

*'Down the Rabbit Hole' festival,
The Netherlands [Photo: Teun Bousema]*

Editorial

Dear EAN friends,

“Summer time, and the living is easy”, especially during this incredibly sunny European summer. The summer EAN Newsletter has arrived and it features some exciting stories!

C2016 and C2017 Cohort representatives will introduce themselves to you, and discuss how they are doing mid-way, and at the end of their fellowship. We hear where Yu-Lun Liu (C15/2009) is now and how he is contributing to the health of Glastonbury festival visitors. Fanny Chereau from C2016 shares her experiences from her mission in Madagascar in ‘Story from the field’.

We would like to encourage you to register for the upcoming mini-modules on R in Sofia and Malta, to invite you to join our EAN Drinks and Dinner at project review module in Lisbon and to remind you we are looking for candidates for three EAN Board positions for the November 2018-November 2020 term.

Lastly, we reveal whose big birthday it is very soon!

We hope you enjoy this issue of the EAN Newsletter and wish you a great summer.

The EAN Board.

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Message from the President

Dear EAN friends,

while we are all hopefully enjoying this particularly hot summer, the Board is already looking forward to our next General Assembly (GA) during ESCAIDE 2018 in Malta, more about that later.

It is hard not to see any associations between the hot summer, the snowy winter and climate change. How deeply climate change is embedded in public health is becoming more and more evident, and although in Europe we seem to largely be able to buffer the impact of climate change, to a wide degree many other populations are increasingly feeling the direct impact of climate change. Scientific evidence for this is quickly stacking up [[1,2,3](#)], but often we chose to be reactive, rather than pro-active, in such affairs. Especially in emergency events that will be amplified by climate change and ultimately lead to more and larger events of population displacement scenarios, something I wrote about in the [EAN newsletter back in 2017](#).

Over the last weeks, I have been in touch with the Caribbean Public Health Network (CARPHA), a network that serves many Island communities in the region, and a population of around 450 million individuals, not much smaller than the EU population. The region deals with heavy seasonal hurricanes which greatly impact the health and general well-being of affected communities. The future prospects around the regular occurrence of this type of extreme weather are not positive. This region is traditionally supported by the regional office of WHO(-PAHO) and US-CDC. The latter is partly scaling back its funding under the current US administration agenda of foreign operations in this sector. Gaps in financial coverage to maintain activities in the arena of public health are appearing, which jeopardise a lot of activities essential to maintaining healthy populations in countries which are often already in a fragile state. Many of these collaborations are often bi-lateral, between individual countries, which poses a strong basis for collaboration, but are often not the most sustainable way to move forward. Our network is by definition a network that has been built under the common denominator of public health, and it has been able to be such a strong collaborative network because of the bonds that were forged during our fellowships.

In my view, EAN, after more than 1.5 decades, has grown considerably in size, its available capacity and collective knowledge, to an extent where we as an organisation could

become more engaged with other public health networks which support different regions of the world (beyond the support we already offer through GOARN). At the same time, we can also learn a lot from other regions. This is one of the reasons why I believe that our network of professionals can support public health on a more structural and global level, where we utilise collaborations outside as well as inside our network in support of partner networks (like CARPHA, EMPHNET, TEPHINET and others). In the previous newsletter and in the coming ones, we will ask partner networks to display some of their activities and unique challenges in their respective regions and how they envision stronger collaboration with the EAN. In addition, we would like to explore the possibilities of how our common efforts can be synchronised to strengthen public health activities and advocacy based on scientific data.

To give hands and feet to the more strategic agenda of EAN and to allow us to more pro-actively move forward on that road of professionalisation, we would like to partly dedicate the coming GA to this subject. To make humble beginnings of course, because we are painfully aware how limited we are on available time to discuss such matter in detail. This year we hope to minimise the time reserved for essential feedback on the official agenda items (financial, member and activity overviews), which will be available for your review online in advance. We would like to propose several open scenarios for professionalisation and allow a brief discussion around these. As you can imagine such discussions are probably as old as the network itself, and it is hard to spend time on it as a board, next to our day-to-day activities. In addition, we require wider input and guidance. Therefore, we will propose to establish a taskforce of interested and motivated EAN members (including current fellows) and externals to assist us to work towards one concrete roadmap, which will allow us to gently move forward on a jointly set path in the continued development and expansion of our valued network.

Although still some months away, we hope to see you in large numbers at ESCAIDE and at our GA.

For now, we wish you a great summer, full of sun.

Best,

Amrish

ESCAIDE Drinks and Dinner – Project Review Module

From Monday 27 to Friday 31 August, the Project Review Module will take place in Lisbon, Portugal. A perfect opportunity for alumni and fellows to meet up in this beautiful city!

We are looking for a date and venue for our EAN Module Drinks & Dinner and will keep you posted. We hope many of you will join two cohorts of fellows for a bite, a drink and a chat!

Interview with a fellow: the C16 and C17 Cohort Representatives

Dear Cohort reps from cohort 2016 and cohort 2017, welcome and thanks for your time to be interviewed for this new section of the EAN Newsletter "Interview with a fellow"!

First, the basic questions that you have probably already answered >100 times since you started your fellowship: what is your name, your cohort, your track (EPIET/EUPHEM, EU/MS etc), where are you from and where are you based?

Alastair: I am Alastair Donachie from C16, an EPIET fellow currently based in Malta. I am originally from the UK, born an Englishman but with a proud Scottish heritage!

Lucia: Lucia Reh, EUPHEM fellow from C17. Originally from Germany and now based in Madrid, Spain.

Tim: Timothée Dub, from C17, I am an EPIET fellow, French and currently enjoying the rainy Finnish summer in Helsinki.

Zsofi: Zsofia Igloi, I am a proud member of the C16, a EUPHEM fellow. I am from Hungary and based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.



Alastair Donachie (EPIET, C16) at the University of Malta

What is your background and why did you apply for this programme?

Alastair: Before starting EPIET, I worked at ECDC for four years in epidemic intelligence and risk assessment. I had a really great time there but part of me always wanted to be closer to the field and learn more about field epidemiology so EPIET felt like the perfect next step. I had also heard so many positive things about the programme and felt really inspired by some of the experiences of my friends and colleagues.

Lucia: I have a basic research background and did a PhD on HIV-1 cellular transmission in Zurich, Switzerland. However, basic research always felt a bit "artificial" to me and I was looking for a way to be closer to the implementation of public health. For this, I worked at WHO headquarters and a WHO reference centre, mainly on influenza virus surveillance and risk assessment. The EUPHEM programme was recommended to me by a colleague.

Tim: Before joining EPIET, I was a Public Health resident based in Paris. I got into infectious diseases quite late into my residency when doing a rotation at the Institut Pasteur, I ended up being staffed on Zika virus. That is when I heard about EPIET for the first time.

Zsofi: I have spent about 8 years in academia; at the University of Leeds in the UK where I was working mostly on molecular and cellular aspects of hepatitis C virus. During the later phases of the 2014-2016 Ebola outbreak, Public Health England reached out to virus groups at English Universities as they were running short on laboratory support personnel. I went to west Africa for three months and that is when I got interested in public health and where I also heard about the fellowship.

Can you mention something that you learned during your fellowship that you did not expect beforehand?

Alastair: I feel like I learned a lot about myself during the fellowship, especially the importance of always challenging myself which sometimes means putting yourself in difficult, unknown or uncomfortable situations. I am a bit of a nerd when it comes to phrases but one of my favourites which sums this up perfectly is the Latin phrase *Audere est Facere* which means "To dare is to do".

Lucia: I realised how ignorant I must have been as a basic researcher. In that role we often act as if we are the only ones doing "proper science" without having any clue about basic statistics (sample size calculations for example).

Applying "epi methods" to research questions has broadened my horizon quite a bit, a good experience!

Tim: Concision! (see next question...)

Zsofi: While discussing future projects with project leads I realised that people hear what they want to hear. Although I believe that I have always stated clearly what type and length of projects I am looking for, but I have realised that I don't do it clear enough. These and other occasions taught me to communicate more clearly, to the point, formulating my goals and expectations politely but firmly. Also managing several people with different personalities much more senior than me has been a valuable experience.



EUPHEM (Janko van Beek) and EPIET (Tim Dub) packing condoms for Helsinki pride

Did you encounter any culture or language related barriers or funny situations during your fellowship?

Alastair: Moving to Southern Europe after living in Sweden for so long was a bit of a culture shock in the beginning. But in a nice way! Life is much more laid back and relaxed over

here which is great but as I soon discovered it's not always ideal if you need to get things done in a hurry.

Lucia: Wow, after having lived in Switzerland for a long time, the culture clash in Madrid was huge for me. Unexpectedly, bureaucracy in Spain is just as challenging as in Switzerland, and this gave me the impression that Spanish people seem not to be so laid back as I thought. Madrid is a big city and much more lively than Zurich which can be very refreshing but at times also exhausting. Lively discussions are just part of everyday life and nobody will criticise you e.g. for talking too loud on the train (as it happened to me in Switzerland).

Tim: Before moving to Helsinki, I bought myself a small Finnish language book and was startled to see that the first chapter was named "The importance of silence and concision in conversational Finnish" or something like that. It turned out to be quite true. I sometimes feel like Bill Murray in *Lost in Translation* (the whisky scene, but without the booze, unfortunately...).

Zsofi: The Dutch are well known from tulips and cycling and chips with mayo and also from their straightforwardness and outspokenness, which may scare people sometimes. However, I really liked this from the beginning and it came real handy starting at a new place as I could just say what I need and by when and that's it. They are also notorious about planning even having a coffee with friends weeks ahead, but according to my Dutch friends, I'm worse than them!



Timothée Dub hunting for ticks in Turku

How would you summarise your fellowship experience in one sentence?

Alastair: A unique, memorable, challenging and rewarding experience both personally and professionally.

Lucia: A big (but hopefully rewarding) challenge to every part of my life.

Tim: Being given enough time to make sure I do not only complete projects, but learn as much as possible from what I am doing.

Zsofi: A very steep learning curve where knowledge comes from self-teaching and with support from supervisor, on-site experts and fellows.

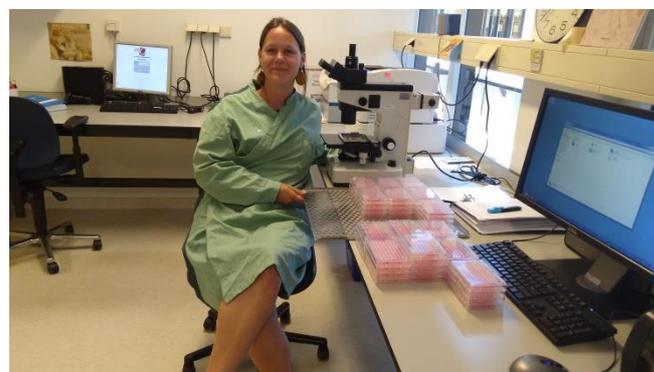
What is most precious thing that you gained during the fellowship so far?

Alastair: I learned that life is a journey and EPIET is an adventure! On a more serious note, I think the most valuable experience I gained was during my field mission with MSF in Ethiopia and the highlight was the opportunity to present a poster at the TEPHINET conference in Chiang Mai last year. I also love travelling so I feel lucky to have been able to combine travel with work and meet some amazing and inspirational people along the way.

Lucia: Broadening my horizon, personally, culturally and scientifically.

Tim: Friends, more confidence and autonomy... and concision, of course ;-)

Zsofi: Dutch; no I am just kidding although I have learnt the language to a level where I can follow meetings. It is the wide network of the alumni and the like-minded people what is the most valuable both during and after the fellowship.



Zsofia Igloi (EUPHEM C16) at the RIVM

Why did you become a cohort representative of your cohort and how do you like that role?

Alastair: After my first year, I really felt like I wanted to give something back to the programme and would enjoy representing the interests of the fellows. I also wanted to become more actively involved in the future direction of the programme in terms of course content and international missions for example.

Lucia: I generally like to engage for causes that are important to me, to connect people and give them a voice. I think the fellows of the programme are an amazing mix of people with great experiences and opinions. So, their participation in the programme is very valuable and I am trying my best to represent them.

Tim: I felt it was important that we have one representative, but by the end of our last week in Spetses, nobody among the EPIET had shown any interest while the EUPHEMs had already proceeded to a vote, hence I decided to run. I do like that role, it is quite interesting to follow up on issues and get to know more about how the fellowship works.

Zsofi: Besides making sure that fellows are well informed I also wanted to involve and mobilise them more as we represent their voices. Furthermore, I have wanted to push for more team working and communication exercises. The importance of soft skills came up often during Bar camp and other discussions and I think that more importance should be given to them during training and modules.

What have you done in your cohort rep position so far?

All together: We have tried to work in unison on any issues as it is important to us that we represent all fellows' interests. We continued some of the great work started by C15 like maintaining international missions and following up on the annual fellows' survey.

We also worked on other topics which felt relevant to the fellowship, including:

- Getting the vaccinology module back in the curriculum for EUPHEM fellows
- Making sure all fellows have access to course material on EVA, independently of their EUPHEM/EPIET status
- Making some very relevant MOOCs available to fellows in the programme
- Continuing the discussion of accreditation of fellowship

Together with the EAN and the cohort representatives from C2015, we also helped to organise the first ever Career Compass event at ESCAIDE in 2017. This was a wonderful experience and we are currently busy planning a second edition of the event at ESCAIDE this year. The first three speakers have already confirmed including a fantastic moderator.



Lucia Reh (EUPHEM C17) in Madrid.

Have you met any challenges as cohort reps?

All together: We have been trying with other reps and fellows to bring new ideas or potential improvements to the modules and the fellowship programme. It is sometimes challenging to realise and to accept that things sometimes move slower than we would like to see, despite

the highly dedicated coordinators. So, if anything, a bit more flexibility in the programme and curriculum would be something on our wish list.

Do you have any tips for new fellows? And do you have anything to say to EPIET/EUPHEM alumni?

Alastair: To new fellows, I would just say enjoy the experience and embrace all the challenges it brings. You might feel a bit overwhelmed or lost at times but don't worry as everyone else feels the same. Try to take every opportunity that comes your way as it'll be over before you know it. Welcome to the EPIET/EUPHEM family!

To EPIET/EUPHEM alumni: Thanks to all your hard work that has made the programme what it is today and let's continue working together to make it even better in the future!

Lucia: New fellows: Be ready to feel overwhelmed in the beginning and never forget that you are not alone. Enjoy the challenges, see Europe, meet your cohort fellows and learn a lot of new things!

Alumni: I hope that the connection to the Alumni network will be as exciting and refreshing as with the fellows from our current cohort. This is a great opportunity to connect people all over the world and in very interesting roles!

Tim: New fellows: two things... It is normal to feel a bit lost in the beginning of the fellowship. Do not hesitate to reach out to your "buddies", or alumni who might be working on your site. They have been there; they know that everything is not super easy in the beginning!

In a cohort, there are not two persons with the same background and/or profile, hence, plenty of stuff to learn from each other. Do not miss that opportunity. Alumni: let's keep strengthening the links between current fellows and alumni, EAN D&Ds are cool, only if you guys are there!

Zsofi: For new fellows: get ready for the fastest 2 years of your life. The fellowship can be overwhelming, but do not let it stop you from enjoying the opportunities and the perks. For alumni: thank you for all your work with what you contributed to the continuous improvement of the fellowship experience.

Dear cohort reps, many thanks for this interview, and we (EAN Board) are looking forward to seeing you at ESCAIDE 2018 in Malta!

Where are you now? Interview with Yu-Lun Liu, EPIET Fellow in C15/2009

Dear Yu-Lun, could you please tell me something about yourself. Where are you from, what did you study, when and where did you do EPIET?

I am Yu-Lun Liu, father of two sons, senior medical officer of the Epidemic Intelligence Center, Taiwan Centers for Disease Control. I come from Taoyuan, a city in the northern part of Taiwan. I studied medicine at the Kaohsiung Medical University and received my master degree in medical informatics at the Taipei Medical University. I am also an emergency physician by training. I was part of Cohort 15 (cohort 2009) and did my EPIET as an FETP fellow at the Austrian Agency for Health and Food

Safety (AGES), Vienna, Austria.

What happened after EPIET?

After I finished EPIET, I returned to Taiwan CDC. I like my institute, which allows me to put many of my crazy ideas into practice. I have been promoted as senior medical officer, with a slight increase in salary but heavy loaded missions.

Let's talk about the main topic for this interview: where are you now?

I am currently working at the Taiwan CDC headquarter,

based in Taipei, but live with my family in Taoyuan, my hometown. Every day, I spend 2 hours commuting by car.



Yu-Lun introducing the dengue cluster map to the press

What do you do at your job?

I have been involved and led several operational research projects, from developing new surveillance systems, adopting new data visualisation tools, to studying the potential of applying machine learning / artificial intelligence tools or models in improving several aspects of the work at Taiwan CDC. With several nice colleagues, we developed an automated laboratory reporting system, which is able to collect the test results for 20 selected pathogens done at the hospital laboratories in real-time. The majority of the medical centers and regional teaching hospitals have joined this project. We are able to obtain the trends of the pathogens without the need of case-based reports.

I have also worked heavily with the open data project at [Taiwan CDC](#) and had a chance to work with the local data community to maximise the use of de-identified raw or aggregated surveillance data. I redesigned our public accessible disease statistics website, [NIDSS](#). I also took great interests in the data visualisation and help my institute to adopt business intelligence tools, such as Microsoft PowerBI and SAS Visual Analytics, and developed several data visualisation websites, including the one for [dengue fever control](#).

Furthermore, I have worked with my colleague to establish a channel to send public health alert messages through the 4G cell phone based broadcasting service. With the help from the local university, I have also had the chance to collaborate with Public Health England in developing a tablet App for the surveillance during mass gatherings. The App was used in more than three Glastonbury Festivals (<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2014/06/24/keeping-music-fans-safe-at-glastonbury/>), although I was not satisfied with the performance of the App. In recent two years, I have also had the chance to participate in the collaborations with IT companies, including the IBM Health Corps project for developing an intervention evaluation model for dengue fever control and a *chatbot* for health promotion by HTC. I have also joined several ongoing AI projects, including one using deep learning neural network for identifying malaria parasites on blood smear and one using convolutional neural network for distinguishing the

poisonous snakes in Taiwan.

What EPIET skills do you need or use in your current job?

All EPIET skills that I acquired during the training are used at certain point of time while working on the projects. The surveillance evaluation skill helps me with building the automated laboratory reporting system. The statistic skill helps me with describing and visualising the data with greater confidence. Not to mention that the experience in doing a research project helps me a lot in generating project proposals. I especially thanked the project review modules that trained me to critically evaluate all my projects from the idea generation stage to working or finalising stage. I have also taught computer skills for managing disease outbreaks in the Taiwan FETP summer training courses.

How did you get this job?

I was medical officer of the Taiwan CDC before the EPIET and had the chance to participate in the program, courtesy of collaboration between ECDC, AGES and my institute. I returned to my institute after EPIET and got promoted as senior medical officer.



Yu-Lun introducing the Taiwan CDC's open data portal to the press media

What do you like about your job?

I like my job, which gives me plenty of opportunities to use information technologies in improving not only the workflows but also delivering better services to the public. I have also had several chances to meet colleagues from foreign institutes to share and discuss ideas on how to improve infectious disease surveillance. However, due to my wide range of interests, I am often overloaded with several projects ongoing at the same time.

Could you describe a typical day at work?

Having my cup of coffee to start my morning, checking emails, and then followed by meetings, meetings and meetings. Finally, I would find some time in between meetings or by the end of the day to recheck the progress of the projects.

Are you still connected to the current fellowship or with the EPIET network in general?

No. I am pretty busy at work and at home with my two lovely but also naughty sons. I wish I could meet my cohort again if time permits.



The MG App used at the Glastonbury Festival 2013

Do you have anything to say, any tips or advice for current fellows with regards to their future careers, in field epidemiology or elsewhere?

The time at the EPIET is one of the best moments in my life. While building up the skills in the field are important, other things you encountered during the two-year training might be more memorable or even useful for your next jobs, such as: how to deal with a difficult boss, how to keep your work and life at balance, how to find interesting points in boring assignments, how to keep your mind refreshed and active.

Thank you Yu-Lun!

[note from the editor: off the record Yu-Lun mentioned that Cohort 15/2009 is always welcome for a reunion in Taiwan].

Story from the field: Fanny Chereau – Plague in Madagascar

In this newsletters' Story from the Field we feature Fanny Chereau, an EPIET Fellow who was deployed during the outbreak of plague that started in August 2017.

From 1 August to 26 November 2017, a cumulative total of 2,417 confirmed, probable and suspected cases of plague, including 209 deaths (case fatality rate 9%), have been reported from 57 of 114 (50%) districts in Madagascar. Analamanga Region in central Madagascar has been the most affected, with 68% of all recorded cases. Since the beginning of this outbreak, the vast majority of cases have been treated and have recovered. As of 26 November 2017, only 13 people were hospitalised for plague. There has been no international spread outside the country. [WHO External Situation Report, 4 Dec 2017].

Let's start with some details about you; where are you from, where are you based and from which cohort are you and what did you do before EPIET?

My name is Fanny Chereau, I am an EPIET EU fellow in Cohort 2016 and I am from France. I am based in Sweden at the National Public health Agency of Sweden. After completing a PhD in Biology, I did a specialised MPH at the Pasteur-CNAM School of Public Health, in Paris, and worked for several years as an epidemiologist in academic research. This was mainly focused on HIV and on antibiotic resistance.

What was the mission about?

I went to Madagascar with a GOARN deployment to support the response to the plague outbreak which started on August 2017. My mission was 6 weeks and I was there in October and November.

What were the main objectives during the mission?

The objectives for the public health measures included: to strengthen epidemiological surveillance in all the affected districts; to perform enhanced case finding; rapid investigation of new cases; sample collection, referral and testing; isolation and treatment of all pneumonic cases, as

well as treatment of bubonic cases; active case finding, contact tracing and monitoring of contacts and provision of free prophylactic antibiotics. Furthermore there was a large focus on disinsection, including rodent and vector control. The public communication component included raising public awareness on prevention for bubonic and pneumonic plague and raising awareness among health care workers and providing information to improve case detection, infection control measures and protection from infection. We also provided information about infection control measures during burial practices.



Fanny Chereau (left) with Jean-Paul Ngandu-Mbanga, an IPC specialist (WHO). "We were visiting the historical plague hospital in Antananarivo (called CHAPA), we were probably discussing about stock management for Personal Protective Equipment."

What were your roles and responsibilities during the mission?

During the early response (week 1) I participated in developing and adapting tools for contact tracing and case investigation and train the healthcare and community workers. Then my main role during this mission was to support the laboratory response and I worked in a team with a very experienced logistician from WHO. We were

responsible for improving the laboratory response, encompassing collection and transportation of biological samples, development of support plan for implementation of diagnostic strategy, including traceability of samples, resupplying the Rapid Diagnostic Tests and training of couriers. We evaluated the capacity for plague laboratory diagnosis in the context of the outbreak, to identify how WHO could support improvements, and to implement our recommendations once validated by the incident leader and response manager.

What did you achieve or finalise during your mission?

We implemented a faster and safer circuit for transport of suspected cases' specimens to the national reference lab and for transmission of laboratory results to the clinicians. The time between sample collection and laboratory analysis was reduced from days to just a few hours, significantly improving clinical management of cases and epidemiological work. The quality of the specimens received at the National Reference Laboratory was also significantly improved.

Who did you work for and who did you work with?

I worked for the WHO Country Office of Madagascar and I worked with the Direction of Health Monitoring and Disease Surveillance of Madagascar, WHO staff (from Country Office, AFRO and HQ), Institut Pasteur Madagascar, Red Cross and other NGOs, and other epidemiologists deployed with GOARN.



Triage at the military hospital in Antananarivo. "We went there to bring a refrigerator for storage of suspected plague cases' specimens before they would be sent to the national reference lab."

What did your days look like; describe a typical day during the mission?

Usually we would start with field visits in the morning, to the hospitals where suspected cases of plague would be referred in Antananarivo, and to the National Reference Laboratory. The aim in the first weeks was to assess the

situation regarding sampling collection and transportation from the hospitals to the reference lab, and to assess the capacities and capabilities at the national reference laboratory. At later stage, the aim was to implement recommendations once validated: communication and training, and field coordination.

All along the mission, it was important to keep the link with field actors (clinicians, community workers, laboratory for diagnosis) to understand the evolution of the situation and be attentive to difficulties encountered.

The afternoon was usually dedicated to discussing the situation analysis with WHO colleagues from case management and surveillance platforms or other stakeholders, to develop proposals and recommendations, or (at later stage) to communication with high level authorities and stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of new procedures/guidelines.

What did you learn yourself?

As an epidemiologist, I realised how the laboratory plays a central role in emergency settings. It made me fully understand how important the lab is and made me value the EUPHEM program even more!

Rapid laboratory diagnosis with good performance is fundamental, particularly because the clinical picture for pneumonic plague is not specific at early stages of the disease. Laboratory confirmation is essential for the field epidemiologists to monitor the evolution of the outbreak, but also for the clinicians who take care of suspected cases. I learned a lot about crisis management, emergency response, and coordination with national authorities, political bodies and with representatives from international NGOs, in a setting where resources were limited, and team members had to use all their skills and knowledge.

How did you like it?

I really liked this deployment. It was a unique opportunity to witness a public health emergency brought under control. I arrived during the peak of the outbreak and when I left after 5 weeks the situation had significantly improved. It was also thrilling to work with many specialists from different fields: epidemiologists, clinicians, community workers, communications, operations and logistics specialists, IPC specialists, and lab technicians.

Would you go again?

Yes, definitely!

Thank you for sharing your story with us Fanny!

For reference: [the Plague \(Madagascar\) Outbreak situation reports from WHO](#).

Upcoming EAN mini-module: R in infectious disease data analytics in Sofia, Bulgaria (October 2018) and Malta (November 2018)

The R Epidemics Consortium ([RECON](#)) and EAN are collaborating to organise two workshops on the use of R in infectious disease data analytics for (field) epidemiologists.

To also ensure we reach our friends and colleagues on the Eastern side of Europe we will organise a 4-day workshop on data analytics in routine surveillance and outbreaks in Sofia, Bulgaria (8-10 October 2018).

Later this year adjacent to ESCAIDE we organise another workshop in Malta specific for people with an FETP background. Registrations for the workshops are open. The workshop in Malta had over 60 registrations within 24 hours but we still have spaces on our reserve list (pending payment of the first persons who registered).

R Workshop Sofia, Bulgaria

What? A two-day workshop Introduction into R for surveillance and outbreak analytics

When? 8-10 October

Where? [Sofia, Bulgaria, SoHo Workplace](#)

More information and registration: [Workshop website](#)

R Workshop Malta

What? A two-day workshop in using R for epidemiological data analyses

When? 19-20th of November, adjacent to ESCAIDE

Where? [Malta, Mater Dei Hospital](#)

More information and registration: [Workshop website](#)



Announcement: #10YearsofEUPHEM

Coming September, our beloved public health microbiology track EUPHEM will celebrate its 10th birthday! We will celebrate this with you on social media and many EUPHEM-related contributions in the Autumn newsletter.

On Saturday 15 September 2018, we invite all EUPHEM fellows, alumni, EAN members (EPIET, EUPHEM and EAPs) and friends to get together at 20:00h local time and raise the glass to EUPHEM.

Also, we organise a #10YearsOfEUPHEM photo contest. You are all invited to capture Public Health Microbiology in one shot (Happy in the Lab) and share that with us via social media using the hashtag #10YearsOfEUPHEM. We will bring hard copy prints of the best photos to ESCAIDE and these photos will take part in the annual EAN ESCAIDE Photo contest.

Hook up with the [#10YearsOfEUPHEM Facebook event](#) and join us in the celebration!



EAN is looking for new Board members 2018-2020!

As per EAN statutes, half of the EAN Board members will finish their 2-year term after the EAN General Assembly which will take place at ESCAIDE on November 22nd. This year there will be three available positions: Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Are you tempted to join the Board?

Being part of the EAN Advisory Board is a great opportunity to actively contribute to maintaining our Network and the future of Field Epidemiology and Public Health

Microbiology, and to get closer to the alumni and current fellows of EAN.

More information on these positions can be found [here](#).

Candidates will be presented at the General Assembly. When the time of the General Assembly approaches, we will send out an invitation to apply for the Board positions. In the meantime, please feel free to contact any of us for more information or any question you may have.

In the next EAN newsletter

While we are enjoying the sunny European summer, we are already looking forward to the next EAN Autumn edition newsletter in which some of the following subjects and much more will be featured:

- Everything you need to know about ESCAIDE 2018
- Celebrating 10 years of EUPHEM
- Interviews with new coordinators

EAN Membership

The annual membership fee is now €30 / £28.
There is a 10-year membership available at €250 / £230.

Fellows in their first and second year of training are exempt from paying membership fees, according to the accepted statutes change at the 2012 General Assembly.

The details for how to transfer fees by online banking are 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), 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 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: HSBC UK
Address: 18 London Street, Norwich, NR2 1LG, UK
Account holder: Epiet Alumni Network
Account Number: 71822755
Sort code: 40-05-15
IBAN: GB11MIDL40051571822755
BIC/Swift: MIDLGB22

GBP ACCOUNT (£28 per annum)

Bank: HSBC UK
Address: 18 London Street, Norwich, NR2 1LG, UK
Account holder: Epiet Alumni Network
Account Number: 43922782
Sort code: 40-35-09