283, including six from the pilot study. The previous survey took place in 2013 and resulted in a publication in the journal [Epidemiology & Infection](#).

The objectives of the current survey were to describe the EAN's member base (demographics, fellowship experience, past and current employment, skills, career paths etc.), to explore the members' vision on skills that are needed from future public health epidemiologists or microbiologists, to assess members' needs and satisfaction with the specific services provided by EAN, and to get input on the direction that EAN should or could take. The survey was quite thorough, containing 93 questions that may have affected the response rate of 36%.

The preliminary results (280 responses) were presented during the annual General Assembly. In a nutshell, the majority were females (68%) with an average age of 42 years. All past and current cohorts participated (1995-2021), apart from cohort 1999, from all programmes and tracks, although most were from the

EPIET EU-track (45%). More than half (61%) are working in National or Sub-national Public Health Institutes in the position of Epidemiologist (66%) while 11% are working as Microbiologists. The main field of day-to-day activities are surveillance (64%), research (46%), outbreak investigation (41%), and teaching/capacity building (35%). Finally, two-thirds of respondents agreed that their participation in the fellowship has increased their employability and/or their professional profile, while 77% stayed in Europe after finishing it suggesting the high value of the EPIET/EUPHEM training programme in the career path of the alumni and the strengthening of the European workforce.

The next steps are to fully analyse all answers, prepare relevant scientific communications that will be shared with all EAN members, the fellowship office and the scientific community and will be used to inform the future activities of the association, so stay tuned!! A big thanks to all EAN members who took the time to complete the survey!

## Fellowship news

A total of five fellowships are currently running as part of the ECDC or related countries' training programmes. The European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) was established in 1995, whereas the European Public Health Microbiology Training Programme (EUPHEM) was initiated by ECDC in 2008.

Other associated programmes are the German-FETP (1996) that was renamed to Postgraduate Training for Applied Epidemiology (PAE, 2006), and the Norwegian-FETP (2001) while the UK-FETP was initiated in 2009 and became a standalone programme in 2019. Additionally, MediPIET, a European Union-DG DEVCO funded regional FETP, started in 2014 and in 2021 passed to ECDC.

## Farewell/Congratulations to Cohort 2019

[EPIET](#), [EUPHEM](#) and [PAE](#) cohort 2019, the Crude and Unadjusted cohort, was the second cohort affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As ESCAIDE 2021 was held online, so was their graduation ceremony. It was still rhythmized by great memories, wishes for the future and, more importantly, songs! Attendants also got a visual confirmation that C2019 had many talents.

C2019 got lucky to meet in person for the Introductory Course and the outbreak investigation module. It was enough to create a strong bond between all fellows, which was carried on virtually throughout the pandemic.

All the best to the newly graduated fellows, and may the cohort spirit stay alive!





### Welcome Cohort 2021

The new UK-FETP, EPIET & EUPHEM and UK-FETP cohorts 2021 started their activity in September. They had their introductory course and Outbreak investigation modules that unfortunately this year they were both online. We are excited to welcome the

fellows of cohort 2021 to the EAN and wish that they will have plenty of opportunities to see each other in person in the near future! Meet the new EPIET, EUPHEM and UK-FETP fellows and see where they are based :-)

### UK-FETP





# C2021 THE MOUNTAINEERS



Catarina  
Krug



Charlotte  
Salgaard  
Nielsen



Eftychia  
Kefronia



Eva  
Leban



Eveline Otte  
im Kampe



Gordan  
Sarajlić



Henrieke  
Prins



Karolina  
Fischerström



Katja  
Van Ewijk



Léa  
Franceneri



Lida  
Politi



Liza  
Ceyer



Lorenzo  
Bandini



Sabrina  
Nethdurfter



Sofia  
Ribeiro



Tatiana Garcia  
Vilaplana



Tjede  
Funk



Valeska  
Laisnez



Adrienn  
Hanczvikkel



Álvaro  
Roy



Camille  
Jacqueline



Christina  
Merakou



Corrado  
Minetti



Ioanna  
Spiliopoulou



Katarzyna  
Schmidt



Larissa  
Dangel



Margarida  
Simões



Vera  
Manageiro



Anja  
Schoeps



Anna-Lisa  
Behnke



Claudia  
Sievers



Cernelia  
Seidl



Franziska  
Badenschier



Franziska  
Hommes



Hannah  
Höglund



Jan  
Stratil



Jonathan  
Baum



Silja  
Bühler

Where is everyone? Have a look!



## UKFETP Cohort 2021

UK FETP  
Field Epidemiology  
Training Programme

Hannah Taylor



Chilton

Joanna Garner



Liverpool

Patrick McAleavey



Belfast

Amoolya Vusirikala



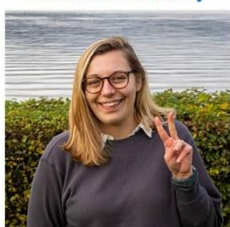
South East and London

Mona Dave



Birmingham

Frances Rowley



Cardiff

Rachel Merrick



Cardiff

Alice Wynne



Newcastle



## Welcome to MediPIET cohort 4

In September 2021, the MediPIET Programme, an advanced regional FETP from the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, welcomed the 4th Cohort of fellows in its family, consisting of 16 fellows from 11 partner countries (Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, Lebanon, Moldova, North Macedonia, Palestine<sup>2</sup>, Serbia, Tunisia, and Ukraine). [MediPIET](#), a European Programme under the EU Initiative on Health Security is now implemented by the

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) taking over from the previous implementer of MediPIET, Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII) and Fundación Estatal, Salud, Infancia y Bienestar Social (FCSAI).

We would like to welcome the 4th MediPIET cohort to the wider field epidemiology family and to wish them good luck in this wonderful endeavour.

---

<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

<sup>2</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue

## EPIET/EUPHEM Fellowship meetings

Since the last newsletter was out in September 2021, the Training Site Forum (TSF) members with the Fellowship Office met in different occasions to discuss topics concerning the fellowships such as the wellbeing of the fellows and relevant training, the scientific coordinator situation, the survey on updating the competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology, as well as to launch the TSF working groups.

The 2021 Q3 and Q4 TSF meetings took place on 29/9 and 14/12 respectively. Additionally, the EPIET and EUPHEM supervisors

continued to meet monthly and the working groups had their first meetings to define the groups' objectives and the working mode while they presented their progress during the Q4 TSF meeting.

Currently, the active working groups are on the "Curricular Revision Process", "Under-represented countries", "International Assignments", "Selection Process" and "Quality Improvement" and the EAN Board members are actively participating and providing their input.

## Events & Activities

### ESCAIDE 2021

This year, as in 2020, the ESCAIDE 2021 was virtual and took place between 16-19 November 2021 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. More than 2500 public health professionals and epidemiologists from the European Union and around the world gathered together to discuss in more than 100 sessions with over 200 speakers the latest scientific advances on a broad range of topics.

The agenda included the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (epidemiology, surveillance, lessons learnt, etc.), infectious diseases (food-, water-, vector- and blood-borne, respiratory, etc.), healthcare associated infections and many many others

during oral and poster presentations. There were also four plenary sessions with prominent speakers and panellists on communication (plenary A), modelling (plenary B), digital health (plenary C) and inequalities (plenary D) as well as five side sessions and seminars on MediPIET, SONAR-Global social science methods, NPIs, antimicrobial resistance and epidemiology & immunology. The EAN, one of the members of the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee, participated, as every year, with different activities and events that you can read more about below.

The recordings of ESCAIDE2021 sessions can be found in ECDC's YouTube channel [here](#).

### EAN plenary session "Inequality pandemic"

The EAN, represented by Stine Nielsen (EAN vice-president), as part of the ESCAIDE Scientific Committee and based on input from several EAN members, organised a plenary session addressing the "Inequality pandemic" with three invited speakers: Kevin Fenton

(Public Health Regional Director for London, UK), Ellen t'Hoën (Lawyer and public health advocate at Medicines Law & Policy, Netherlands), Rossalina Latcheva (Programme Manager at the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights).





The focus of the sessions was to inspire and give some concrete examples to public health professionals - especially the kind we have in our alumni network - on how to act for improving health inequity issues.

You can find a recording of this session on ESCAIDE2021 YouTube channel and [here](#).

*If any EAN members have thoughts or suggestions for topics and speakers which they would like to see at the plenary sessions for ESCAIDE2022 then please get in touch with the EAN board - send us an email at [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com) - with the subject "ESCAIDE suggestions".*

### ESCAIDE 2021 – Photo Contest

During the online ESCAIDE 2021, the EAN organised the traditional photo contest in which conference attendees were able to participate and vote for the best photo that transmits the spirit of field epidemiology and public health microbiology. Each year, fellows, alumni and friends submit photos from the field and this year, a total of 10 photos entered into the competition.

The photo that received the most votes, becoming the cover of our weekly bulletin, was taken by Laura Reques. At the second and third place the most voted photos were respectively taken by Yousef Mosleh and Daniela Michmayr.



**1st place: Photo 9: "Boots" by Laura Reques**

*"Time to say goodbye to my precious boots after many years in the field. Monsoon season in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, 2018"*



**2nd place: Yousef Mosleh**

*"First baby of COVID-19 patient who got delivered at one of the COVID-19 quarantine centers that I was responsible for, I'm in the middle btw wearing the blue apron :)"*



**3rd place: Daniela Michmayr**

*"My first trip to the field as a postdoc with a bag full of dreams and passion to make a difference in the world. This image captures the gratitude I felt for being able to raise awareness on dengue and chikungunya to patients in a clinic in Turmi, Ethiopia."*

## Reflections on Career Compass at ESCAIDE 2021

*By Zsafia Igloi (EUPHEM 2016), Joaquin Baruch (EPIET 2020) and Katja Siling (EPIET 2020)*

What is one thing that Dr. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Professor Marion Koopmans, and Dr Mike Ryan have in common? They all had strong feelings for the EPIET/EUPHEM programmes and were happy to chat with current and former fellows about careers in public health.

The 5th edition of Career Compass took place on 16th November as a side event during ESCAIDE. Initiated by EAN, the Career Compass is an informal Q&A event that brings together fellowship alumni, current fellows and friends of the EAN network. It is usually co-organised by EAN and fellows from the senior cohort who invite a panel of five people at various stages of their careers and diverse working backgrounds to discuss everything and anything related to becoming fully-fledged public health professionals.

This year we aimed for three "big shots."

We were amazed when Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu (EPIET 2003), Professor Marion Koopmans and Dr Mike Ryan (EPIET 1996) all accepted our invitation. These widely respected and regarded public health experts reflected on how the fellowship benefitted their careers and shared their thoughts on how the fellowship

If you are interested in being a panel member for future Career Compasses, have new ideas for a different format etc. please contact the EAN board.

could position itself in the future. They shared their stories and experience about their careers, including frustrations and work-related setbacks they've experienced. The multidisciplinary and fellows' diverse backgrounds were highlighted as a unique feature and the key to the fellowship's success, which Mike referred to as "the great European experiment." We heard very needed strong, encouraging words about the importance of work-life balance, the importance of trusting our instincts and having the courage to achieve what we set out to do.

The discussion echoed a strong message that there is no such thing as a fixed career path. Setbacks and changes of directions happen and are necessary for growth.

Whether you think your career is not going as expected or you are perfectly happy in your position, we invite you to listen to the recording at [Career Compass | #ESCAIDE2021](#) - YouTube and get inspired!

**Acknowledgements:** we are very thankful to Cristina da Cruz (ESCAIDE organiser) and Timothée Dub (EAN) for their support in organising and running the event.



## Barcamp 2021

**By Florian Burckhardt**

Summer 2014. "I need your help for a pioneering semi-anarchic event at this year's ESCAIDE. Unbelievably, ECDC is involved as well (voluntarily): for the first time, they plan to host a BarCamp."

This was the first shout-out to my friends from cohort 2006 (cohort12) in 2014. BarCamp started out as an idea to hack ESCAIDE from the inside without ECDC realising it. A bunch of new and old experts in their field, ad-hoc self-proposed topics, voting and discussing these topics by participants, while drinking ECDC sponsored booze. ECDC supplying the infrastructure and EAN (subsequently) stepping in to provide moderators and kickstart topics.

ECDC as an EU organisation is sometimes overly bureaucratic, however, the ESCAIDE orga-team is far from that. Howard, Luciana, Cristina, Polya, Tarik, and many others were pure joy and professional to work with. The first topic ever, „discrimination felt after returning home from an Ebola mission“, set the scene for everything to come. The speakers were in a friendly and understanding environment and could feel safe to discuss very personal experiences or opinions. There was lots of audience feedback and those who were not on an Ebola mission in 2014 could much better relate to the emotional costs of "being in an epidemic". Karma called back for the rest of us with COVID...

Fast forward to summer 2021. One of the design goals of BarCamp@ESCAIDE has been to be digital-free. No PowerPoint, no restrictions on how many bullet points in what font size the human brain can process. That does not work with teleconferencing, at least not with our skills and tech. Fortunately, ESCAIDE had been digital the year before and Cristina from ECDC had good ideas on how to digitise analog BarCamp. EAN had already been in discussion with the ESCAIDE committee about BarCamp and after shaking off the COVID torpor a small ECDC-EAN team could work on the how-when-what of BarCamp 2021. Our email thread was called "virtual peacock feathers", just to give an idea about our state of mind.

The topics in 2021 were:

(1) "I feel extremely exhausted after nearly 2 years of pandemic (like the movie groundhog day). What is your secret recipe to boost your morale?" Suggestions ranged from Sauna to pretending to live in a cyberpunk dystopia. Links on the topic were shared in the chat, e.g. on burnout: [Forbes](#) or [workforce exodus](#):

(2) "Should public health scientists be public health advocates? What is our role in speaking 'truth to power'?" This resonated with chat comments like "... were you in a situation that you could have answered but were afraid of the consequences in case your words are twisted? Especially COVID related topics are often like wildfire" or "we used to be somehow 'independent' from the government, but that is gone now!!!". A counter opinion was "Even if we are working for the government, we are still citizens and entitled to our own opinion. Therefore, we should be able to voice our opinion, provided we make clear that it is not our employer's opinion...But there is active discouragement of social media use."

The discussion was refreshingly taboo-free with opinions like "For the things happening within the European borders (and there is a lot of extremely bad stuff happening) [ECDC] should [speak up about humanitarian health]" seconded with "I understand what you mean, feel we need to speak to the moral and ethical values of public health, we will see more and more of this. Silence has consequences as well, which is more an individual choice in the end".

At this point, it was a very open and healthy debate but limited through the digital format. Whereas a live discussion is real-time, posting comments often cannot keep up with the "flow" and cannot gauge the audience support, especially for difficult subjects outside corporate opinion.

(3) "With limited COVID vaccine production, is it justified to give booster shots in 'rich' countries when at the same time few people in 'poorer' countries had any vaccine at all?"

Here, I played devil's advocate and put forward that rich countries' governments have to protect their own citizens and we do not know about the equitable distribution of shots once the



vaccines arrive in poorer countries. Fortunately, Amrish vouched for me and the discussion began with an account from an EAN member currently working in sub-Saharan Africa who raised issues of inequitable distribution in the beginning but also said that it works in the end. Freeing up patents and involving researchers from low/middle income countries in the development of vaccines to give agency were suggestions. It was puzzling that the implicit option of opening patents is allowed under current trade agreements, but not used during a pandemic. Suggested links can be found [here](#).

After the official end of BarCamp, some stayed online for a few drinks (and Lego models).

As I go through the chat protocols shared by the ESCAIDE orga team, 60% of comments were greetings, welcomes and offers of support to old and new BarCamp/EPIET participants. We all could reconnect to a larger body of friends, small and big heroes and share our experiences. It was one of the few moments where time stood still and I could really relax and feel “same” with a lot of people.

Looking forward to seeing you in the next BarCamp and huge thanks to Cristina, Stine, Amrish and Lisa!

## Other events

### EAN webinar on “Vaccine equity”, 5 October 2021

On 5 October 2021, EAN organised an online discussion meeting on “Vaccine inequity” that was initiated by C2020 fellow Emily Meyer. In that brainstorming session current fellows and EPIET alumni discussed vaccine equity.

In a vivid discussion we shared our concerns regarding access to vaccines, including patents, COVAX and private donations but also information equity, ranging from infodemic management to

vaccine confidence and hesitant. While we have not found the solution (yet!), it was great to exchange thoughts on what our role as field epidemiologist in all of this is and could become.

The session at ESCAIDE2021 on the “Inequity pandemic” was the continuity of the matter and they were both generated by the big general interest in our alumni network for issues related to health inequity issues.

### Webinar: Using social media as a global health researcher

**By Sonia Boender**

On Thursday 18 November 2021, the EAN members Sonia Boender (C2018) and current EPIET Fellow Ida Sperle (C2020) hosted a 3-hour session on social media as part of the Global Health PhD and Postdoc Writing Retreat organised and hosted by Uniting Streams. The workshop provided insights to what social media are, how researchers can use them to follow a topic of interest, promote their own research, and engage and network online.

The workshop also included practical tips and tricks, and key information on the different available platforms and how to make the best use of them. Interactive parts of the workshop allowed the participants to explore developing messages based on their own research and think through potential benefits and challenges with using social media as part of their professional communication.

Moreover, personal experiences of the use of social media to spread public health messages were presented via main lectures. Sonia presented the story of the development of a ‘vaccinated emoji’ 🍌 with a more positive look than the syringe emoji 💉

that includes blood and a needle. Ida shared her experience with the European Testing Week initiative, which has used social media to grow momentum and awareness for HIV, hepatitis and STI testing.



## International meetings and news

### GOARN Global Meeting of Partners 2021 virtual meeting, 14-16 December 2021

The EAN, represented by Iro Evlampidou (President), participated in The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) Global Meeting of Partners 2021, which was held from 14 to 16 December 2021 virtually. This 4-yearly meeting aimed to provide the space for all GOARN Partners to discuss GOARN's strategic direction, operations and activities as well as the global priorities and challenges in epidemic alert and response. Partners that attended the meeting were decision makers and operation leads of partner agencies, and key stakeholders on behalf of their institution.

Some of the take home messages included that GOARN's work is relevant and that it needs to use its experience to shape the

future of global pandemic preparedness and response, to scale up its capacities, work more efficiently, with higher standards and closer to national authorities and partners. Other discussions were around the need to rethink the governance model, the professionalization and expansion of the network and the need to speak out but also the improvement of the quality of services and the safety during deployments. The next steps are to finalise the strategic plan for 2022-2026 and the History project and to create a clear advocacy and communications engagement. The EAN has been an active GOARN partner since 2004 with over 35 deployments in various parts of the world, such as in DRC, Yemen, Comoros, West Africa, and Greece.

### Global Technical Meeting of the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources initiative (EIOS) meeting, WHO & EAN session on social media

*By Sonia Boender*

The use of social media is moving from the fringes of public health practice, to being used more frequently by institutes and public health specialists alike. At the same time, an increasing body of research and evidence shows how social media can be used for public health surveillance.

On Tuesday 7 December 2021, the EAN members Raquel Medialdea, Giri Shankar, Sonia Boender and Leah Morantz hosted the session "Social Media & Public Health Intelligence: the Good, the Bad, the Ugly" as part of the 2021 Global Technical Meeting of the Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources initiative, hosted by WHO. During this two-hour webinar, participants explored a range

of uses of social media tools to gather public health intelligence to supplement existing routine data sources for informed decision making. Using a combination of case studies and real-life examples, the session highlighted the potential benefits and pitfalls of social media tools for Public Health Institutes and to provide a perspective on how professionals and institutes can use social media for the benefit of public health. This interactive session gathered participants' best practises, potential pitfalls and challenges with these tools and their implementation in practice. A recording of the session will be made available via the EAN website in the future.

## TEPHINET

### New co-chair of the Strategic Leadership Group

We are pleased to announce that Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu, EPIET alumnus and currently Assistant Director General at the World Health Organization (WHO) leading the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence in Berlin, is the [new co-chair](#) of the FETP Enterprise Strategic Leadership Group (SLG).

The [SLG](#), launched in April 2021, aims to drive progress of Field Epidemiology Training Programs worldwide. Under the Secretariat of TEPHINET is led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization and is composed of 14 global health leaders including the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the UK Health Security Agency.



Source: [Wikimedia](#)

### New co-chair of the TEPHINET Advisory Board

Major General Dr Aamer Ikram has been elected as the [Chair of the TEPHINET Advisory Board](#) in December 2021 after a vote by TEPHINET's member programs. Dr Ikram is the Director of the Pakistan Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) and the Executive Director of the National Institute of

Health Pakistan. The EAN Board would like to congratulate Dr. Ikram for this new position and wish him good luck in his work with the Advisory Board. We hope to work with him in the near future and strengthen the ties between EAN and TEPHINET.

For more news from TEPHINET, click [here](#).

## News from the Network (some happy and some sad...)

### Q&A with EAN member Lorenzo Pezzoli “We have the momentum” – fighting to end a 60 year-old cholera pandemic

Interview for [#VaccinesWork](#) by Maya Prabhu,

On 23 December 2021, #VaccinesWork interviewed EPIET C2006 and former EAN president [Lorenzo Pezzoli](#), who has been part of the fight against cholera since 2014, to talk about cholera, opportunities lost, gains made and where we are headed.

Read his very interesting interview [here](#).

### EAN Face-to-Face meeting in Paris and regular online meetings

The members of the EAN Board met in Paris from 8-10 October 2021 for their bi-annual face-to-face (F2F) meeting with productive discussions and working on multiple fronts. Face-to-face meetings are important to take the work of the board forward and a good opportunity to organise social events with other members of the network, further strengthening the ties. This year the one thing that prevailed in the discussions was the challenge of keeping the Network connected and continuing the in-person activities in the time of COVID-19, when international travel is difficult, everyone is very busy fighting the pandemic and there is a “webinar” fatigue. The main topics of the agenda included the EAN membership 2021 survey analysis and report, the updating of the EAN board handbook, the preparation of ESCAIDE2021 activities with the Annual General Assembly as well as updates on EPIET/EUPHEM fellowship issues, and discussions on improved communication channels within the network including the launch of Discord (see further below for more info) and the upgrade of EAN’s website to allow for more interaction between members and make it easier for the Board to update it (e.g. financing, jobs, etc.). Finally, a part of the meeting was devoted to the strategic planning for the future and how to get the network back together: the Board acknowledged the difficulties faced in the previous period and committed to re-initiate the “usual” activities such as the F2F modules and Drinks & Dinner social events, to organise postponed

events like the 25-years EPIET/20-years EAN and many others! Stay tuned :-).



However, most of the EAN Board work is done via online meetings - the Board usually has bimonthly evening online meetings where the members go through updates on current issues and delegate who does what before the next meeting. In between the regular meetings each board member is responsible to follow-up on his or her tasks.

### Drinks & Dinner past events

#### Saturday 09 October 2021 - Paris

When meeting in Paris on October 9th and 10th 2021, your beloved board members took a break from working on the launch of EAN's discord, going through preliminary results of the membership survey or discussing potential training opportunities for next year and went to an EAN Drinks & Dinner in a very friendly pub close to Saint Lazare train station. It was a pleasure to finally meet again so many of our members, from current fellows (cohort 2020) to cohort 2 alumni!





## 12 October 2021 – Berlin

"Epidrinkology" is being hosted at the local brewery Eschenbräu, Berlin once a month (COVID-19 situation allowing). In October 2021, eight fellows, alumni and friends of the network met, left-to-right: Birte (FETP-friend), Emily (PAE-fellow cohort 2020), Jan (PAE-fellow cohort 2021), Maja (PAE-alumna cohort 2013), Franziska (PAE-fellow cohort 2021), Anna-Lisa (PAE-fellow cohort 2021), Sonia (EPIET-alumna cohort 2018), and Mirco (PAE-fellow cohort 2020).



## 21 November 2021 - Belfast

On 21 November 2021, a small group of EAN members including EAN's board member Anna Maisa met in a lovely Irish pub in Belfast to catch up on the good-old-times before COVID-19! Unfortunately, none took a photo to remember the moment...

## 25 November 2021 – Geneva

On 25 November 2021, Raquel Medialdea (C2018) and Marion Muehlen (Cohort 9) organised a get-together in Geneva, at Marché des Grottes where alumni from across cohorts met, had a few drinks and a nice walk in the city!



# Obituaries

## In memoriam Peter Kreidl

by Arnold Bosman

For most people in the EPIET network, Peter Kreidl was a familiar name that meant either an inspiring teacher, an enthusiastic colleague, a passionate advocate for measles vaccination, or simply a good friend. And most often, all of those things at once. On October 8, 2021, Peter Kreidl passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in his hometown of Innsbruck, Austria. The news of his death shocked the network, resulting in a wave of heartfelt messages of sympathy and consolation.



Peter was selected as an EPIET fellow in Cohort 3, 1997. During the next two years, he worked and trained at the Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS) in Rome, Italy, under the supervision of Stefania Salmaso. His affinity for vaccine-preventable diseases showed soon when he studied the coverage of the Italian childhood immunization programme. In addition, he investigated several vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and joined a mission to Sudan in response to a meningitis epidemic.

And Peter was the kind of guy that would forge friendships that lasted a lifetime.

After EPIET the ISS hosted Peter for several months, followed by several consultant missions for WHO, before he started work in the regional epidemiologic observatory in Bolzano, Italy, in 2001. In line with his EPIET training, Peter's main activities were surveillance, training, and occasionally outbreak investigations. In 2007 he joined the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, where he worked on epidemic intelligence and pandemic preparedness, among other things. All of us, colleagues at ECDC, felt the intense pain as Peter received the horrible news of the death of his son Felix. Working in Stockholm, with the family in Austria became very hard, and in 2013, Peter moved back to Austria to become an epidemiologist at the Ministry of Health. In 2015, he switched to full time teaching at the University and spreading his contagious enthusiasm for epidemiology among new generations.

Peter's death has triggered many friends and colleagues to share their memories. They recall his kindness, friendship and inspiring passion, his sense of adventure. They mention him as a driving force in the area of vaccine-preventable diseases, even literally, when he took his vintage VW bus on the road in Austria during the EU Immunization Week.

There is so much to tell still, about our friend Peter Kreidl. We will keep those stories and memories to be shared among reunions of friends, as he would have loved.

Rest in Peace, dear Peter

## In memoriam Mia Brytting

### *by colleagues from the Public Health Agency of Sweden*

With great sadness we heard that Mia Brytting passed away on the 15th January 2022. The sad news shocked the family, friends and colleagues and it will be only in the days to come that we discover how much we miss her. We who worked with Mia for a long time appreciated her deep knowledge, her power of action and sense of duty. Mia was always in a good mood and met colleagues with warmth and care.

Mia began her career at the Swedish Bacteriological Laboratory (SBL) as early as 1989 and has since worked at SBL, the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control (SMI) and the Public Health Agency of Sweden.

She has long been one of the country's leading experts on respiratory viruses and had a special interest and knowledge of influenza. Mia has been section and unit manager since the early 2000s and has been responsible for activities related to respiratory viruses and immunological follow-ups of the national vaccination program.

She was the EUPHEM front woman in Sweden and implemented EUPHEM at the Public Health Agency of Sweden.

She was a much appreciated mentor to several EUPHEM fellows in Sweden and we believe she will be missed by many in the program.

Mia had a large network of contacts and this [temporary webpage](#) was set up by Mia's colleagues together with the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) to give everyone outside the Public Health Agency of Sweden the opportunity to leave their condolences and a message of consolation to Mia's family. All comments will be compiled and shared with the family by the end of February.



## EAN Communication channels (Discord, WhatsApp, etc.)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, EAN's WhatsApp group was activated to share and facilitate the communication between EAN members, allowing a more rapid and effective response. However, the group grew and another platform was launched to allow smoother communication and interaction.

EAN's new Discord server is a better structured forum to connect, exchange and discuss information within the network. On [EAN's Discord](#), you will get the latest EAN-related information and news as well as be able to find and share resources on analytics, surveillance or outbreak investigations, public health microbiology or discuss the latest news and developments in the field of infectious diseases. Therefore, we are inviting members and friends to switch to Discord considering the WhatsApp group is close to the maximum limit of many participants can be in a group. The easiest way to use Discord

is by installing the Discord app on your phone and/or Desktop and then clicking that link. After joining the server, you will be directed to the welcome-and-rules channel where you can read more about all the different features and learn how to use the server. Once you are done with that, please come and tell us a few words about you in the [#introducing-yourself](#) channel!

On the weekly bulletin you can always find the link to Discord group and updates on the use of WhatsApp.

EAN has an up-to-date website where you can find several resources and a dedicated member's only area with posts on jobs, courses and conferences, internal news and updates, webinar recordings, and many more!

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Linkedin](#) and [twitter](#)!

## EAN noticeboard - upcoming events

### Face-to-Face (F2F) meeting of EAN Advisory Board in February

The next F2F EAN Board meeting is taking place in Palma de Mallorca, Spain from 10-13 February 2022 as the current 2021/2022 Board has four new members and there is a lot of planning and organising going on for the upcoming activities and events.

### EAN Webinar on "Equitable access to medical innovations"

The EAN Board plans to follow up on the discussions around the issue of inequity and continue the discussions started on "Vaccine equity" and the "Inequality pandemic" with an online meeting on "Equitable access to medical innovations" and hoping to bring as

keynote speaker [Els Torreale](#), that was initially planned to participate in the ESCAIDE2021 session, however had to cancel. Els is a former Director of the MSF Access campaign and currently at University College London (UCL) with over 20 years of experience in "access to Medicines and Innovation work, advancing health and human rights in the area of medicines with a focus on governance, transparency and accountability, and supporting civil society voices". The webinar will take place online in the spring, the date and time is yet to be confirmed, stay tuned!

## Social events

### Drinks & Dinner: 12 February 2022, Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Continuing the tradition of bringing the EAN network together during the Board's F2F meetings, we would love to meet with members and friends and encourage everyone to come to take a break and come to Palma and meet with us for the weekend! We are planning a social event (taking all COVID-19 precautions) on Saturday 12 February 2022 in a nice restaurant and then later in a bar in the beautiful historical centre of the city. Book tickets and join us! :)

### Drinks & Dinner: 28 February 2022, Copenhagen, Denmark

There will be an after-work meet-up for current fellows and alumni in Copenhagen on Monday 28 February – if you are interested in joining send an email to [stine.nielsen12@gmail.com](mailto:stine.nielsen12@gmail.com).

### New regular online social activity: "EAN online lunch hang-outs"-every-last-Wednesday-of-the-month. First event on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 12:30 CET!

It is a pleasure to announce a new regular online social event for members and friends of the Network, the "EAN monthly online

lunch hang-outs"! With the COVID-19 pandemic going on for more than 2 years, with many of us having our lunch in front of the computer and in the spirit of continuing to getting together and strengthening the network, this regular online meet-up during lunch time aims to provide a space for all of us to eat together, hang out and chat in an informal way and a friendly atmosphere where we can exchange news, frustrations and success among friends (no recordings will be allowed ;-)). All **EAN & friends** are invited to participate monthly, every **last Wednesday of the month at 12.30 CET** to the shared lunch using a permanent link on Teams platform. The first lunch will take place on the **23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**, save the date!

The link will be shared through the Weekly Bulletin, don't miss it!

## Upcoming conferences - SAVE THE DATE

- **10-11 May 2022:** 2022 FETP International Nights, Virtual organised by TEPHINET and CDC. Find out more [here](#).
- **9-12 November 2022:** 15th European Public Health Conference, Berlin, Germany, organised by EUPHA. Strengthening health systems: improving population health and being prepared for the unexpected. Abstract submission opens 1 February. Find out more [here](#).

## In the next edition!

- ✓ The Board will present a summary of their plans and main activities for the coming year following their face-to face-meeting in Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- ✓ Meet the new EPIET Coordinators
- ✓ Introduction to EAN working groups + new "How can you get involved" section
- ✓ Information on forthcoming EAN workshops and mini-modules
- ✓ And much more

## Update your Membership

The annual membership fee is now **€30 / £28**.

There is a 10-year membership available at **€250 / £230**.

**Please note that membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> October of each calendar year. Make payment now and have your membership extended until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 (or 2032)!**

Fellows in their first and second year of training are exempt from paying membership fees, according to the accepted statute changes of the 2012 General Assembly. We have added a new payment option for credit cards to make membership renewal a bit easier. To use this option, please go to our website and follow the instructions there.

The details for how to transfer fees by online banking are also on the [EAN webpage](#); if you require any further information on membership payment, we kindly ask you to contact the EAN board ([eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com)), putting "membership payment" in the subject line.

Please indicate your name and membership year as reference in the bank transfer and also send an email to [eanboard@gmail.com](mailto:eanboard@gmail.com) with a copy of the receipt/invoice to inform us about your payment (sometimes names are not correctly transmitted with the transfer). Thank you for your support!

### EURO ACCOUNT (€30 per annum)

**Bank:** TransferWise Europe SA

**Bank address:** Avenue Louise 54, Room S52, Brussels 1050, BE

**Account Holder:** E.A.N. (EPIET Alumni Network)

**IBAN:** BE88 9670 3610 1241

**BIC/Swift:** TRWIBEB1

### GBP ACCOUNT (£28 per annum)

**Bank:** TransferWise

**Address:** 56 Shoreditch High Street, London E16JJ, UK

**Account holder:** E.A.N. (EPIET Alumni Network)

**IBAN:** GB22 TRWI 2314 7095 5404 40

**Account Number:** 95540440

**Sort code:** 23-14-70