

PERSONAL INFORMATION **Mario Fafangel**WORK EXPERIENCE  
05/05/2020 - present**Acting head of the Center for Infectious Diseases**

National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Trubarjeva 2, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia, [www.nijz.si](http://www.nijz.si)

- Professional and personnel management of the Center for Infectious Diseases Type of activity or health sector.

01/02/2011–04/05/2020

**Epidemiologist at the National Institute of Public Health**

National Institute of Public Health (Nacionalni inštitut za javno zdravje - NIJZ)  
Trubarjeva 2, 1000 Ljubljana (Slovenia)

[www.nijz.si](http://www.nijz.si)

- Work on communicable diseases (communicable diseases epidemiology, outbreaks, field investigations, surveillance, vaccines and vaccination).
- Coordinator of regional vaccination activities - Gorica region (Slovenia).
- Alumnus of the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) - Cohort 2014.

16/05/2015–22/06/2015

**Field epidemiologist - Ebola response in Sierra Leone**

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) and World Health Organization (WHO), Kabala (Koinadugu district) (Sierra Leone)

- Providing technical support in the improvement of the District Ebola Response Center alert and burials databases in order to provide timely information to guide the regional ebola response (data cleaning, database rebuilding, staff training).
- Training surveillance officers employed in ebola contact tracing activities and participating in community engagement activities.
- Developing forms for data exchange to improve cross-border communication and surveillance activities between the Koinadugu district (Sierra Leone) and Faranah prefecture (Guinea).
- Development of a digital (EpiInfo) triage recording form at regional Koinadugu Government Hospital in order to allow systematic data collection and analysis.
- Monitoring and support (field work and data analysis) to the District Health Management Team during the national measles and polio supplementary immunization action (5th – 10th June 2015) in the Koinadugu district.
- Improving collaboration and data flow between the regional surveillance pillar (WHO) and the regional case management pillar (Medicos del Mundo).
- Planning for Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response roll-out and the developing of long-term capacities for responding to future disease outbreaks and working towards a resilient and effective health system offering access to a Basic Package of Essential Health Services.
- Investigate suspected ebola cases.

01/10/2011–31/12/2013 **Regional coordination of the Slovenian human biomonitoring project**

Ministrstvo za zdravje, Urad RS za kemikalije  
Ajdovščina 4, 1000 Ljubljana (Slovenia)

- The project is aimed on quantifying the exposure of persons to harmful substances. The responsibilities include the execution of the project in the Slovenian region of Gorica.

**Business or sector** Public health.

01/03/2009–31/01/2011 **Emergency medicine residency**

ZD Koper  
Dellavallejeva ulica 3, 6000 Koper (Slovenia)

- Work as an emergency medicine doctor in prehospital care (ambulance) in the Slovenian coastal region (PHE Obala). Work as resident in the mayor emergency and ICU departments across Slovenia, including prehospital care.

**Business or sector** Healthcare.

- 01/06/2008–31/10/2008 **Medical doctor**  
 A.S.S. 2 Isontina  
 Via Vittorio Veneto 174, 34170 Gorizia (Italy)
- Doctor in a free ambulatory operating at nights and continuously during weekends. Duties included ambulatory work and house calls.
- Business or sector** Healthcare.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
 01/09/2014–01/09/2016

**European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET)**

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Sweden) and National Institute of Public Health (Slovenia), Ljubljana (Slovenia)

- Member state track fellow at the Slovenian National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ).
- Training and practical experience in intervention epidemiology.
- Research project: collaboration with ECDC in applying the Burden of Communicable Disease in Europe project (BCoDE) toolkit and methodology to estimate the burden of tick borne encephalitis in order to guide vaccination policy.
- Mission: Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)/World Health Organization (WHO) Ebola response field deployment - Sierra Leone.
- Surveillance: Development of a protocol for laboratory surveillance of HIV, STI and hepatitis B and C in Slovenia.
- Outbreak: Measles outbreak in Slovenia, likely linked to a common exposure at an international mass gathering event; A norovirus outbreak investigation occurring at an international handball competition in the Primorska region.
- Teaching: Disaster medicine course for public health professionals.

- 01/03/2011–01/03/2015 **Specialist in Public Health** EQF level 7  
 Slovenian Medical Chamber, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

- 23/11/2015–27/11/2015 **EPIET Training: Time series analyses**  
 National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven (Netherlands)  
 Training on time series analysis focused on informing public health interventions based on surveillance data.

- 28/04/2015–29/04/2015 **GO Pre-deployment training - Ebola virus disease responders**  
 Global Outbreak and Response Network (GOARN), World Health Organization (WHO), Public Health England (PHE), London (United Kingdom)  
 Course focused on acquisition of essential pre-deployment general and Ebola virus disease related topics; also including required WHO and UNDSO certificates required for field deployment.

- 16/03/2015–20/03/2015 **EPIET Training: Multivariable regression analyses**  
 Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety (AGES), Vienna (Austria)  
 Training in multivariable regression analyses focused on the implementation in the context of outbreak scenarios

- 01/02/2011–01/02/2015 **Specialization in Public Health**  
 Slovenian Medical Chamber, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

- 24/01/2015–28/01/2015 **Rapid assessment in complex public health emergencies**  
 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Veyrier-du-Lac (France)

- 08/12/2014–12/12/2014 **EPIET Training: Outbreak module**  
 Robert Koch Institute, Berlin (Germany)  
 Training focused on structured approach to the investigation of infectious diseases outbreaks.

- 29/09/2014–17/10/2014 **EPIET Training: Introductory course**  
 ECDC, Sepses (Greece)  
 Three week course focused on public health notions and technical approaches in outbreak investigations, surveillance, microbiology, statistical methodology.

- 05/2014 **Promotion of health in persons with mental disorders (scientific meeting)**  
 Azienda per i servizi sanitari N.5 "Bassa Friulana", Palmanova (Italy)  
 Invited speaker. Title of the presentation: Morbidity and mortality of the patient with severe mental illness.
- 01/03/2014 **Statistical Reasoning for Public Health: Estimation, Inference, & Interpretation**  
 John Hopkins University (coursera.org), Online course offering  
 8 week course gives a conceptual, but thorough treatise to commonly used statistical methods use in medical and public health research. Topics covered include study design, and estimation and inferential methods for comparing 2 or more populations based on sample data.
- 27/02/2014–28/02/2014 **Results from the Burden of Communicable Disease in Europe (BCoDE) Study**  
 ECDC, Stockholm (Sweden)
- 01/02/2014 **HSPH-HMS214x: Fundamentals of Clinical Trials**  
 Harvard University (edx.org), Online course offering  
 Scientific, statistical, policy, and ethical aspects of clinical trials research. A comprehensive overview of the design and analysis of clinical trials, including first-in-human studies (dose-finding, safety, proof of concept, Phase I), Phase II, Phase III, and Phase IV studies.
- 10/01/2014 **Epidemics - the Dynamics of Infectious Diseases**  
 Pennsylvania State University (coursera.org), Online course offering  
 This course explores all the major themes in the field of infectious disease dynamics. It covers basic principles of epidemiology, biology, and public health to help understand how epidemics emerge, how they spread, and how they can be controlled.
- 24/10/2013–25/10/2013 **Public health: hand in hand with non-governmental organisations**  
 Slovenian association of preventive medicine (Slovensko zdravniško društvo - Sekcija za preventivno medicino), Rogaška Slatina (Slovenia)
- 10/06/2013–22/06/2013 **Summer school on modern methods in biostatistics and epidemiology**  
 BiostatEpi, Cison di Valmarino, Treviso (Italy)  
 – Applied linear regression  
 – Epidemiology I  
 – Epidemiology II  
 – Causal inference
- 15/04/2013–16/04/2013 **Simulation exercise: Planning and response to health threats during mass gatherings**  
 National institute of public health Slovenia, Rogaška Slatina (Slovenia)
- 25/02/2013–27/02/2013 **Principles and computer tools for outbreak investigation**  
 ECDC, Stockholm (Sweden)  
 – Epidemiological measures of disease frequency and association  
 – The reasons for and importance of performing outbreak investigations  
 – The steps of an outbreak investigation  
 – The logistics and operational aspects of an outbreak investigation  
 – Study design (cohort and case-control studies) \* Questionnaire design and data collection \*  
 – Complementary investigations (microbiological, food, environment, etc)
- 01/02/2011–01/02/2012 **Postgraduate study in public health**  
 Chair for Public Health - University of Medicine Ljubljana  
 Zaloška 4, 1000 Ljubljana (Slovenia)  
 – One year course on the principles, methods and tools used in public health. Including practical statistical lessons using SPSS.

- 27/11/2009 **Advanced Life Support Instructor**  
 European Resuscitation Council  
 ERC certified ALS Instructor in courses for lay people and doctors. (From Basic Life Support to Advanced).
  - The acquisition of the title included completion of a generic instructor course on teaching to an adult population.<http://www.erc.edu/>
  
- 12/03/2010–14/03/2010 **International Trauma Life Support - Advanced Provider and Instructor Candidate**  
 International Trauma Life Support  
 3000 Woodcreek Drive, Suite 200, 60515 Downers Grove, IL (United States)
  - Advanced Provider and Instructor Candidate
  
- 2009 **State exam for practicing medicine in Slovenia**  
 Slovenian Medical Chamber  
 Dalmatinova 10, 1000 Ljubljana (Slovenija)
  
- 2007 **State exam for practicing medicine in Italy**  
 University of Trieste  
 3400 Trieste (Italy)
  
- 2000–2007 **Medical doctor degree** ISCED 5A  
 Faculty of Medicine Trieste - University of Trieste

**PERSONAL SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s) Italian, Slovenian

Foreign language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	B2	B1	A2	A2	A2
Croatian	B1	B1	A2	A2	A1
Serbian	C2	C2	C1	C1	C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user  
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills

Teamwork and team leading experience acquired during prehospital emergency medicine work. Communication with the media on subjects of public health interest such as outbreaks or emerging infectious diseases threats.

Organisational / managerial skills Experience in team management and logistics for ERC certified resuscitation courses.

Digital skills

Skilled computer user on Win, Mac & Linux platforms with some hardware skills. Knowledge of major statistical packages: STATA, SPSS, Statsoft Statistica, EpiInfo, Epidata, R.

Driving licence B

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Oral presentation

Conference: European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) (11–13 November 2015), Stockholm  
 Title: Estimating the average annual burden of tick-borne encephalitis in Slovenia to guide vaccination policy, 2009-2013  
 Authors: Mario Fafangel, Alessandro Cassini, Edoardo Colzani, Irena Klavs, Marta Grgič Vitek, Veronika Učakar, Marion Muehlen, Alenka Kraigher, Marko Vudrag

## Publications

Fafangel M, Grgič Vitek M, Klavs I. Letter to the editor: Applying incidence-based disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) disease burden estimates to foster change in national vaccination policy, Slovenia, 2017 to 2018. *Eurosurveillance*. 2018;23: 2017–2018. doi:10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2018.23.27.1800354

Učakar V, Fafangel M, Kraigher A. Vaccine confidence among mothers of young children, Slovenia, 2016. *Vaccine*. Elsevier Ltd; 2018;36: 5544–5550. doi:10.1016/j.vaccine.2018.07.062

Fafangel M, Cassini A, Colzani E, et al. Estimating the annual burden of tick-borne encephalitis to inform vaccination policy, Slovenia, 2009 to 2013. *Eurosurveillance* [Internet] 2017;22(16):30509. Available from: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=22778>

Grgič-Vitek M, Frelih T, Učakar V, Fafangel M, Jordan Markocic O, Prosenc K, Kraigher A. An outbreak of measles associated with an international dog show in Slovenia, November 2014. *Euro Surveill*. 2015;20(3):pii=21012. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21012>

Fafangel M, Učakar V, Klavs I, Muehlen M, Kraigher A, Vudrag M. A norovirus outbreak with person-to-person transmission at an international sports tournament, Slovenia, July 2015. Poster presentation, ESCAIDE 28-30 November 2016, Stockholm, Sweden. Grgič-Vitek M, on behalf of the authors of the original article. Authors' response: Measles outbreak linked to an international dog show in Slovenia, 2014. *Euro Surveill*. 2015;20(9):pii=21052. Available online: <http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21052>

## Oral presentation

Fafangel M, Cassini A, Colzani E, Klavs I, Grgič Vitek M, Učakar V, Muehlen M, Kraigher A, Vudrag M. Estimating the 2009-2013 annual burden of tick-borne encephalitis in Slovenia to inform vaccination policy. Oral presentation, ESCAIDE 11-13 November 2015, Stockholm, Sweden.

Grmec Š, Lah K, Kolar M, Zadel S, Borovnik Lesjak V, Fafangel M. Partial pressure of end-tidal carbon-dioxide – reliable criteria for termination of nontraumatic cardiac arrest resuscitative efforts in the field. Oral presentation, Resuscitation 2010 - European Resuscitation Council

## Appointments

Working group to prepare a proposal on the supply of vaccines for prevention the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus infections and the treatment of coronavirus disease 19. Project role: member  
Duration: August 6, 2020 - February 10, 2022

Health Council appointed by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia. Role: member of the council from the ranks of renowned experts in the field of public health, health care management, health epidemiology and informatics  
Date of appointment: July 16, 2020

Civil Protection Headquarters for North Primorska, Civil Protection of the Republic of Slovenia. Role: staff member  
Duration: November 17, 2016 -

Section for Preventive Medicine, Slovenian Medical Association. Role: Member of the Board of Directors  
Duration: 2016 -

Permanent expert group for travel medicine and immunoprophylaxis entitled "Healthy on the go". Section for Preventive Medicine of the Slovenian Medical Association. Role: section member  
Duration: 2017 -

Expert Advisory Group of the Government - covid- 19, Government of the Republic of Slovenia. Role: member  
Duration: 2020 –

**Participation in projects** Project L7-6806 "Control of infectious diseases through vaccination: who are the doubters and opponents of vaccination and how to communicate with them?"  
Role: researcher  
Duration: 1.7.2014 - 30.6.2017, extended until 28.2.2018

AWARE project, West Nile Virus in Europe: after action reviews of readiness and response to the 2018 transmission season in Italy, Slovenia, Serbia and Greece.  
Role in the project: lead / head / main investigator  
Duration: 21. 12. 2018 – 20. 6. 2019

*Project V3-2032 »The impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on cancer control in Slovenia«, in cooperation with Institute of Oncology*  
*Role in the project: NIJZ lead / NIJZ head*  
*Duration: 1. 10. 2020 – 30. 9. 2022*

V3-2034 » Epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of COVID-19«, in cooperation with University Ljubljana, Medical faculty  
Role in the project: NIJZ lead / NIJZ head  
Duration: 1. 10. 2020 – 30. 9. 2023