

## First European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology closes in Stockholm

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The First European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE, <http://www.escaide.eu>) took place in Stockholm, Sweden, from 18 to 20 October 2007. The conference was jointly organised by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC, <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu>), the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET, <http://www.epiet.org>), the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) and the Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Intervention Network (TEPHINET, <http://www.tephinet.org>).

Conference participants included over 500 epidemiologists, microbiologists, clinicians and public, veterinary and environmental health experts with a professional and scientific interest in applied infectious disease epidemiology, from over 40 countries.

The conference also brought together EPIET-FETP (Field Epidemiology Training Programme) fellows and alumni with members of the National institutes of Public Health and the Dedicated Surveillance Networks (DSNs).

Among the highlights of the conference were plenary sessions on antimicrobial resistance, syndromic surveillance, behavioural surveillance, and genetic subtyping of microbes for outbreak investigations. Some outstanding presentations included reports on an outbreak of measles in an undervaccinated population in Serbia; penicillin and macrolide resistance in invasive pneumococcal isolates in Finland; a significant reduction in 2006 of nosocomial infections, and particularly those caused by MRSA, in France; a survey of street vendors of anti-infectious drugs in Senegal; a model to predict the time and size of the peak of an influenza outbreak early in the season; as well as several outbreaks of foodborne disease. Late-breaker presentations on the final day included an up-to-date account of the chikungunya outbreak in Ravenna, Italy, and a report on the outbreak of H7N2 in the United Kingdom. Some highlights of the conference are discussed on a webcast, accessible at: <http://www.ecdc.europa.eu>