In this themed newsletter we share some of the examples of national and regional activities of our members. We also highlight the official ECDC and WHO plans, and include links to resources that you can use in your hospitals and communities across Europe. Let’s make people aware of the importance of using antibiotics responsibly!

Join us on Twitter on 18 November with #EAAD (European Twitter chat) and #AntibioticResistance (Global Twitter chat), and during the World Antibiotic Awareness Week #WAAW.

Moldova

We are organising a campaign targeting the general population: The age group 18-55 years who frequently manages its self-medication, including antibiotics. The partners for the campaign include: Ministry of Health; State University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Nicolae Testemitanu”; National College of Medicine and Pharmacy “Rasia Pacalo”; communication companies, mass-media, healthcare institutions; local authorities.

Our activities for EAAD will include: Organising a press conference, development of key messages, and raising awareness via our websites, broadcasts by communication companies, mass-media and flash mobs. Here are some pictures from our campaign in 2015.
Turkey

ESGAP member: Onur Karatuna

The 37th Turkish Microbiology Congress will be held in Antalya from 16 to 20 November, overlapping with this year's WAAW and EAAD. We will have a panel devoted to surveillance programs ongoing in Turkey, including a presentation of the CAESAR annual report data, which we will be publishing to coincide with WAAW. In the same panel there will also be presentations on the National AMR Surveillance System, Tuberculosis Laboratory Surveillance Network, and National Enteric Pathogens Laboratory Network, covering the AMR issue in all clinically relevant bacteria.

Spain

EUCIC Steering Committee Member and ESGAP member: Pr. Jesús Rodríguez-Baño

The Ministry of Health and the Spanish Medicines Agency (AEMPS) are organising a meeting in Madrid under the umbrella of the Spanish Plan for the Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance.

EAAD activities are also being arranged in several autonomous communities. In the regional healthcare system in Andalucía the PIRASOA programme has existed since 2014. PIRASOA includes surveillance and activities related to antimicrobial stewardship and healthcare associated infections, and is compulsory for all public hospitals in the region (around 30 centres). The programme has a multidisciplinary scientific board formed my members of the relevant different societies: Infectious Diseases, Microbiology, Pharmacy, Preventive Medicine, Intensive Care, Primary Care, Paediatrics, Infection Control Practitioners. The PIRASOA programme and results are available online in Spanish. On EAAD, the PIRAOSA programme will organise a meeting with the medical directors and antibiotic teams from all the Hospital and Primary Care centres in the region. In the meeting we will present indicators data, and some specific aspects are discussed (e.g. carbapenemase producers, long-term care facilities, antibiotic consumption).

The Madrid Society of Clinical Microbiology are organising a meeting on 17 November on different aspects of the situation of antimicrobial resistance, and focussing on the importance of antimicrobial stewardship programmes.

Cyprus

EUCIC advisory board members: George Petrikkos and Constantinos Tsioutis

During the annual EAAD, an educational meeting will take place in the European University of Cyprus, which will focus on the emergence of antibiotic resistance and the need to preserve the activity of antibiotics. It will involve participants from the academia, hospital and community settings. Furthermore, we are planning together with the students of the European University Cyprus, a campaign to inform healthcare professionals and the general public with posters, flyers and information kiosks in different locations.

In addition, the local health system is about to undergo significant structural and functional reform. Thus the local EUCIC committee, together with the Cyprus Society of Chemotherapy and Infectious Diseases, are currently publishing a draft position paper, focusing on the importance of establishing an antimicrobial stewardship program. Currently, meetings between important local stakeholders in the area of antibiotic therapy are taking place, in order to program educational activities concerning prudent use of antibiotics.
The Netherlands

ESCMID Members: Annelies Verbon, John Hays, Bas Mourik

The Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, Leiden University and the Natural History Museum Rotterdam will open a small exhibition: An antibiotic cure - How much longer?

The exhibition is for the public, and will be opened by short presentations on antibiotic resistance from two key speakers highlighting the clinical and industrial perspectives of antibiotic resistance. Along the walls of the exhibition visitors will read about the development and importance of antibiotics to human health, as well as the current problem of antibiotic resistance and possible solutions. The use of different antibiotics will also be explained as well as photographs of key antibiotic resistant microorganisms. Microbiological cultures and equipment will also be available for viewing in display cases.

The exhibition will open on European Antibiotic Awareness Day, 18 November, and will be open to the general public for 3 months. The exhibition is supported by the Horizon 2020 project DIAGORAS, Nefarma and Pfizer.

WHO

EUCIC Stakeholders Board member: Benedetta Allegranzi, Ana Paula Coutinho-Rehse, Claire Kilpatrick

This year will be the second World Antibiotic Awareness Week, from 14 to 20 November. Our global campaign, Antibiotics: Handle with care, aims to increase awareness of global antibiotic resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policy makers to avoid the further emergence and spread of antibiotic resistance.

WHO has produced new materials to raise awareness during this year's WAAW: an infographic on the burden of HAI/AMR and IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) solutions, a short video highlighting the impact of poor IPC and antibiotic prescribing, and a factsheet.

To coincide with this year's WAAW, WHO will officially launch new guidelines on the Core Components of Infection Prevention and Control Programmes at the national and health care facility level. These will also be published in an open access, peer reviewed journal - Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (ARIC), emphasising the interconnection between AMR and IPC.

The IPC global unit at WHO also has specific dissemination plans based on the stakeholder databases grown over the last 10 years - we have planned a range of messages to both inform and target advocacy activities from November onwards. The stakeholder list includes a database of 20,000 health care facility focal points, a long list of key IPC experts, organisations and Ministry contacts in all countries, as well as our links with industry.

More information on the WHO activities around WAAW can be found here.

ECDC

EUCIC Stakeholders Board member: Dominique Monnet, Anna-Pelagia Magiorakos, Giovanni Mancarella, Andrea Nilsson and the EAAD team

We will be celebrating the 9th European Antibiotic Awareness Day at the annual EU-level stakeholder event in Brussels on 18 November, together with representatives of the European Medicines Agency, the European Food Safety Authority, and many professional societies. The event will be broadcast via a live stream from 0930 CET, so we hope you can join us!

Following the initiative from 2015, we will also highlight short video pledge messages stating people's personal or professional commitments to tackling antimicrobial resistance and encouraging others to act, through our social media channels and website.

We also provide support to European countries by developing evidence-based key messages and materials for different target audiences, including messages and template materials for medical doctors (primary care prescribers and hospital prescribers). These materials are provided for adaptation at national and local level. They are translated in all European Union official languages and are available on the EAAD website. Please have a look at all the freely available useful resources and do not hesitate to use them to raise awareness in your local, regional, national or international networks!

On the next page are some examples of materials that you can download:
ECDC-EAAD resources

- Toolkit for hospital prescribers
- Key messages for hospital prescribers
- Factsheet for hospital prescribers
- Checklist for hospital prescribers
- Toolkit for primary care prescribers
- Toolkit for the general public
- Toolkit for social media
- Infographics

Newsletter designed by Oliver J. Dyar (ESGAP), Nico T. Mutters (EUCIC) and Guillaume Béraud (ESGAP).

Contact Information:

**EUCIC:**
Nico T. Mutters
Heidelberg University Hospital
nico.mutters@med.uni-heidelberg.de

If you are interested in joining EUCIC, please visit our website for further instructions.

**ESGAP:**
Oliver J. DYAR
Karolinska Institutet
oliver.dyar@ki.se

Guillaume BÉRAUD
University Hospital of Poitiers,
Poitiers, France
beraudguillaume@gmail.com

To apply for membership to ESGAP, you just need to fill in an application form.