Dear colleagues,

This is the first newsletter of the European Committee on Infection control (EUCIC), which we hope you will find of interest. The aim of the EUCIC newsletter is to establish a continuous flow of information with all interested members of the clinical microbiology, hospital hygiene/infection control and infectious diseases community, regarding recent news, future activities and the evolution of the overall project.

What is EUCIC and what are its goals?

EUCIC, founded in March 2014, is the second standing committee initiated by ESCMID (apart from EUCAST). It consists of experts on the field of infection prevention and control from several countries of Europe.

This committee aims to contribute to the harmonization of the infection prevention and control (IPC) measures across Europe by developing new educational and training tools, guidelines and increasing political awareness of the pivotal role of infection control to guarantee patients security. This target could be achieved only through the cooperation of EUCIC and ESCMID study groups with other major European stakeholders and societies.
The organigram of EUCIC is presented below.

How will EUCIC achieve its goals?
EUCIC wishes to create a new IPC network based on extensive collaborations among European national representatives and committee selected by the most relevant national societies in the field of infection control, infectious diseases and clinical microbiology. Major fields for action:

- define the limitations of current IPC approaches;
- outline mitigation actions;
- develop consensus programmes on European minimum requirement in IPC;
- develop new educational tools and promote IPC training across all European countries.

The Committee is aware of how ambitious the project is and remains open to contributions and suggestions from other European organizations and societies.
Past EUCIC activities

March 2014: EUCIC kick-off meeting in Frankfurt.

December 2014: election of the Steering Committee.

April 2015: EUCIC contribution to ECCMID including 2-hour educational workshop on “Infection prevention and control measures in Europe 2020”, many symposium in collaboration with ESCMID Study groups. EUCIC also contributed to the selection of an IC track in the ECCMID programme.

May 2015: Contacts with all the relevant European Societies, national experts as well as major stakeholders (ECDC, WHO).

September 2015: EUCIC network covers >50% of all European countries (for a list of national representatives and national committee please consult the EUCIC website).

EUCIC publications

In order to present EUCIC, a CMI theme issue including reviews which cover topics of major importance in the field of infection prevention and control, is scheduled for publication in December 2015.

Future EUCIC activities

National representatives of all missing European countries will be invited through affiliated scientific societies in order to complete the boards of EUCIC.

Specific working group will be focusing on education, consensus documents, and recognition of infection control as a self-standing specialty.

EUCIC will actively participate in the next ECCMID in Istanbul, Turkey. The types of activities will include educational workshop, meet-the-expert session and symposia. Further details will be announced in future newsletters. The next official EUCIC meeting will also take place during the next ECCMID.
The first ESCMID Postgraduate Education Course organized by EUCIC “Infection Prevention and Control: Let's get practical!” will take place at the University Medical Center Groningen in the Netherlands from 29th May - 1st June 2016 (see ESCMID website for details).

Further information
EUCIC invites all interested scientists in the field of infection control, as well as related groups and organizations, to participate in our future activities and contribute to our efforts to achieve our major objectives.

Information on EUCIC, including news, activities, reports and documents (statutes, pamphlets etc.) are available on the EUCIC website (https://www.escmid.org/eucic/). Do not hesitate to contact us to exchange ideas, propose new activities and get information (eucic@escmid.org).

Thank you for your interest in EUCIC.

Best regards,

Prof. Evelina Tacconelli, Tübingen, Germany, EUCIC Chair;
Prof. Achilleas Gikas, Heraklion, Crete, Greece, EUCIC Steering Committee Consulting Body;
Dr. Nico T. Mutter, Heidelberg, Germany, EUCIC Scientific Coordinator
on behalf of the EUCIC Steering Committee