Target Audience
Up to 60 infectious disease specialists, internal medicine specialists, intensive care specialists and clinical microbiologists working in the field of bloodstream infections and sepsis, wishing to start bacteraemia programmes or with research interest in the field.

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Picture outside: Blood culture bottles
Picture inside: Automated blood culture system
Bloodstream infections (BSIs) are frequent; the population-based incidence of bacteraemia has been increasing over the last decade because of the higher number of predisposed patients and invasive procedures performed. BSIs are associated with significant morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs. Appropriate clinical management including early appropriate antibiotic therapy is associated with improved outcomes. There is large room for improvement in clinical management of these conditions in most centres. Also, BSIs, although not a clinical syndrome (because it includes primary BSIs and BSIs secondary to other sources of infection), are a very convenient model for clinical research and surveillance of invasive infections and antimicrobial resistance and its clinical impact.

The objectives of the course are:

- To learn about the microbiological procedures to diagnose BSIs and the best ways to report the results of blood cultures.
- To adequately evaluate patients with BSI and provide advice for the clinical management of these patients.
- To learn taking decisions about definitive therapies in different clinical situations and for different microorganisms and resistances.
- To discuss the importance of multidisciplinary bacteraemia teams to improve the management and outcomes of patients with BSI.
- To provide information about the quality indicators in BSIs that can be used as tools for improving practice.
- To learn using the information from BSI episodes as a tool for clinical research.