

## EUCAST objectives

- To form under the auspices of ESCMID and ECDC an expert network on antimicrobial breakpoints and susceptibility testing.
- To determine, review and revise European breakpoints and epidemiological cut-off values for clinical susceptibility and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in collaboration with the EMA and ECDC.
- To develop and standardize methods, to promote quality assurance, education and training, and to advise and collaborate with other groups on issues related to antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- To work towards international harmonization of antimicrobial breakpoints and susceptibility testing.

## EUCAST organization

A General Committee with representatives from all European Union and some non-European Union countries is led by a Steering Committee. Decisions are made by the Steering Committee after consultation with the General Committee, expert groups and more widely in open consultations.

## Subcommittees

EUCAST subcommittees are set up to deal with specific issues or areas requiring particular expertise. Current subcommittees are:

- Antifungal Susceptibility Testing (AFST).
- Veterinary committee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (VetCAST).
- Subcommittee on the role of whole genome sequencing in antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacteria (WGSCAST).

## National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing Committees (NACs)

EUCAST recommends that all countries should have an ongoing NAC to support laboratories and give a national opinion on antimicrobial susceptibility testing issues.

National AST Committees (NACs), August 2014



## Development Laboratories

There are two EUCAST development laboratories responsible for the development of methods for antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacteria (Växjö, Sweden) and fungi (Copenhagen, Denmark) respectively.

## Network Laboratories

Two separate loosely constructed networks of microbiology laboratories with particular expertise and training in EUCAST antimicrobial susceptibility testing methods for bacteria and fungi, respectively.

## News 2014-2015

- Several new NACs formed.
- New breakpoint table v. 5.0 published.
- New QC tables published.
- Breakpoints set for new agents ceftobiprole, telavancin and itraconazole. Breakpoint setting in process for some new agents and older agents without breakpoints (temocillin, nitroxoline).
- Several established breakpoints (carbapenems, fluoroquinolones) currently under review or discussion.
- Updated documents on the disk diffusion method, including the method description and calibration and validation files.
- Frequently Asked Questions section on the website has been revised.
- Procedures for technical guidance documents defined in SOP 8.0.
- Guidance note on topical agents released.
- Articles published on uptake of EUCAST breakpoints (*Eurosurveillance*) and inoculum standardisation for susceptibility testing of *Aspergillus* (*Antimicrob Agents Chemother*).

## EUCAST e-mail contacts

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**For detailed information on all aspects of EUCAST see [www.eucast.org](http://www.eucast.org)**

The website now has 50000 - 60000 visits/month