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EAN MONTHLY NEWSFLASH

November Edition

Welcome to the new board members !



We're beyond excited to introduce the newest members of our team! 🎉

Joaquin Baruch steps in as our dynamic new **Vice President**, **Vera Manageiro** takes the reins as our dedicated **Treasurer**, and **Alba Mendez Brito** brings her energy as our inspiring new **Secretary**.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our outgoing members for their incredible dedication and lasting contributions to EAN's mission and future. It's heartening to know that Bojana will continue with us as co-opted members, ensuring her expertise remains part of our journey! Mona and Liza will join her in ensuring the highest level of efficiency in EAN missions.

The (new) EAN members are reflecting on the ESCAIDE events led by EAN and what are the lessons learnt. The team is committed to carrying forward the momentum, integrating the lessons learned, and building on the successes to make future events even more engaging and impactful.

*First, we'll dive into the **mini-module experience** with our treasurer, **Soledad**, who will walk us through the highlights and key takeaways. Next, our new VP, **Joaquin**, will provide valuable **insights on the Career Compass**, shedding light on its impact and future potential. Then, **Vera**, our treasurer, will share her perspective on the **General Assembly** as an online participant, offering a fresh view on virtual engagement. Finally, **Alba**, our secretary, will reflect on the **Barcamp**, sharing her thoughts on the dynamic discussions and ideas that emerged.*

MOOD mini-module by Soledad



The EAN mini-module happens every year before ESCAIDE. This year, we were lucky to have colleagues from the MOOD project (<https://mood-h2020.eu/>) delivering it. It was an opportunity for them to present their disease surveillance tool and have end-users test it.

The module took place in Stockholm, at the Public Health Agency of Sweden on 18-19 November 2024. Mathieu Roche (CIRAD), Maguelonne Teisseire (INRAE), Taru Miller (THL), and Liina Voutilainen (THL) were presenting in person while Guy Hendrickx (AviaGIS), Francesca Dagostin (Fondazione Edmund Mach), and Tom Matheussen (AviaGIS) joined us online. Seventeen people were attending the module.

The MOOD project started in 2020 with the goal to develop, through a co-creation process, innovative tools for the early detection, assessment, and monitoring of current and future infectious disease threats across Europe, with a One Health lens. The tools created as part of the project allow users at veterinary and human public institutes to collate and analyse disease and environmental data in a user-friendly way.

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training on geographical visualization of disease-relevant covariates (ecological data, human population data...), the use of risk maps to highlight suitability areas, and text-mining tools for event-based surveillance.

Space was also given for feedback about the use of the platform.

It was an enriching experience for all, and EAN sends a warm thank you to all lecturers and participants for another successful mini-module !

Career Compass by Joaquin



In your opinion, what was the most significant bit of advice the panelists gave us this year?

This year's Career Compass was an inspiring session, offering invaluable insights into the diverse career journeys of our alumni. The panel featured a well-balanced mix of professionals at different stages—national, European, global, and academia with a rapid response twist.

One of the standout messages from the session was about embracing change. Career transitions, even within the infectious disease field, can feel daunting, but hearing the panellists share their own journeys of change was reassuring. The overarching advice: *Change is good*. It opens doors to new opportunities, personal growth, and professional development.

Another key takeaway was the often-overlooked topic of balancing personal and professional life. The discussion—peppered with humour yet grounded in realism—highlighted the challenges many fellows face when reconciling career ambitions with personal priorities. The panellists' candid reflections on their own paths were insightful and relatable, reminding us that it's a shared journey.

Overall, the session was an excellent source of inspiration for anyone looking to broaden their horizons—it was a dream team panel and moderators!

Moving forward what are the subjects you like to touch on for the next edition in the Career Compass?

The Career Compass is a well-structured event, and its current format strikes an excellent balance. Here are some topics I'd like to suggest for the next editions:

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2. Communication Across Sectors: Exploring ways to improve communication skills to bridge the divide between research, fieldwork, and programmatic implementation.
3. Emerging Roles in Public Health: Insights into evolving roles in the infectious disease landscape, such as technology-driven solutions.

The Career Compass is a fantastic opportunity for fellows and alumni alike. I encourage everyone to attend and make the most of this platform to learn, connect, and grow.

General Assembly by Vera



EAN finally has access to his full budget in 2025, what will be the best use for it in your opinion?

With its full access to the budget in 2025, EAN can easily allocated money to initiatives aimed at enhancing capacity building, networking, and increasing collaborations. Such key priorities might include: 1) sponsoring attendance at global public health congresses (such as ESCMID Global): offering travel fellowships or grants to members to be able to attend important events for learning and visibility purposes; 2) funding in person and/or hybrid mini-modules and webinars in order to develop personal and professional skills; and 3) supporting a better communication strategy to ensure the members get accurate and timely information.

As an online participant, do you have any ideas on how to promote the intervention of the members during the GA?

Online participation in hybrid events often has its challenges, from technical issues to a lack of interaction. To promote greater member engagement during the GA, we could consider these strategies:

1. Assign a dedicated virtual moderator: Someone who ensures online voices are heard, encourages input, and bridges the gap between in-person and virtual attendees.
2. Incorporate interactive tools: Use live polls, Q&A sessions, and chat discussions during presentations to encourage real-time involvement.
3. Create specific slots for virtual contributions: Highlight moments where online participants are invited to share perspectives, ensuring they feel included and valued.

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BarCamp by Alba



AI was the object of a long conversation this year, what do you think EAN could propose to better prepare our network for this technology?

As mentioned during the Bar Camp, there are varying levels of expertise and usage of AI among EAN members. Numerous examples of effective AI utilization were provided, such as supporting with repetitive tasks and programming. EAN could assist the network by curating and sharing resources on how to integrate AI into our practices. Deeper explorations of AI and epidemiology could be offered in a Mini Module if there is broader interest in the topic.

Another widely discussed question was the problematic of potentially adopting postcolonial dynamics when working on or funding international projects. Do you think EAN could explore this topic further?

I believe a broader discussion on this topic, capitalising on the diverse backgrounds within EAN, could be highly beneficial. A dedicated webinar—similar to the one provided on mental health—could focus on this issue, creating an opportunity to reflect and incorporate these insights into our practice.

Be part of the community : ways to stay involved and connected!

Do what you love to do!

You'd like to get active on a project for our community? An experience you'd like to share or a topic you'd like to educate on? Please reach out to us at eanboard@gmail.com if you'd like to discuss your idea and want our support. We are available to help you bringing your ideas come to life.

Support us with mini-assignments

Our community lives from all of us and the capacities of the board alone are limited. Every now

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Activate your membership

Many benefits are lined up for active members of the network (GOARN requests of assistance, bulletins, discounts on mini-modules, access to specific resources on our website...).

Membership runs from Nov. 1 until Oct 31 of the following year - but you can activate your membership at anytime! **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. We have added a new payment option for credit cards to make membership renewal a bit easier. To use this option, please go to our website and follow the instructions there.

The details for how to transfer fees by online banking are also on the [EAN webpage](#); if you require any further information on membership payment, we kindly ask you to contact the EAN board (eanboard@gmail.com), 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 with a copy of the receipt/invoice to inform us about your payment (sometimes names are not correctly transmitted with the transfer). Thank you for your support!

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