

# **Report from epidemiology course in Florence 2017**

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From 19 June – 7 July 2017 I attended a residential summer course arranged by the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology (EEPE). The course was held at Centro Studi which is a 20-30 minute walk from the city centre of Florence. Due to the high number of participants, some of us lived at a beautiful hotel close-by called Hotel Villa la Stella. We had our breakfast at the hotel before attending morning lectures at Centro Studi. The morning sessions usually lasted from 08.30 until lunch at 13.00, and the afternoon sessions from 14.30 to 18.30. Lunch and dinner was served in the Centro Studi Cafeteria and usually consisted of several pasta dishes, meat, vegetarian alternatives, salads and fresh fruit. All meals and two daily coffee breaks were included in the course fee.

When I attended the EEPE course my prior knowledge of epidemiology was fairly limited. I had completed two years of medical school and one year of full-time research as a research track student at University of Bergen. But the lecturers (particularly in statistics) were pedagogically strong and explained the topics very well. For the first two weeks all course participants followed the same programme with lectures on epidemiological methodology, statistical models and STATA/computer analysis. Even though the work days were long we

thankfully got the opportunity to do daily group exercises which were more “hands-on”, and I learned a lot from these practical sessions.

For the last week we chose topics of interest, and I took part in the following modules:

*From Epidemiology to the burden of disease: putting risks in perspective* (morning module)

*Uncertainty, risk communication and epidemiology* (morning module)

*Clinical epidemiology: the evaluation of medical tests* (afternoon module)

The module on clinical epidemiology was particularly interesting.

I would encourage students to apply for this course. It is an excellent possibility to meet friendly people, enjoy Italian food and learn about interesting topics in the field of epidemiology and medical statistics. The knowledge I gained through this course improved my understanding of statistical and epidemiological methodology, and I am absolutely certain it will be of use in future research work.

A large amount of the course fee was covered by the Norwegian Research School of Global Health who kindly provided me with their International Training Grant. A warm thank you to NRSGH - it was truly a great experience!