ESCMID

Final programme

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses for guidelines development in infectious diseases, infection control and clinical microbiology

Lisbon, Portugal
16 – 19 November 2026

Course venue: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Lisbon, Polo da Ajuda, Avenida da Universidade Técnica, 1300-477 Lisbon

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Day 1 Monday, 16 November 2026

14:30–14:40	**Welcome to Lisbon** Jacob Bodilsen (DK)
14:40–14:50	**ESCMID guidelines and the role of Evidence Review Group (ERG)** Jacob Bodilsen (DK)
14:50–15:10	**Overview of the methodological steps** Blin Nagavci (XK)
15:10-15:20	**Defining the scope of the guideline and phrasing the PICO questions** Blin Nagavci (XK)
15:20–15:40	**Break**
15:40–16:00	**Brief introduction of participants** Group discussion
16:00-17:30	**Transform research questions into PICO** Practical
17:30-18:00	**Transform research questions into PICO** Group presentation/discussion
20:00	**Dinner all participants and faculty,** at *39 Degraus, Cinemateca, R. Barata Salgueiro 39, 1269-059 Lisbon*

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Day 2 Tuesday, 17 November 2026

09:00–10:00	**Review of the prepared PICOs** Group discussion
10:00–10:20	**Protocol for a systematic review** Mical Paul (IL)
10:20–10:50	**Draft protocol** Practical
10:50–11:10	**Break**
11:10–11:30	**Literature searching** Blin Nagavci (XK)
11:30–12:30	**Designing the search string** Practical
12:30–12:35	**Screening of articles** Mical Paul (IL)
12:35-13:00	**Setting up a review project in Rayyan and exercise screening** Practical
13:00–14:00	**Lunch Break**
14:00–14:30	**Study selection review in Rayyan** Practical
14:30–14:50	**Risk of bias (RoB) assessment for RCTs** Luigia Scudeller (IT)
14:50–16:00	**Assessing Risk of bias RCTs (RoB)** Practical
16:00–16:20	**Break**
16:20–16:50	**Risk of bias (RoB) assessment for observational studies** Mical Paul (IL)
16:50–18:00	**Assessing Risk of bias observational studies (NOS)** Practical

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Day 3 Wednesday, 18 November 2026

09:00–09:05	**Data extraction** Luigia Scudeller (IT)
09:05–09:25	**Building the extraction sheets** Practical
09:25–09:40	**Comments on data extraction** Group discussion
09:40–10:40	**Extraction of one RCT and one observational study** Practical
10:40–11:00	**Break**
11:00–12:00	**Introduction to meta-analysis** Leonard Leibovici (IL)
12:00–12:20	**Explanation of the software** Blin Nagavci (XK)
12:20–13:20	**Meta-analysis exercises** Practical
13:20–14:20	**Lunch Break**
14:20–15:00	**Rating the quality of evidence – an overview of GRADE** Blin Nagavci (XK)
15:00-16:00	**Rating the quality of evidence with GRADE** Practical

Day 4 Thursday, 19 November 2026

08:30–09:10	**Rating the quality of evidence with GRADE** Group discussion
09:10–09:40	**What to do when there is no evidence or when there is already a systematic review** Mical Paul (IL)
09:40–10:00	**Making recommendations - Evidence to Decision (EtD) Framework** Jacob Bodilsen (DK)
10:00–10:20	**Break**
10:20–11:00	**Making recommendations - Evidence to Decision (EtD) Framework** Practical
11:00–12:00	**Making recommendations - Evidence to Decision (EtD) Framework** Group discussion
12:00–12:30	**Homework and next steps** Jacob Bodilsen (DK)

Directions to the meeting venue

The event will be held at FMV-ULisboa, room C1.13. Please follow the signage when entering the building to reach the meeting room.

FMV-ULisboa is located at Avenida da Universidade Técnica, 1300-477 Lisbon, Portugal.

The easiest way to reach FMV-ULisboa is by bus, taxi, or ride-sharing service. Several Carris bus routes stop at or near Av. Universidade Técnica / Pólo Universitário da Ajuda, including:

- 723 from Marquês de Pombal and Amoreiras
- 729 from Benfica and Belém
- 742 from Alcântara
- 760 from Alcântara / city centre
- 771 from Sete Rios / Campolid

Taxis and ride-sharing services such as Uber or Bolt are widely available in Lisbon and offer a direct and convenient way to reach the venue. There is no metro station directly at the venue.