

Professional background and motivation for my application to become member of the EASE Council (484 words)

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I was born in Austria and raised in Germany where I studied medicine and worked for many years as trained internist in a hospital. I hold a master degree in public health and have a diploma in tropical medicine and public health. My interest in communication goes back to my time at university when I worked as a freelance researcher for the ZDF, a German public-service television broadcaster.

At present, I am Editor-in-Chief of *Eurosurveillance* (www.eurosurveillance.org), a journal on surveillance, prevention and control of communicable diseases with focus on Europe. This open access, non-profit journal is published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden. It received its first impact factor in 2012 and has since ranked among the top 10 journals in its field in the Journal Citation Report and fared equally well in Google metrics and SCImago. Before becoming EIC of *Eurosurveillance* in 2011, I was its Managing Editor from 2006 onwards and between 2007 and 2011, I set up ECDC's Scientific Communication Section. Since 2008, I am member of the scientific committee for ESCAIDE (European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology).

Before joining *Eurosurveillance* and ECDC, I worked as Editor-in- Chief for Germany's national epidemiological and public health bulletin, the *Epidemiologisches Bulletin* at Robert Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany.

My first contact with EASE was at the EASE conference in Pisa in 2009 and I became member hereafter. Aside from attending EASE conferences and enjoying the exchange with colleagues during and between the conferences, I have been an active member of the EASE Gender Policy Committee (GPC, established in 2012). The work with the GPC has been joyful and enriching and I am convinced that this initiative has potential to contribute to greater quality and transparency in science reporting. I will thus continue to actively promote and support the distribution of its outcomes such as the envisaged common standard for sex and gender reporting.

The very positive experiences with the GPC and the positive evolution of the three EASE conferences that I attended, have heightened my interest to become more engaged with EASE in the future. I would like to contribute to EASE's strategic development and support the response to challenges pertaining to its mission and vision, with personal engagement as well as a creative and critical mind. I can offer the perspective and experience of an expert who works in a scientific, multicultural, international governmental organisation. At ECDC I am also involved in supporting training activities for authors and editors aimed at improving quality of scientific publications. It will be natural for me to integrate and promote the EASE mission, where appropriate, within such activities as well as in workshops or other events organised by ECDC.

My special interests include publication ethics i.e. quality and transparency of science reporting, scientific writing and publication biases due to language barriers and publishing support/incentives for data sharing.