

EAN MONTHLY NEWSFLASH

January Edition

EAN board face to face meeting



In January, the EAN Board met in Lisbon to set priorities for 2025, focusing on strengthening member engagement, optimizing decision-making processes, and ensuring financial sustainability. Key initiatives include finalizing the website, refining database management, improving the mentorship program, and enhancing communication through social media and newsletters. The Board will continue supporting international assignments and training opportunities while fostering strong partnerships with ECDC, GOARN, and other FETP networks. The board envisions to deliver several webinars such as the continuation of the serie on mental health, science storytelling and humanitarian health. Additionally, new initiatives, such as grants for knowledge exchange and better access to case studies, will be

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strengthening EAN's role as a key resource for FEPT alumni.

Spotlight on Dr. Maria Borg EPIET alumni in Malta

Starting in 2025, the EAN board will put the spotlight on alumni working in different countries. This month we are going to Malta ! In the picture, Maria Borg from Cohort 2011 is with the first MS-track fellow Norman Galea from Cohort 2024 at the Ministry for Health in Malta.



I am an epidemiologist at Malta's Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit, where I work mainly in outbreak management, surveillance, and reporting, as well as on EU projects to strengthen surveillance systems and improve outbreak detection.

I originally trained as a medical doctor and specialised in Public Health before joining **EPIET Cohort 2011** as an EU-track fellow at the UK Health Protection Agency in Bristol. After completing my fellowship, I returned to Malta, where I now work as a **Consultant** at the Ministry of Health. After returning from Bristol, I worked with ECDC to set up Malta as a training site for EPIETS and since 2016, I have been a **site supervisor for EPIET fellows**. Over the years, we have hosted four EU-track fellows and last year, for the first time, we welcomed an MS-track fellow, **Dr Norman Galea!**

Having both EU-track and MS-track fellows has been a positive experience. EU-track fellows bring fresh perspectives and new ideas, while the MS-track fellow already understands the local context from day one. This mix creates unique opportunities for capacity building, and I can see the two tracks alternating in the years to come.

Being part of **EAN** has also been a valuable part of having done EPIET. It allows us to connect with colleagues across Europe, whether for **cross-border outbreaks**, **EU projects**, or for a drink at **ESCAIDE**. The **EAN Technical WhatsApp group** is another useful resource for quick expert feedback, while the social events help us stay in touch and share experiences.

One area where the network I would love to see grow is **cross-country training initiatives**, which would provide more opportunities for alumni to gain experience

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It has been a rewarding journey to train and mentor future epidemiologists, and I look forward to seeing how the network continues to evolve in the coming years.

NEW EAN COMMUNITY GUIDELINES !

EAN thrives on mutual respect, integrity, and inclusivity. The board just published new EAN Community guidelines to reflect the network's commitment to fostering a safe and welcoming environment for all members. The EAN Community Guidelines can be found on our website : [HERE](#). We expect all our members to uphold these principles.

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

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

