



Objectives

During the two-year training programme, EUPHEM fellows work to meet the following core learning objectives:

- Understand concepts of virology, bacteriology, parasitology and immunology related to the different public health disciplines
- Be aware of the roles/responsibilities and needs of the partners from the laboratory and the epidemiology in outbreak detection, investigation and response
- Identify the use and limitation of diagnostic and typing methods and their interpretation in patient diagnosis, outbreak investigations, surveillance and epidemiological studies
- Design safe sampling strategies for disease surveillance and for outbreak detection and control, both in humans and animals
- Set up a surveillance systems and distinguish their strengths and weaknesses
- Apply national, European and WHO rules and regulations regarding biosafety and biosecurity and understand how they may influence response to an outbreak
- Apply the roles and responsibilities of local, national and international organisations involved in infectious disease control
- Practice the communication mechanisms and tools used towards coordinated response
- Communicate effectively with persons from a multidisciplinary background, authorities, the public and the media
- Determine the need for total quality management, biosecurity management, and crisis response as core elements of management of a public health microbiological laboratory
- Teach public health microbiology to health professionals



Who we are

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Participating countries

Czech Republic	Germany	Netherlands
Denmark	Greece	Spain
Finland	Hungary	Sweden
France	Italy	United Kingdom

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EUPHEM

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Programme Organisation

EUPHEM and closely linked EPIET are both pathways of the same two-year EU fellowship programme coordinated and funded by ECDC for applied disease prevention and control.

EUPHEM is coordinated by ECDC scientific coordinators with the close involvement of the EUPHEM training forum.

Scope

The European Public Health Microbiology Training Programme (EUPHEM) provides training and practical experience in public health microbiology (PHM). Fellows are trained in national or regional microbiology laboratories in the European Union (EU). The programme is aimed at European microbiologist professionals with a keen interest to further develop their skills and experience to promote public health in combination with field epidemiology.

The long-term mission of EUPHEM is to:

- Strengthen communicable disease surveillance and control in the EU through an integrated public health microbiology-field epidemiology network for outbreak detection, investigation and response nationally and internationally
- Develop a European network of public health microbiologists
- Strengthen or build up a network with different disciplines within public health microbiology and other laboratory networks
- Develop a response capacity for public health microbiology inside and beyond the EU
- Foster future leaders in public health microbiology in Europe



Fellowships

The programme is funded by the ECDC. Institutes hosting a EUPHEM fellow contribute to the programme by providing on-site supervision and facilitation in modules. The EUPHEM fellowship lasts two-years. Part of this time is dedicated to formal training courses. For the remaining time, fellows are placed on a training site in a European country. The training emphasises learning-by-doing activities through projects, modules and courses. Training begins with the three-week EPIET/EUPHEM introductory course where participants acquire skills in outbreak investigation, surveillance systems, descriptive and analytical epidemiology, study design and data analysis and PHM. Several one-week modules are organised throughout the fellowship to focus on specific public health topics, such as the use of computer tools in outbreak investigations, vaccinology, biosafety and security and others tailored to the laboratory background. During their training, fellows meet at the annual European Scientific Conference for Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) to share their experience of the fellowship, present the results of interventions and research and evaluate their success in achieving the programme objectives.

Supervision

The training site supervisor and co-supervisor provide day-to-day supervision. An epidemiological supervisor and various project supervisors may also work closely with the fellow. The EUPHEM training programme coordinators provide additional pedagogical and technical support. All training sites are closely monitored through regular appraisals to ensure that the training meets the needs of individual fellows, as well as the broader educational objectives of the programme. The activities of the programme are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are abreast of the needs and developments within and beyond the European network.

Projects of fellows

EUPHEM fellows have been involved in a wide variety of projects. During their two-year assignments, EUPHEM fellows constitute an important part of the response to regional, national and international threats to health. EUPHEM fellows have played a pivotal role in the response to pandemic influenza in 2009/2010 in their host sites, for example by conducting outbreak investigations, setting up surveillance systems in hospitals or evaluating the response. Recent international assignments include investigating a cholera outbreak in Haiti, setting up a surveillance system in refugee camps in Greece together with Greek authorities and setting up a laboratory surveillance system in Laos. Fellows have also been involved in the recent 2011 outbreak investigation of EHEC in Germany.

