

## **ESCMID course on “*Systematic reviews and meta-analyses for guidelines development in infectious diseases, infection control and clinical microbiology*”**

The yearly ESCMID course on systematic reviews, meta-analyses and the GRADE approach for guidelines development will be held in **Lisbon, Portugal, 16-19 November 2026**.

The course will be a mix of interactive lectures and small-group practical exercises in the domain of systematic reviews, meta- analyses and the GRADE approach. Numerous topics relating to these issues will be covered from framing research questions, writing research protocols, selecting studies and extracting data, rating the quality of evidence, preparing summary findings to formulating recommendations based on the evidence. The knowledge acquired during the course should enable participants to actively participate in systematic reviews, meta- analyses and elaboration of guidance documents following high quality standards. **Practical sessions will require some preparatory work ahead of the course start. Participants will receive all the necessary material and instructions in due time.**

The course is intended for Junior clinicians / researchers in infectious diseases, infection control and clinical microbiology, willing to acquire more experience in guidelines development methods and procedures and take active part in the development of ESCMID guidelines. ESCMID membership is obligatory.

The course is free of charge and will cover coffee/lunch breaks and one social dinner. Please note that travel and accommodation expenses will not be covered. Only ESCMID members are eligible to participate.

After the course, participants will become part of the ESCMID Evidence Review Group and will formally commit to being available for future ESCMID guideline projects. Each trained participant will be asked to contribute to a maximum of one project per year during the five years following their training. They will assist with article screening, data extraction, risk of bias assessment, and evidence synthesis to support the formulation of clinical recommendations. Members of the ESCMID Evidence Review Group will serve as panel members with voting rights and will be eligible for co-authorship in ESCMID guidelines.

If you are interested, please send the following **required** documents at [guidancedocuments@escmid.org](mailto:guidancedocuments@escmid.org) **by 12 June 2026**:

- Motivation letter (maximum 1 page, single-spaced, 11-point font)
- Complete CV, **including ScopusID**
- Suggestions to improve the ESCMID guidelines that have been published since 2022 (maximum 1½ page, single-spaced, 11-point font)
- Conflict of interest declaration (filled in at <https://my.escmid.org/login>)

The organising committee will select up to 25 of the most qualified candidates, aiming at gender, country and specialty balance.

Applicants will be notified about selection outcome in July 2026. **Selected participants will receive preparatory material to the course along with the notification of selection and will be assigned some tasks to be completed before the course starts.**