



Eurosurveillance

Europe's journal on infectious disease epidemiology, prevention and control



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Magnus Boman, Karolinska Institutet (KI), Stockholm, Sweden

Magnus Boman is a professor in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Health at Karolinska Institutet, department of Medicine Solna, division of Clinical Epidemiology. He is an honorary professor at University College London, division of Psychiatry, and a fellow in epidemiology at the Royal Society of Medicine. His research is on precision medicine and multimodal fusion. He is involved in hands-on work on platforms for Internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy treatment, automated segmentation of organs from computed tomography (CT) scans, unsupervised machine learning for emotion expression, multi-lingual large language models, and AI for spatial transcriptomics.



Bruno Ciancio, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Bruno Ciancio is a medical epidemiologist and infectious disease specialist. After working as clinical researcher in Italy and completing his European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) training in the United Kingdom, he joined the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in 2006. At ECDC he focused on implementing European Union (EU) strategies for increasing influenza vaccination coverage, including defining the scientific basis for vaccination strategies, the setting up of the Influenza Monitoring Vaccine Effectiveness in Europe (I-MOVE) network for monitoring vaccine effectiveness, and the strengthening of surveillance. Between 2011 and 2020 he focused on establishing the mathematical modelling, Geographical Information System (GIS), and biostatistical functions of the Centre, supporting the issuing of more impactful scientific outputs, and coordinated the development of the Atlas of Infectious Diseases and of EpiPulse. Between 2020 and 2025 he coordinated ECDC surveillance activities, including the implementation of strategies for harnessing new technologies, such as eHealth, molecular typing, and artificial intelligence, and the implementation of the new ECDC mandate. During the COVID-19 pandemic he worked as incident manager and coordinator of the surveillance team. Since June 2025 he leads the ECDC Unit for Directly transmitted and Vaccine preventable Diseases. Ciancio has authored more than fifty scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals and a book chapter on influenza surveillance.



Christian Drosten, Charité Berlin, Berlin, Germany

Christian Drosten (born 1972, Lingen, Germany) is a physician by training, board certified in virology, medical microbiology and infection epidemiology. He started his professional career at the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, where he discovered the unknown virus causing severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and developed a diagnostic test that enabled public health authorities worldwide to stop a beginning pandemic.



In 2007, at age 34, he became the founding director of the Institute of Virology at University of Bonn Medical Centre, now one of the most well-known places for research on emerging viruses in Germany. His group has several active research projects in Africa and Latin America. In March 2017 he took over the Chair of Virology at Charité, Berlin, where he heads the Institute of Virology on Campus Mitte.

Drosten has co-authored more than 300 peer-reviewed papers and coordinated research consortia funded by the European Union, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the German Ministry of Research. He is a member of the internal advisory board of the German Center for Infection Research (DZIF) and the speaker of the German National Research Network for Zoonotic Infections. He received the German Federal Cross of Merit for his work to counter the SARS epidemic. As a professor at one of the largest university medical centres in Europe, he is intensely engaged in collaborative clinical and basic research to limit the threat of emerging infections and pandemics.

David Heymann, Public Health England and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom

David Heymann is currently Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Head of the Centre on Global Health Security at Chatham House, London. From 2012 to March 2017 he was chairman of Public Health England, United Kingdom (UK). Previously, he was Executive Director of the World Health Organization (WHO) Communicable Diseases Cluster, during which he headed the global response to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and prior to that he was director for the WHO programme on Emerging and other Communicable Diseases.



Earlier experiences at WHO include as chief of research activities in the WHO global programme on AIDS. Before joining WHO he worked for 13 years as a medical epidemiologist in sub-Saharan Africa, on assignment from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where he participated in the first and second outbreaks of Ebola hemorrhagic fever and supported ministries of health in research aimed at better control of malaria, measles, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. Prior to joining the CDC, he worked in India for 2 years as a medical epidemiologist in the WHO smallpox eradication programme.

He is an elected fellow of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (United States) and the Academy of Medical Sciences (UK), and has been awarded several public health awards that have provided funding for the establishment of an ongoing mentorship programme at the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). In 2009, he was appointed an honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) for service to global public health.

Susan Hopkins, UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), London, United Kingdom

Dr Susan Hopkins was appointed as the Interim Chief Medical Advisor at NHS Test and Trace and the Strategic Response Director for COVID-19 at Public Health London (PHE), United Kingdom (UK) in August 2020. Dr Hopkins was an Incident Director within PHE's COVID-19 incident response from January to August 2020.

Previously she was the Deputy Director, National Infection Service of PHE, leading on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, Clinical Director of Infection Services at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Hopkins was appointed in 2006 as a consultant in infectious diseases and microbiology, leading the hospital epidemiology programme at the Royal Free and continues to practice clinically. She trained in infectious diseases, microbiology and epidemiology in Ireland, the United States, France and the UK.

She holds honorary academic appointments at University College London and Imperial College London. She holds current research funding (as co or lead investigator) of approximately 20 million GBP with research partners across the UK.



Irena Klavs, National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Irena Klavs is a medical epidemiologist working in the area of surveillance, research, prevention and control of communicable diseases. Currently she serves as a head of the HIV, STIs and hepatitis group and as a head of the Healthcare-associated infections group in the Communicable Disease Centre at the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia. She is a member of the National AIDS Committee, a member of the National Committee for Prevention and Control of Healthcare-Associated Infections at the Ministry of Health and a member of the HIV, Hepatitis and Tuberculosis Think Tank at the European Commission.



She has been a principal investigator for several Slovenian national surveys, including Sexual attitudes, behaviour and health survey (2000) and National healthcare-associated infections survey in acute care hospitals (2011). Since 2005, she has been a member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Advisory forum for Slovenia. Since 2008, she has been coordinating the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) at the National Institute of Public Health in Slovenia, one of the EPIET training sites. Currently she is Associated Professor at the Department of Public Health at the Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at the University of London. Dr Klavs graduated from the Medical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, and has a MSc in Epidemiology and a PhD from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London.

Piotr Kramarz, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Piotr Kramarz is a physician by training, with a PhD in immunology of viral infections, and eight years of clinical practice experience in a teaching hospital in Poland in the field of infectious diseases. Between 1997 and 2000, Piotr has worked at the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) and later as a medical epidemiologist. Since 2007, Piotr has been working at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) as a Deputy Head of Unit (first of the Scientific Advice Unit, then the Office of the Chief Scientist and now of the Disease Programme Unit) and, since 1 June 2024, as the Chief Scientist of the Centre. He has published on topics such as vaccination, influenza, burden of disease, use of electronic medical records for research, epidemiologic methodology in general and others.



Shingai Machingaidze, Global Health Consultant, Cape Town, South Africa

Shingai Machingaidze is an epidemiologist and public health specialist. She has developed and led public health and clinical research programmes that build the capacity of Africa-based scientists and institutions in Africa. Her expertise includes strategic engagement, planning and support of large public health programmes, conducting and managing clinical trials and clinical research, managing research grants and finances as well as managing strategic partnerships and engagements with national, regional and international agencies. She has published in leading scientific journals and is a member of several institutional, regional and global advisory boards including the Advisory Committee for the [Clinical Trials Community](#) and Co-Chair of the [100 Days Mission](#) Science Technology Expert Group (STEG). She was previously the Ag. Chief Science Officer for Africa CDC as well as the [CPHIA](#) Secretariat Lead.



Jacob Moran-Gilad, Ministry of Health, Jerusalem and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Jacob Moran-Gilad is a board-certified consultant clinical microbiologist and public health / medical epidemiologist. He is the principal investigator of the MAGICAL group (Microbiology, Advanced Genomics and Infection Control Application Laboratory) at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben-Gurion University (BGU). His current research involves the development and validation of laboratory methods for rapid diagnosis of infectious diseases, the study of the molecular epidemiology of various pathogens of public health interest and the integration and application of new methods in health protection, using advanced genomics and metagenomics. He is also involved in research on public health microbiology policy and planning, and in exploring contemporary approaches for linking up medical epidemiology and cutting-edge microbiology to inform public health strategy.



As a senior consultant to Israeli Ministry of Health, he has been focusing on national strategy and policy-making in public health microbiology. In this capacity, he is the Chair of the National Advisory Committee for Microbiology and involved in several national infectious disease programmes, and in emergency preparedness and response. Professor Moran-Gilad is also the lead Clinical Microbiologist at Soroka University Medical Center, a 1,200-bed tertiary-care regional medical centre in Southern Israel and Scientific Director of the institutional bio-bank. At international level, Professor Moran-Gilad is the immediate-past Chairperson of the ESCMID Study Group for Genomic and Molecular Diagnostics (ESGMD), member of the board of the ESCMID Study Group for Legionella Infections (ESGLI) responsible for microbiology and genomics and Chair of the International Working Group for whole genome sequencing of Legionella. Recently, he was appointed as the Deputy Programme Director and the designate Programme Director of ECCMID, the world's leading conference on microbiology and infection.

Jacob has published significantly in his areas of expertise and is a principal- or co-investigator in many funded research projects nationally and internationally, including the

European Union Horizon 2020 and the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR), and the Swiss National Centres of Competence in Research (NCCR) framework.

Chantal Reusken, Centre for Infectious Disease Control of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, the Netherlands

Chantal Reusken works as Expert Virology at the Centre for Infectious Disease Control of the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in Bilthoven. She has an academic appointment at the Viroscience department at Erasmus University Medical Centre in Rotterdam. Dr Reusken has worked in the field of virology since 1992, with a focus on the Public Health perspective since 2005. She holds a PhD from Leiden University.



Dr Reusken worked for 5 years as a group leader at Public Health Virology in Rotterdam and before that for 9 years at the Netherlands Centre for Infectious Disease Control, the last 3 years of which she was head of the unit for rare and emerging viral diseases and laboratory response at the RIVM. She is coordinator of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)-funded European expert laboratory network for emerging viral diseases (EVD-LabNet). Furthermore, Dr Reusken regularly serves as an expert on international committees and consultant groups of organizations such as ECDC, United Nations Children's Fund, Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness and the World Health Organization.

Her activities focus on emerging viral disease laboratory preparedness and response; as such, she works at the research-diagnostics interphase. She is passionate about and actively involved in global laboratory capacity and capability building as a key activity for successful Public Health and clinical preparedness and response to emerging viruses. Her research has a focus on pathogens moving at the animal-human interphase like arboviruses, rodent-borne viruses, hemorrhagic fever viruses and MERS-CoV. She has been involved in numerous European projects as partner and/or task leader. She has more than 130 international peer-reviewed publications, including some hallmark papers on the epidemiology of MERS-CoV,

the zoonotic potential of Schmallenberg virus and laboratory preparedness and response research.

Panayotis T. Tassios, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens,
Athens, Greece

Panayotis T. Tassios studied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the United Kingdom, Education in Greece and currently works as Associate Professor in Molecular Microbiology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His research focuses on the molecular typing of bacterial strains and their resistance mechanisms to antimicrobial drugs, in order to assist infection surveillance, management and control.



Since 1990, he has co-authored over 75 original articles in peer-reviewed journals. Since 1997, he has been active in more than 10 international research projects and networks, their subjects covering both community-acquired and healthcare-associated infections; served as Chairperson and/or Secretary in two study groups (Epidemiological Markers and Food- and Water-borne Infections) of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID); and sat on the Scientific and Organising Committees of several international scientific conferences (e.g. European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) from 2007 to 2016 and International Meeting on Microbial Epidemiological Markers (IMMEM) in 2009 and 2010).

His interest in the collaborative nature of scientific research and the public health aspect of infectious diseases, together with his love of education and group work, have nurtured his continuing practice in teaching—at undergraduate, postgraduate and lifelong levels—both in Greece and at international workshops, seminars and conferences relating to both molecular microbiology and scientific writing. He has been an Associate editor of *Eurosurveillance* since 2007, has held a similar position at *Clinical Microbiology and Infection* since 2003 and has been reviewing manuscripts for over 10 journals since 2000.

Hélène Therre, Santé publique France, Paris, France

Hélène Therre holds a PhD in Biology (Option Reproduction) obtained in 1988 from the University Paris VI, France and has studied as a science journalist at University Paris VI. After a few years working as an independent science journalist for various French and European scientific journals and agencies, she joined the team of *Biofutur*, a French European biotechnology magazine, in 1993.



In 1998, she joined the European Center for AIDS Surveillance and then the French National Institute for Public Health Surveillance (InVS) as editor-in-chief of *Eurosurveillance* monthly. She participated in the process leading to the listing of *Eurosurveillance* in MedLine.

At the time of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's creation and *Eurosurveillance*'s migration to ECDC in 2007, she became Associate editor of the journal, while being in charge of the scientific promotion within the Scientific Department of InVS. Since the creation of Santé publique France (merger of InVS and the French National Institute for Prevention and Health Education (Inpes)), she has been responsible for the scientific promotion unit within the Communications Division. Dr Therre worked on guidelines related to scientific publication and participated in working groups on Open Access, social inequalities in health and prospective studies by 2030. She is also a member of the editorial team of the French Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin (BEH) and *Santé en Action*, a French journal of prevention and health promotion.

Henriette de Valk, Santé publique France, Paris, France

Dr Henriette de Valk is a medical epidemiologist at the French National Public Health Agency (Santé Publique France). As the head of the Foodborne, Vectorborne and Zoonotic Infections Unit she is in charge of surveillance, outbreak investigations and applied research. Dr de Valk is actively involved in European networking activities for surveillance of infectious diseases, as a national representative in supranational surveillance networks, as a member of the coordination group of the Vectorborne and Emerging Diseases network of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and as supervisor in the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training. She recently worked on guidelines for surveillance of emerging arboviruses, on the disease burden of foodborne intestinal infectious diseases and on whole genome sequencing for surveillance. She is serving on the national committee nominating the National Reference Centres (laboratories) for infectious agents in France and in Belgium.



Dr de Valk graduated from the University of Leyden in the Netherlands, the London school of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom and the Institut for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium and is an alumnus of The European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training. Prior to coming to the Santé Publique France she worked for the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) in emergency relief programmes in Sudan, Uganda and Mali, for the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Cameroon and for the World Health Organization in Indonesia at the control programmes for diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections.

Marieke van der Werf, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

Marieke J. van der Werf is head of section *Sexually transmitted infections, blood-borne viruses and tuberculosis* at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm. She trained as a biomedical scientist and medical doctor at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, did her Master of Public Health in 2001 at the Netherlands School of Public Health and obtained her PhD in Medicine at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam.



In 1998, she worked at the municipal health service in Amsterdam on the HIV cohort studies. Thereafter, she joined the non-profit organisation KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation as head of unit *Research* and head of unit *Knowledge Management, Research and Policy Development*. Apart from heading the unit she provided technical assistance and built capacity for epidemiological and operational research on tuberculosis in Europe, Africa and Asia. In 2012 she joined ECDC as head of disease programme *Tuberculosis*. In this and other functions at ECDC she coordinated the European Union guidance, development, surveillance, and training on sexually transmitted infections, blood-borne viruses and tuberculosis.

She (co-)authored over 150 articles in international peer-reviewed journals. She participates in the work of international policy advisory groups and guidance developments groups from the World Health Organization and other organizations.

Sylvie van der Werf, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Sylvie van der Werf is a Professor at the University Paris Diderot, where she is responsible for a master's program in Immunology, microbiology, virology and infectious diseases. She is the Head of the Molecular Genetics of RNA Viruses Unit at the Institut Pasteur, as well as the Director of the coordinating centre of the National Reference Centre for Respiratory Viruses, the World Health Organization (WHO) National Influenza Centre (Northern-France) and the WHO H5 Reference Laboratory. Furthermore, she is the Director of the department of Infectiology-Microbiology of the Doctoral School Bio-Sorbonne Paris Cité.



Professor van der Werf is a member of several professional bodies and societies: American Society of Microbiology, Society for General Microbiology, European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, International Society for Influenza and other Respiratory Viruses and the European Scientific Working Group on Influenza. She is regularly requested to serve as an expert on various committees of international organizations, such as the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Professor van der Werf's research interests have been focused on respiratory viruses since 1996, particularly dealing with molecular epidemiology and molecular genetics, aimed at the identification of determinants of influenza virus evolution, species specificity and sensitivity to antivirals. She is the author of over 160 scientific papers. She was awarded the Georges Zermatti prize in 2006 and was nominated 'Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques' in 2009.

Editorial Advisors

Albania: Alban Ylli, Department of Epidemiology and Health Systems,
Institute of Public Health, Tirana

Dr Alban Ylli is a health professional with experience in research methods and health prevention strategies. He has studied medicine in Tirana, has achieved a Master in Epidemiology of Health Services by Tor Vergata University in Rome and has studied prevention of diseases in Geneva and Oxford Universities for 2 years. He has a PhD and an Associate Professor title from Tirana Medical University.



Dr Ylli was deputy director of the National Institute of Public Health of Albania for 4 years, later serving as the executive director for 3 years. He has been directly involved in the investigation and management of large country epidemics such as cholera (1993), polio (1996) and the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Dr Alban Ylli has worked as part of national expert bodies in the fields of vaccination, surveillance of infectious diseases and cancer control. He now teaches health policies and epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine in Tirana, and heads the sector of health policy research in the department of epidemiology and health systems. Dr Ylli is National Focal Point for Non-communicable Diseases in Albania and member of the board of the *Albanian Journal of Medicine and Health Sciences*. His research experience encompasses fields such as surveillance and health information systems, ageing, cancer screening and drug abuse, health determinants and inequalities, and public health training.

Austria: Maria Paulke-Korinek, Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs, Vienna

Maria Paulke-Korinek graduated from the Medical University of Vienna, Austria, in 2005 and afterwards was a resident physician at the Department of Specific Prophylaxis & Tropical Medicine, Medical University Vienna, in the working group 'Epidemiology and Travel Medicine'. Her focus was on the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases, the evaluation of vaccination recommendations and the effects of vaccination programs. She was also working in numerous clinical trials investigating vaccines, as well as seroprevalence studies evaluating protection after vaccinations, e.g. with hexavalent paediatric vaccines, tick-borne encephalitis vaccines, pandemic vaccines and vaccines against Japanese Encephalitis.



After her diploma in tropical medicine from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine in Hamburg, Germany in 2010, she became a specialist for specific prophylaxis and tropical medicine accredited by the Austrian Medical Association. Maria finished her PhD studies at the Medical University Vienna in 2011, with her doctoral thesis on 'Vaccination recommendations and epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases in Austria'. She habilitated in 2014, investigating the effects of the rotavirus national immunization program in Austria. Since April 2015, she has been the head of the Department for Vaccines at the Austrian Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs. She has published 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals, contributed to eight reviews and book chapters and has reviewed articles for 10 scientific journals.

Belgium: Tinne Lernout, Sciensano, Brussels

Tinne Lernout is a medical doctor with a specialisation in tropical medicine and a master's degree in Public Health. She started her career as a general practitioner in Belgium. After a few years of working as a general practitioner and with humanitarian projects in Africa, she gained interest in the epidemiology of infectious diseases. Since 2002, she has been working as an epidemiologist in different institutions, namely the Scientific Institute of Public Health (WIV-ISP) in Belgium, the French Institute of Public Health (InVS/Santé publique France) in Mayotte, a French overseas department, and the Centre for the Evaluation of Vaccinations at the University of Antwerp, Belgium.



She has experience in surveillance, field epidemiological investigations and outbreak control in the area of infectious diseases, mainly in vaccine-preventable, vector-borne and zoonotic diseases. She has also been involved in the planning, implementation and scientific validation of several studies, including vaccination coverage surveys and seroprevalence studies. She is currently employed as an epidemiologist at the Belgian health institute for Sciensano (previously WIV-ISP), where she is in charge of the coordination of the Environmental related infectious diseases unit, with a special focus on tick-borne diseases.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Nina Rodić Vukmir, Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka

Dr Nina Rodić Vukmir is Head of the Department of Epidemiology at the Public Health Institute of the Republic of Srpska and Assistant Professor at the Department of Epidemiology, Medical Faculty Banja Luka, University of Banja Luka. She graduated from the Medical Faculty, University of Banja Luka, in 2003. She has received her master's degree in 2013 in the area of tuberculosis and her PhD degree in 2017 with the thesis entitled 'Incidence of Severe Acute Respiratory Infections and Influenza-like Illnesses in Republic of Srpska'. She has been coordinator in the CDC Project Avian and Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Control and Coordinator Epidemiologist in the Project Strengthening of DOTS Strategy and Improving National Tuberculosis Programme, Including Multidrug Resistant and Infection Control in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, she was a member of the WHO Working Group on measuring qualitative indicators of influenza. She has received WHO scholarship for special influenza programme in the Sienna University i 2016.



She is a chairperson of the Commission on Measles and CRV Elimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina, TESSy Focal Point for Republic of Srpska, Focal Point for communicable diseases surveillance in the SEEHN. She is a member on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). During the Ebola epidemic Dr Rodic Vukmir was the scientific coordinator of the national preparedness and response.

Her area of expertise includes: surveillance, emerging diseases, respiratory diseases, vector-borne diseases and control of communicable diseases.

Bulgaria: Zhivka Getsova, National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia

Zhivka Getsova holds a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and earned her Master's degree in International Security from Sciences Po, Paris, in 2019, specialising in Global Health and Environment. She has gained experience as a trainee at two European agencies — Frontex and the European Maritime Safety Agency — where she analysed potential security risks. During the pandemic, she temporarily transitioned into journalism for six months, working for a local media outlet in Bulgaria, where she applied her expertise to cover critical health sector news.

Since November 2021, Zhivka has been part of the National Centre of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (NCIPD) as an expert in the Epidemiology Department, where she completed her PhD research focused on risk communication in public health and its perceptions within different groups during the pandemic.

Zhivka has contributed to several projects on infectious disease surveillance, with a particular focus on respiratory illnesses and emerging and re-emerging pathogens. As an early-career scientist, she was part of a research team involved in the 'Fundamental Translational and Clinical Investigations on Infections and Immunity' project. She also participates in projects aimed at identifying Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) cases. In 2023, alongside her role at the NCIPD, she collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office and Bulgaria's Ministry of Health on migrant health research to improve service delivery.

Currently, Zhivka is deeply engaged in research and initiatives related to migrant health, infectious disease surveillance, and risk communication. She is a member of the Bulgarian Association of Microbiologists and the Bulgarian Scientific Society of Epidemiology of Infectious and Non-Infectious Diseases

Croatia: Sanja Kurečić Filipović, Croatian National Institute of Public Health, Zagreb

Sanja Kurečić Filipović, MD, PhD graduated from the Medical School, University of Zagreb in 1995. From 1996 to 1998 she worked as an intern. From 1998 to 2007 Sanja worked in the pharmaceutical industry, holding different positions within the medical department, ending as a Medical and Regulatory Manager responsible for medical activities in Croatia and neighbouring countries. She joined the Croatian Institute of Public Health (CIPH) in 2007 as an epidemiologist.



Currently Sanja holds a position as Head of the Department for Communicable Disease Surveillance at CIPH. She has received a master's degree in Natural Sciences, Biomedicine and in 2016 she received a PhD degree in epidemiology at the Medical School, University of Zagreb. Sanja has been working on several projects, from those involving mainly vaccination to those related to the surveillance of communicable diseases. She is a member of the Croatian Medical Chamber, a member of the Croatian National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) and a member of the Advisory Forum of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). Sanja attended several international training courses related to clinical trials, epidemiology, and vaccination. In 2019 she finished the Advanced Course of Vaccinology.

Cyprus: Linos Hadjihannas, Ministry of Health, Nicosia

Linos Hadjihannas is an Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases specialist. He has a PhD in Infectious Diseases from the Medical School of the University of Athens.

Currently he serves as consultant in Infectious Diseases at Nicosia General Hospital and as Head of the National Program for Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections at the Unit of Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases of the Ministry of Health of Cyprus. Prior to that, he was the coordinator of HIV/AIDS, TB and sexually transmitted infections (STI) Program. Since 2018, he is Cyprus member of the Advisory Forum of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

His research interests include infection prevention and control, epidemiology of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial stewardship.

He has academic appointments as a Special Scientist at the University of Cyprus Medical School.



Czech Republic: Jan Kynčl, National Institute of Public Health, Prague

Jan Kynčl has been based at the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, National Institute of Public Health in Prague since 1998, and currently serves as its Head. He received his Diploma MD and PhD degree in preventive medicine from the Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague and postgraduate diploma in public health and epidemiology from the Institute for Postgraduate Medical Education in Prague.



He is a member of the European Influenza Surveillance Network (EISN, formerly EISS) and alternate member of the European Commission Health Security Committee, where he represents the Czech Republic. He is also a member of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Advisory Forum.

In the Czech Republic, he holds a number of positions in public health and epidemiology. He is a member of the Central Epidemiological Committee and a member of the Chief Medical Officer's Advisory Committee for Epidemiology. Within the Czech Medical Society of J.E. Purkyne, he is a member of the executive board of the Czech Vaccinological Society, as well as a member of the executive board of the Society for Epidemiology and Microbiology. Since 2007, he has been a part-time senior lecturer at the Department of Epidemiology, Third Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague. He is the author of more than 50 papers and one monograph.

Denmark: Peter Henrik Andersen, Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen

Peter Henrik Andersen was trained as a physician and in public health and holds a specialist diploma in both fields. He has been working in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention at Statens Serum Institut since 2000, and as a senior medical officer since 2004.



He is the editor of the national epidemiological bulletin EPI-NEWS, and has a special interest in the field of vaccine-preventable diseases. In this capacity, he is an expert member of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG) under the Danish Health Authority and is leading the Vaccination Committee at Statens Serum Institut.

He is responsible for updating national guidelines for preventing infectious diseases in travellers and is leading the call centre in the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, giving oral and written advice to healthcare personnel on the use of vaccines, as well as in the prevention and control of infectious diseases.

Parallel to his work in infectious diseases epidemiology and public health, he has kept a link to the clinical field, and is currently a part-time consultant at the emergency department of a major Copenhagen hospital.

Estonia: Mari-Anne Härma, Health Board, Tallinn

Mari-Anne Härma was appointed as the Acting Director General for the Estonian Health Board in September 2021. During this appointment she has been responsible for the strategical and operational leading of the nationwide COVID-19 healthcare crisis, being an advisor and national spokesperson for COVID-19 epidemiology. Before that, she was the Deputy Director General for the Estonian Health Board, overseeing the surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable diseases and of the healthcare system performance in Estonia, during COVID-19 pandemic. Before joining the Estonian Health Board in January 2020, she worked in Helsinki, Finland, with the world's leading project on diabetic nephropathy - Finnish Diabetic Nephropathy (FinnDiane) Study, investigating the role of genetics in infections in type 1 diabetes and diabetic nephropathy. She is trained in clinical research, genetics, molecular genetics and immunology in Finland and in Estonia.



Finland: Erika Lindh, National Institute for Health and Welfare, Helsinki

Erika Lindh studied microbiology at the University of Helsinki and later complemented her academic education with public health studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her scientific career started in 2005 when she joined the Viral zoonoses -research group at the Medical Faculty of the University of Helsinki, where her main research interest became zoonotic influenza. During over ten years as a doctoral and postdoctoral researcher her research work ranged from serological and molecular epidemiology studies to virus-host cell interaction studies. In 2017, she started as an ECDC Public Health Microbiologist (EUPHEM) fellow at Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome, Italy. With competencies shaped for public health, she joined the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare as a senior researcher in 2020. Her main duties are laboratory and registry surveillance of respiratory and emerging viruses, application of whole genome sequencing methodologies for viruses of public health importance and providing scientific advice for the development and operationalisation of national preparedness activities. Personal goals in her work are strengthening evidence-based decision making and making the work that we do transparent and understandable for the public.

France: Valérie Colombani-Cocuron, Santé publique France, Paris

Valérie Colombani-Cocuron graduated from the National Veterinary School of Lyon (now VetAgro Sup) in 1999 and from the internship in pet medicine and surgery in 2002. Ms Colombani-Cocuron practiced for 2 years in several veterinary clinics. After working in parallel for a few years for the Nouvelles Editions vétérinaires et alimentaires (NEVA), she joined Les Editions du Point vétérinaire in 2006 as editor-in-chief of Le Point vétérinaire and Pratique vétérinaire équine, two French peer-reviewed journals of veterinary medicine. In 2019, she joined Santé publique France as editor-in-chief of the Bulletin épidémiologique hebdomadaire (BEH), a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles submitted by national public health experts. Ms Colombani-Cocuron is leading the BEH team in the scientific promotion unit of the Communication Department at Santé publique France.



Germany: Jamela Seedat, Robert Koch Institute, Berlin

Dr Seedat studied medicine in Berlin and undertook an internship in the department of paediatrics (Charité), specialising in endocrinological disorders. She completed her PhD (Vitamin-D-receptor gene-polymorphism) in 1996 and continued to work at the Federal Institute for Occupational Health. Dr Seedat moved to South Africa in 1997 working for a biopharmaceutical company and later on at a Medical university (Ga-Rankuwa), where apart from clinical work with HIV and Tuberculosis patients, she was committed to teaching and participating in clinical trials. She got a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene (University of Witwatersrand). Dr Seedat continued her work as microbiologist at the University of Kiel in 2002 while also working in a travel clinic. In 2007 she passed the exam of specialisation in medical microbiology and hygiene in Kiel. Dr Seedat is currently working at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) as editor of the 'Epidemiological Bulletin'.



Greece: Dimitrios Paraskevis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

Dr Dimitrios Paraskevis is an epidemiologist who holds a PhD in Molecular Epidemiology of viral infections from the Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. His PhD thesis was related to the prevalence of different HIV-1 subtypes and recombinants, and the dispersal patterns of the HIV-1 epidemic in Greece. Dr Paraskevis has been involved in molecular epidemiology studies of HIV, SARS-CoV-2 and other viruses; during the last 10



years he has focused on the applications of molecular epidemiology to public health. He is now an Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at Medical School of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, and he is a member of the National committee against COVID-19, as well as of the National Public Health committee of the Ministry of Health. Since October 2021, he has been assigned as the scientific advisor to the National Public Health Organization of Greece.

His research interests lie in the fields of epidemiology, public health, virology, molecular epidemiology, virus evolution, molecular diagnostics, applications of molecular epidemiology in the design and implementation of public health and therapeutic interventions, as well as viral resistance to antivirals. Dr Paraskevis is a member of twenty international and national scientific societies, and a member of the editorial board of four peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Hungary: Ágnes Hajdu, Ministry of Human Capacities, Budapest

Dr Ágnes Hajdu is a senior advisor at the Department of Hospital Hygiene and Communicable Disease Control in the Ministry of Human Capacities in Budapest, Hungary.

She has a wide range of interests in hospital epidemiology, infection control and antimicrobial stewardship. She is responsible for coordinating the national-level surveillance of healthcare-associated *Clostridium difficile* infections, and contributes to the development and revision of national recommendations for the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance in Hungary. Dr Hajdu has made significant contributions to the planning, implementation and validation of the EU point-prevalence surveys on healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial use in Hungary. Occasionally, she is involved in high-priority outbreak investigations in hospital settings. Currently, her work also focuses on promoting the use of health research in policy-making, as well as behaviour change interventions to improve antibiotic prescribing practices.

Her education background includes a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the University of Pécs (2004) and a specialist degree in Public Health and Preventive Medicine from the Semmelweis University. She is an alumna of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), for which she was seconded to the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo (2005–07). She served as an international ambassador of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA) in 2013.

Iceland: Erna M Kojic, Landspítali University Hospital, Reykjavik

Dr Erna Milunka Kojic is currently Chief of Infectious Diseases at Landspítali University Hospital as of December 2022. Prior to returning to Iceland, where she is originally from, she was a Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York and section Chief of Infectious Diseases at Mount Sinai St Luke's and West Hospitals from June 2016 through December 2022. Prior to joining Mount Sinai, she was an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, United States, where she trained and worked at after completing infectious diseases training in 2002. While at Brown, Dr Kojic served as the Medical Director of the Outpatient Infectious Disease and Immunology Center. Her specific research interest were HPV and HIV co-infections among women serving as site investigator of several studies and sat on numerous editorial boards. Findings from these studies have been used to further supplement guideline recommendations regarding HPV infection and prevention.

Both as the Medical Director in Providence and Chief of Infectious Diseases at Mount Sinai St. Lukes and West, Dr Kojic focused on developing and implementing successful Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Treatment (OPAT) programmes. After returning to Iceland, she has been responsible for the administrative, clinical and educational aspects of the Infectious Diseases Division in addition to doing clinical work.



Ireland: Melissa Brady, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Dublin

Melissa Brady is a senior epidemiologist at the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) in Ireland, where she has been based since 2017. Prior to this she worked in hospital epidemiology and infection control, and she has also worked in medical and environmental laboratory science settings, where her primary focuses were on microbiological and biomedical testing and on developing laboratory information management systems.



Melissa holds a MSc in Healthcare Infection Management and is an alumnus of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET).

As part of her work in the field of epidemiology, she has gained experience in infectious disease surveillance, applied research and outbreak investigation, mainly in the areas of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, COVID-19 and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), hospital-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance. Her current work focuses on conducting seroepidemiological and population prevalence studies.

Italy: Antonio Mistretta, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome

Antonio Mistretta is a medical doctor specialist in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine. He earned a PhD in 'Pathologies from Infections and Immunodeficiencies' as well as a Postgraduate Degree in Health Education from the Experimental Center for Health Promotion and Health Education (CeSPES) at the University of Perugia. Dr Mistretta has worked as Research Fellow at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, within the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact. Since February 2024 he has taken on the role of heading the Italian National Institute of Public Health Scientific Communication Unit. He is also a Referent for the Presidency of Italian National Institute of Public Health in relations with the Schools of Medical Specializations of Italian Universities. Moreover, he holds the position of Professor of Hygiene at the Institute of Hygiene, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Catania and he is the Director of the Public Health Residency Program at University of Catania, Department 'G.F. Ingrassia'. Throughout his career, Dr Mistretta has provided consultancy services to notable associations, including the Italian Association for Cancer Research. Additionally, Dr Mistretta has authored over 170 scientific articles covering topics such as health literacy, health education, and the promotion of virtuous behaviours across all age groups. He remains actively involved as a mentor in the training of young Public Health residents at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS).



Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244: Lul Raka, National Institute of Public Health, Pristina

Lul Raka is Associated Professor of Medical Microbiology and Infection Control at the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” in Kosovo. He also works as Medical Microbiologist at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo, Head of the National Program for Antimicrobial Resistance and Health Care-Associated Infections and President of Kosovo Society of Microbiologists.



Dr Raka earned his MD, master’s degree and PhD from the University of Prishtina, Kosovo. Dr Raka was a State Department’s fellow at the University of South Carolina and of Fogarty International Center. He also served as Vice-Chair of Kosovo Accreditation Agency at the Ministry of Education and Science. During the Ebola outbreak in 2014, he was a World Health Organization consultant for infection prevention and control in Liberia.

During the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic he was Chairman of the Advisory Board for COVID-19 in the Ministry of Health. His fields of interest are antibiotic use and resistance, healthcare-associated infections and patient safety. Dr Raka is a member of various professional bodies on the national and international level and has published several articles in international journals.

Latvia: Dzintars Mozgis, Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Riga

Dzintars Mozgis was born in Auce, Latvia on 14 July 1958.

He graduated from the Riga Medical Institute faculty of paediatrics in 1982 as a medical doctor and started work as a paediatrician. After postgraduate training in paediatric surgery in 1987, he worked at University Children's Hospital as a paediatric surgeon. In 1990 he visited and practiced at the Moscow Research Institute of Paediatrics and Paediatric Surgery; in 1992 at the University Hospital Eppendorf, Hamburg; in 1993 at the University Hospital Benjamin Franklin, Steglitz, Berlin and Rudolf-Virchow-Kinderkrankenhaus, Wedding, Berlin. In 1994 and 1995 he took part in in-service training courses in healthcare management held by the American International Health Alliance (AIHA). From 1995 to 2010 he was the CEO of the University Children's Hospital in Riga.



Dr Mozgis completed his doctoral studies in 2002 and got a PhD in 2004; in addition, he worked part-time in the Riga Stradiņš University department for Public Health and Epidemiology as a lecturer from 2001, assistant professor from 2005 and associate professor from 2009. From 2013 to present he has been the Deputy Director for epidemiological safety and development in the Centre for Diseases Prevention and Control, Latvia. He has about 50 publications. His recent interests are related to antimicrobial resistance, healthcare and public health management, child injuries and medical history.

Luxembourg: Joël Mossong, Health Directorate (Direction de la Santé), Luxembourg

Following his PhD studies in mathematical epidemiology at Warwick University, Joël Mossong worked at the CRP-Santé (now Luxembourg Institute of Health) as a biostatistician before joining the National Health Laboratory (LNS) in 2003. He obtained competitive funding for several research projects in the area of molecular and statistical epidemiology of infectious disease including *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and human papillomavirus. Joël was the lead author on a large European social contact survey which was instrumental to calibrate currently used mathematical transmission models of COVID-19. During his time at the LNS his main interest was in the application of next generation sequencing to help detect, delineate and manage outbreaks of bacterial and viral pathogens. In 2021, he joined the Health Inspection to set up an epidemiological unit supporting the contact tracing activities. He was a member of several national steering committees set up to monitor and provide advice to the government during the COVID-19 pandemic focusing on schools, nursing homes and the large-scale testing programme. His main current focus is on estimating the impact of various control measures including quarantine and vaccination on COVID-19 outcomes in collaboration with international partners like the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).



Malta: Tanya Melillo Fenech, Superintendence of Public Health,
Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care, Msida

Tanya Melillo is a medical doctor with a master's degree in Health Services Management/Public Health and a PhD in Public Health. She has been heading the infectious disease prevention and control unit in Malta for the past 9 years. She is a lecturer at the University of Malta and lectures on disaster management, health management and infectious diseases. She is responsible for migrant health in her country and is presently working on a migrant health strategy. She is also responsible for preparing all health preparedness and response plans related to biological agents and generic preparedness. She is a member of the Royal Society for Public Health and of the Faculty of Public Health.



Montenegro: Aleksandar Obradović, Institute for Public Health, Podgorica

Dr Aleksandar Obradović is a medical doctor, epidemiologist, and PhD student in Epidemiology, currently working as a Deputy Director for Public Health and Medical Issues at the Institute for Public Health of Montenegro. After graduating from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montenegro, he worked for 1 year as a Clinical doctor at the Children's Hospital in Podgorica. Since August 2016 he has been working at the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro, first as a resident, then as a specialist in epidemiology, starting in 2020. Also, he is currently the National focal point of MediPIET in Montenegro, and a fellow supervisor.

Netherlands: Barbara Schimmer, Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven

Dr Barbara Schimmer is a medical epidemiologist working at the Centre for Infectious Diseases, Epidemiology and Surveillance at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM). She worked for 10 years at the gastroenteritis and zoonotic infections unit carrying out surveillance projects, outbreak investigations and applied research. She will finish her PhD on ‘Q fever in a One Health context’ in 2018. Among other tasks, she is co-chair of the weekly early warning meeting and content chair of the annual Transmission Day gathering of around 300 Dutch public health professionals in the field of infectious diseases. She is an alumnus of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET), for which she was based at the Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo (2004–06).



Norway: Susanne Hyllestad, Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Oslo

Susanne Hyllestad is head of the department of zoonotic, food- and waterborne infections at the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Her main fields of work at the institute are research and management. She holds a PhD in drinking water and public health, with a particular focus on prevention, detecting and responding to waterborne outbreaks. She has two master's degrees – one in water engineering and one in social science on water as a human right. She has more than 20 years' experience nationally and internationally in the official public health and municipal sector, engineering consultancy in the private sector, humanitarian water and sanitation fieldwork for Doctors without Borders, and as a special water and sanitation advisor for Norwegian Church Aid. In Norway, she is part of the editorial board of the Norwegian Water Association's journal.



Portugal: André Peralta-Santos, Directorate General of Health, Lisbon

André Peralta-Santos is a consultant in epidemiology and information systems at the Directorate General of Health in Lisbon, Portugal. Between September 2020 and September 2021, he was the Director of Information and Analysis, responsible for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemiological analysis.

His career and interests have been moving towards the epidemiology of COVID-19, the quantitative impact of health policies through causal methods.

Dr Peralta-Santos is a Medical Doctor and Public Health Specialist, and holds a master's degree in Public Health, a clinical research certificate from Harvard Medical School and is currently pursuing a PhD at the University of Washington.



Romania: Daniela Talapan, National Institute for Infectious Diseases 'Prof. Dr Matei Bals', Bucharest

Dr Daniela Talapan is a medical doctor and Head of the Microbiology Laboratory at the leading National Institute of Infectious Diseases 'Prof. Dr Matei Bals' in Bucharest, Romania. She received her PhD in Microbiology on 'The Emergence of Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae and Their Impact on Antimicrobial Infections Therapy' at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy 'Carol Davila' in Bucharest. In addition to her scientific and management responsibilities, she has been teaching microbiology at Carol Davila since 2008.



Her fields of interest are antimicrobial resistance in sessile and biofilm bacteria, healthcare-associated infections and new methods for improving diagnosis in biofilm-associated infections. She participated in numerous post-graduate ESCMID programmes in Switzerland, Finland, Italy, Spain and other European countries, as well as received advanced training on WGS at Berkeley University.

With the emergence of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Institute advanced testing methodologies and helped create the framework for population control to reduce the risk of further spread of the virus. As part of this focus, Dr Talapan's team performed targeted research on bacterial co-infections in COVID-19-positive patients.

Serbia: Verica Jovanovic, Institute of Public Health ‘Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut’, Belgrade

Dr Verica Jovanovic is a medical doctor and a public health specialist who acquired her degree in medicine from the University of Belgrade. In 2003 she obtained her master’s degree in management in healthcare services, from the Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Universita degli Studi ‘La Sapienza’, Rome. Dr Jovanovic obtained her PhD in public health from the University of Kragujevac. During the COVID-19 pandemic she was a member of the National COVID-19 crisis response team and was then involved in planning and coordinating the COVID-19 vaccination in Serbia, as part of the special pandemic response.



Dr Jovanovic is the Acting Director of the Institute of Public Health of Serbia ‘Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut’ since October 2016. She coordinates the work of all departments in the Institute of Public Health of Serbia as well as all 24 other institutes of public health in Serbia.

Slovakia: Lukas Murajda, Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, Bratislava

Lukas Murajda is a medical doctor with a specialization and PhD in public health, a master's degree in applied epidemiology and a training for medical officers in Austria. He worked at the Jessenius Faculty of Medicine, Comenius University, Slovakia (2006–12) and was a fellow in the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) at the State Health Office, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany (2012–14). Since 2015 he has been working as a medical officer in Austria, currently as a deputy chief medical officer of Land Salzburg. He was the Communication Person of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control Competent Body for Scientific Advice and Guidelines in Slovakia (2006–12).



Slovenia: Mario Fafangel, National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana

Mario Fafangel is a medical doctor, public health specialist and EPIET alumnus. Currently, Dr Fafangel is the acting head of the Centre for Infectious Diseases of the Slovenian National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ). Dr Fafangel has long-standing experience (over 10 years) in outbreak management and field response both nationally and internationally, including in a World Health Organization field mission experience during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, and is currently in the forefront of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response in Slovenia. He also has broad experience in vaccinology and biostatistics. He is an experienced lecturer for lay and professional audiences.



Spain: Josefa Masa Calles, National Centre of Epidemiology, Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Madrid

Josefa Masa-Calles is an epidemiologist who has worked at the National Centre of Epidemiology for more than 10 years, in charge of the National Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs) Surveillance, including diseases under eradication and elimination plans (polio, measles and rubella).

She trained in medicine and public health at the Universities of Extremadura and Granada and in the Spanish Field Epidemiology Training Programme (PEAC) in Madrid.

Her research interests range from the evaluation of infectious disease surveillance systems and the eradication of polio, measles and rubella to the assessment of VPDs burden to the effectiveness of the vaccines included in the national vaccination program. She acts as an expert on vaccination programs for the Ministry of Health and for the European Medicines Agency. She's a teacher at the Public Health National School and a Member of the Research Network in Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP).



Türkiye: Fehminaz Temel, Public Health Institution of Türkiye, Ankara

Dr Fehminaz Temel holds a medical degree from the Medical School of the Mediterranean University in Antalya, Türkiye. Since graduation she has worked as a general practitioner for 9 years. She started public health specialty training in 2003 and received her Public Health Specialization (PHS) certificate from the Department of Public Health, Medical School of the Hacettepe University, in Ankara Province, Türkiye in 2008. While obtaining her medical degree, she worked as a research assistant in Hacettepe University.



After receiving her PHS certification, she started the Epidemiology Fellowship program and completed the program as an epidemiologist in 2010.

Dr Temel worked in the Ministry of Health of Türkiye as a Public Health Specialist and an epidemiologist in the Epidemiology Unit until 2012. She has been working as the director of the Türkiye Field Epidemiology Training Program at the Early Warning Response and Field Epidemiology Department, which was established in March 2012 at the Public Health Institution of Türkiye, Ministry of Health.

Her fields of expertise include: epidemiology, outbreak investigations, early warning and response, communicable disease surveillance and vaccination programs.

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