20 years of EUCAST: supporting your laboratory
EUCAST provides methods, interpretive guidelines, guidance and support for antimicrobial susceptibility testing. EUCAST guidelines are increasingly implemented in European laboratories and beyond, supporting its adoption through a network of National AST Committees (NACs). It has now been active for 20 years and expanded its activities from antibacterial susceptibility testing to testing of antifungal, antimycobacterial and veterinary antibacterial agents.

News 2017 – 2018: the work never stops
• New NACs have been formed and new countries have joined EUCAST.
• New breakpoint tables v.8.0 for bacteria, together with updated QC tables.
• New R-breakpoint for ceftaroline (new dosing regimen)
• Breakpoints for carbapenems, aminoglycosides, aminopenicillins, and tigecycline are under review.
• Breakpoints published for Aeromonas spp and Plesiomonas spp.
• Breakpoints removed for macrolides and H. influenzae
• Added more information on which dosing regimens the clinical breakpoints are based on.
• Several documents updated, including those on the disk diffusion method, antifungal susceptibility testing methods and "Frequently Asked Questions".
• Revised intrinsic resistance tables published and expert rules under review.
• Detection of resistance mechanisms document published.
• Two consultations on revising the definition of the intermediate category
• Published SOP 10.0 (MIC distributions and ECOFFs)
• Educational videos on the EUCAST disk diffusion can be accessed from EUCAST website.
• Several publications, e.g. on evaluation of methods for colistin AST, and one position paper on the precision of MIC-testing.
• Revision of the posaconazole rationale document on Candida spp. and Aspergillus fumigatus, including one breakpoint revision.
• Breakpoints published for Aeromonas spp and Plesiomonas spp.

EUCAST objectives
• To form under the auspices of ESCMID and ECDC an expert network on clinical breakpoints and antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST)
• To determine, review and revise European clinical breakpoints in collaboration with the EMA
• To determine, review and revise epidemiological cut-off values (ECOFFs)
• 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 clinical breakpoints and AST

For more information of EUCAST see www.eucast.org