

Report for NFOG Fund from the European Educational Programme in Epidemiology, June 2019

Thank you for receiving the NFOG grant for my course on epidemiology in Italy.

Since 2012 I have been engaged as a research assistant professor at SDU. The first studies we performed were mainly follow-ups of my doctoral thesis on an RCT. The methods and statistics in this area I am well educated via my ph.d.courses.

Exploring new areas also included some epidemiological studies. The newest statistical methods of these I was not too comfortable with. For this reason I wished to follow this course in epidemiological methods and statistics in Florence, Italy, in June 2019.

The venue of the course was some part of the university of Florence located outside of Florence. Most of the course participants were also accommodated here. They had both lecture halls, group facilities and a cantina serving all meals.

The course lasted for 2 weeks. The first week was mainly basic statistics. This covered areas as basic statistical methods, study design and models of epidemiology of which I specifically enjoyed the lectures on DAGS. The teachers were primarily Danish and British. They were all theoretical experts within their fields as well as good teachers. The programme varied between general lectures, group sessions where one subject was discussed through examples and working group sessions where the methods taught in the general lectures were investigated via practical exercises.

The course material was extensive and consisted of articles regarding the different subjects, exercises and lecture notes.

The second week was more advanced statistics and study designs like cohort and case-control studies, and modelling strategies as well as construction of a questionnaire, logistic regression analyses, interaction and effect modification, metaanalysis, survival analysis, and causality. Also this week the lectures, and the group sessions were sublime.

During the evenings interesting lectures covering current issues and controversies in epidemiology were presented by the teachers such as 'Is it time for epidemiologists to recognize that the children have a father?', 'Sleep, light-at-night and cancer.', and 'From idea to studies'.

Also we had time to discuss with the other researchers during evening assemblies and social events

Now, months later I can still highly recommend the course. I am benefitting from the brush up of some of the statistics and of the new method, DAGS, which I have been using together with my ph.d.student.

I thank the NFOG fund for financial support that made it possible for me to participate in this exciting course.

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