

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

EAN MONTHLY NEWSFLASH

April Edition

Spotlight on the Greek FETP

Interview with its Director, Dr. Kassiani Mellou



Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

which started in 2024 as an EPIET-associated programme. It's one of the national training programmes that follow a similar structure to EPIET, sharing elements like curriculum and supervision. With the first cohort already underway, the Greek FETP is a great addition to the field epi community, building national capacity in Greece and strengthening connections across Europe.

Dr Kassiani Mellou is the director of the Greek FETP and well known in the network, having served as Head of the Directorate of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention at the Hellenic National Public Health Organization (EODY). She has supervised several EPIET fellows, acted as a Training Site Forum representative, and served as the national focal point for training.

What motivated the launch of the Greek FETP?

The Directorate of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention for Infectious Diseases at EODY has been an ECDC training site since 2011, hosting fellows from both the EPIET EU-track and MS-track. Over the years, we have been inspired by successful models such as the German FETP at RKI and the UK FETP at UKHSA, as well as our longstanding collaboration with the EPIET Fellowship Programme.

The Greek FETP was created to address the need for a highly skilled workforce capable of detecting, investigating, and responding to public health threats, especially at the regional level as the system in Greece is highly centralized. The programme aims to strengthen surveillance and outbreak response systems and is aligned with global efforts to build sustainable field epidemiology capacity.

What makes the Greek FETP different compared to other national programmes?

While Greece offers academic programmes in epidemiology, these typically focus on research and applied methods without practical fieldwork. The Greek FETP fills this gap by incorporating a “learning by doing” approach, making it the only programme in the country focused exclusively on field epidemiology training.

What have been some of the biggest challenges and proud moments so far?

One of the first and most significant challenges we faced was securing official recognition of the Greek FETP as an independent entity within our institution. This required navigating internal structures, establishing legitimacy, and ensuring the programme was embedded within the institutional organigram. Overcoming this challenge was a major achievement.

A key milestone has been the establishment of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprising internationally renowned experts, including, among others, the director of TEPHINET, and the directors of the UK and German FETPs.

We're also proud to be officially recognised as an EPIET-Associated Programme by ECDC. The programme was launched with a successful Kick-Off Meeting on 25–26 February 2025.

What kind of field experiences does the programme offer?

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

data analysis, and implementation of public health interventions. Fieldwork mainly occurs at national and regional levels, with occasional opportunities for international missions.

How will the Greek FETP contribute to national and European field epidemiology capacity?

The Greek FETP will help develop a new generation of field epidemiologists, particularly at the regional level, boosting local response capacities. By training professionals who can contribute to cross-border investigations and European collaborations, the programme also strengthens ties with the wider field epi network.

How can EAN support the Greek FETP?

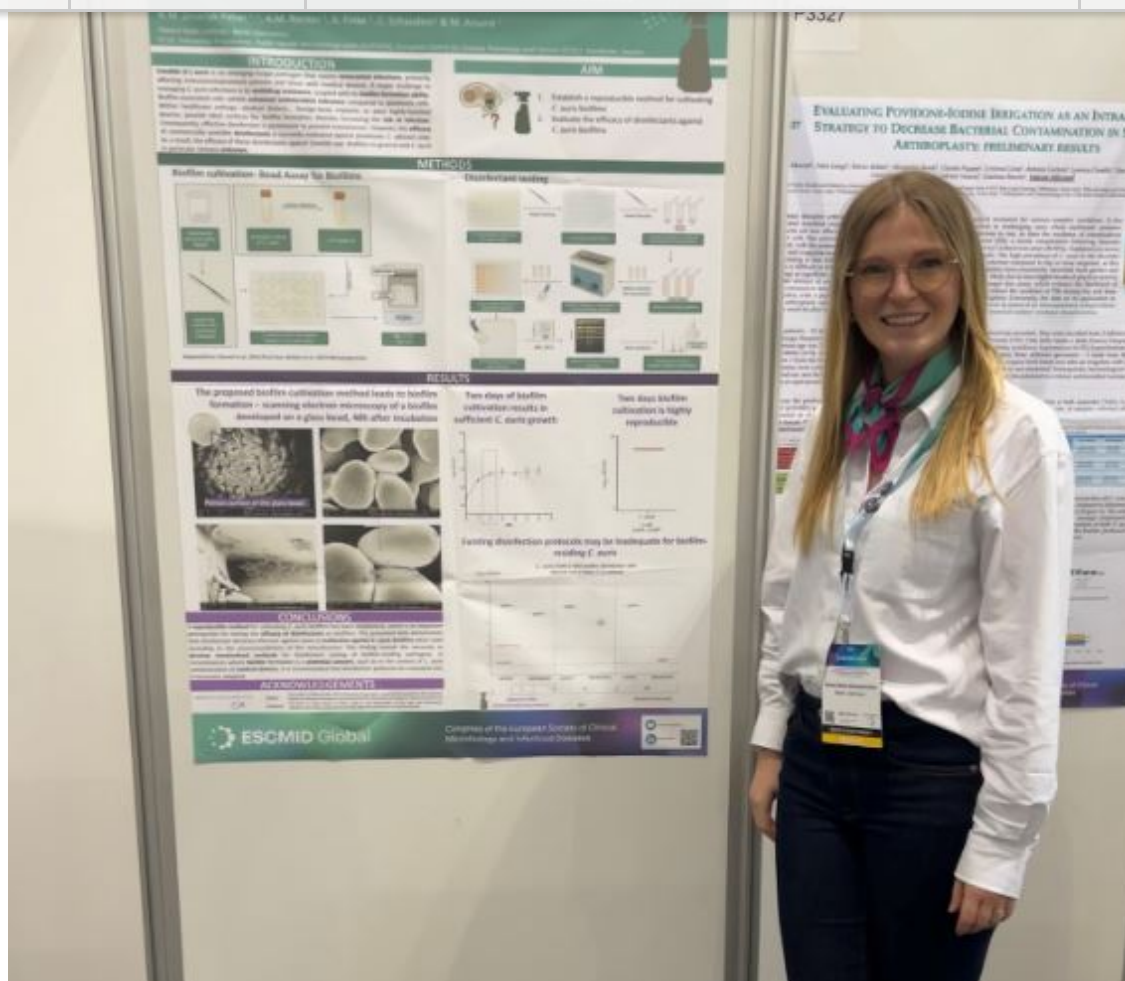
Guidance on next steps and long-term sustainability would be highly valuable. Support in the area of supervision—especially as our cohort grows—would also be appreciated. We're expecting three more fellows to join the programme this September and hopefully three more the following year. Our graduates will join the EAN community and benefit from the priceless value of alumni networking.

ESCMID: return of experience

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼



The EAN board was pleased to support Natalia Marta Zmarlak-Feher's attendance to the ESCMID Global 2025 Congress in Venna. Natalia, a EUPHEM fellow from C2023 based at the RKI in Berlin, presented her work at the event and is pictured above with her poster. Below, she shares some reflections on the experience.

I had an inspiring few days at ESCMID Global, diving into the latest advancements in clinical infectious diseases, microbiology, and the expanding role of genomics in diagnostics, surveillance, and epidemiology. The event was full of thought-provoking sessions and meaningful conversations with global experts.

As an ECDC fellow in Public Health Microbiology (EUPHEM) at the Robert Koch Institute, I was honored to present our work on developing a bead assay for *Candida auris* biofilm cultivation. This method has allowed us to study the efficacy of various disinfectants against *C. auris* in its biofilm form. It was a pleasure to see the interest in our research and to exchange ideas with specialists from around the world!

I am deeply grateful for the support and mentorship that made this project possible. A special thank you to the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) for funding my attendance and allowing me to be part of such a remarkable event!

[Subscribe](#)
[Past Issues](#)
[Natalia Marta Zmarlak-Feherhe](#)
[Translate ▼](#)

EAN is proud to contribute to opportunities that connect alumni with the global infectious disease community. We encourage everyone to take advantage of opportunities like this one. **Stay tuned for upcoming calls for support!**

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 and then, we may reach out to ask for your help on specific tasks or activities to get the best out of it for all of us.

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!

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Update your membership](#)[Translate ▼](#)[Facebook](#)[Twitter](#)[LinkedIn](#)[Website](#)[Email](#)[Instagram](#)

Copyright © 2022, EPIET Alumni Network, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

eanboard@gmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[View this email in your browser](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

EPIET Alumni Network · 14, rue du val d'Osne · Saint-Maurice 94415 · France

