

# Contagion 2.0! A tabletop outbreak management simulation

## Organiser

EUPHA IDC (EUPHA Section on Infectious Disease Control)

## E-mail contact

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## Background

Hundreds of outbreaks occur each year worldwide, from local incidents managed locally to outbreaks with a global impact and visibility such as the COVID-19 outbreak currently affecting the world. It is indeed a Public Health Event of International Concern and significant efforts are in place to control this outbreak, and having capacity at different levels is certainly essential.

Regardless of the size of the outbreak there are common steps to managing an outbreak. These steps span epidemiological and clinical management as well as communication and policy. While challenges will differ according to the scale and impact of the outbreak, their nature is often similar.

A simulation exercise is a form of practice, training, monitoring or evaluation of capabilities involving the description or simulation of an emergency, to which a described or simulated response is made. According to WHO “simulation exercises enable people to practice their roles and functions and can help to develop, assess and test functional capabilities of emergency systems, procedures and mechanisms to respond to outbreak and public health emergencies. They are used to identify gaps and enhance preparedness capacity for response before an actual emergency occurs.”

In the field of communicable disease, this is particularly relevant in the context of outbreak control.

This pre-conference is the second and revised edition of a successful activity that took place at the last European Public Health Conference in Marseille and will focus on a simulated outbreak scenario and will highlight the specific aspects of outbreak management. Participants will be assigned specific roles as part of the outbreak management team, acting as a particular role/organization in the context of the scenario. The outcome of the scenario will depend on the actions of the team, and the simulation will be followed by a debrief led by epidemiologists experienced in managing real-life outbreaks. This pre-conference will be of interest to individuals working in or interested in the different aspects of communicable disease control.

## Objectives

At the end of the Pre-conference, participants should have an understanding of steps in outbreak investigation and control, as well as on the roles and agendas of the different stakeholders.

## Main messages

Simulation exercises enable people to practice their roles and functions and can help to develop, assess and test capacity.

Capacity building is essential to respond to outbreak and public health emergencies.

**Presentations**

Not applicable. There will be an initial presentation about outbreak management and control, with content provided as the exercise progresses.

**Facilitators (Panellists)**

Ricardo Mexia, EUPHA IDC Vice-President, from Portugal

**Financial requirements**

Option 2 (where participants pay €75 fee to enrol)

**Time**

3 hours on Monday (12<sup>th</sup> October) in the afternoon.