

Personal Statement as VRD DNCC candidate– Alberto Mateo Urdiales

I am an epidemiologist with over a decade of experience in public health, infectious disease surveillance and scientific research. My background includes a PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health, specialist training in Public Health, and completion of the EPIET fellowship.

I currently work at the Italian Institute of Public Health (ISS), where I serve as the National Focal Point for Respiratory Viruses in Italy and lead multiple national and European projects on respiratory virus surveillance, vaccine effectiveness, and pandemic preparedness.



I have extensive experience working with respiratory surveillance systems. I contributed to the establishment of the COVID-19 integrated surveillance in Italy and in the last years I have been focused in transforming the respiratory surveillance system into a more integrated, representative, comprehensive and sustainable system. Our vision is to have a system that goes beyond the epidemiological/microbiological division paradigm, which is based as much as possible in electronic health records and whose output can be easily translated into public health action. I also have a strong background in applied research and methodology, with over 70 peer review publications.

I believe I could bring valuable expertise to the Viral Respiratory Diseases Network Coordination Committee (VRD DNCC). My strong theoretical background and my practical experience working with surveillance systems and applied research make me suitable to advise the ECDC on scientific matters related to respiratory viruses. I could also enrich the network by bringing the view of a large and decentralized country.

I would be honoured to be part of the VRD DNCC as it would mean that I could have a more proactive role in improving surveillance at the European level. I am highly motivated by the opportunity as I think that surveillance systems in Europe should evolve in a common direction.

Kind regards,

Alberto Mateo Urdiales