



EU Initiative on Health Security

Work Programme 2022

EU Initiative on Health Security

The Initiative aims to set up a regional workforce responsible for the prevention and control of challenges posed by communicable diseases. It will also enhance regional cooperation to tackle cross-border health security threats in EU-candidate and potential-candidate countries and European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries. It focuses on three major areas:

- Workforce oriented capability building delivered through the Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)
- Capacity building in epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response
- Integration into ECDC systems, knowledge sharing and networking.

To support partner countries, ECDC is proposing a comprehensive programme for 2022. This programme will respond to the needs identified by the partner countries and ECDC through their ongoing dialogue and assessment of public health emergency preparedness and response capacities and capabilities.

How to participate

The nominated ECDC National Correspondent in each partner country coordinates the participation of experts in the activities of the EU Initiative on Health Security*. This person is employed by either the Ministry of Health, the National Public Health Agency, or equivalent.

Please contact ECDC for more information:

eu-initiative-on-health-security@ecdc.europa.eu



*Due to current COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions and pressure on public health systems, certain activities may be organised remotely, cancelled or postponed. ECDC will be update each partner country on any changes foreseen in the implementation of the work programme.

Field epidemiology workforce development through the Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

MediPIET is an established regional training programme in intervention epidemiology, which aims to consolidate the competency of national and sub-national workforces in performing essential public health functions for the prevention and control of national and cross-border challenges posed by communicable diseases.

Activities of Cohort 4:

Q1 Module 3 - Multivariable analysis (MVA)

Aim: provide participants with basic definitions and concepts for different types of regression models, including linear regression, simple and multivariable logistic regression, Poisson and Cox regressions.

Q2 Introductory course Part 2

Aim: refresh key concepts covered in Introductory Course Part 1 and strengthen more advanced epidemiological, microbiological and pedagogical competencies covered during the first months of the fellowship.

Q2 Module 4 - Risk Assessment and Mass Gatherings (RAS MG)

Aim: prepare fellows to i) use sampling methods adapted to the population, ii) contribute to the multidisciplinary and international response to complex emergency situations (CES), and iii) apply their epidemiological skills to serve public health interventions.

Q3 Module 5 - Project Review (PRM1)

Aim: provide fellows with methodological knowledge on giving and receiving feedback on scientific projects as well as on communicating the findings of their projects to peers. The module will also prepare them to interact with multidisciplinary audiences at scientific conferences.

Q4 Module 6 - Time Series Analysis and GIS (TSA) [Q4]

Aim: strengthen participants' competencies in the areas of statistical data analysis - specifically time series analysis, spatial epidemiology, and the use of GIS software.

Activities of Cohort 5:

Q3 Module 1 - Introductory Course

The module aims to introduce the conceptual framework of field epidemiology, including analytical epidemiology, public health surveillance, operational research, outbreak investigation and communication, and public health microbiology.

Q4 Module 2 - Outbreak Investigation

Aim: to help participants acquire skills and competencies in the practical aspects of data management and analysis during outbreak investigations, as well as in the interpretation and communication of findings.

Additional activities within MediPIET:

Q2 Training centre forum meeting and regional workshop on MediPIET needs assessment

A meeting of the MediPIET National Focal Points to consolidate the results of the MediPIET Training Resource and Needs Assessment and to discuss whether the programme's core competencies and curriculum need to be reviewed.

Q2 Training of Trainers - Summer school

This training aims to enhance the methods used to help authors improve a draft manuscript as well as to understand the roles, responsibilities and expectations for supervising fellows in a competency-based fellowship programme.

Throughout the year, MediPIET fellows are sent on international assignments and to scientific conferences to acquire the competencies necessary to fulfil the fellowship graduation criteria.

Epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response

The EU Initiative on Health Security aims to address the prerequisites for efficient public health systems by helping partner countries to strengthen their capacity to assess, detect, respond and prevent threats from communicable diseases, as well as by enhancing regional cooperation.

Q1 Workshop on Emergency Operation Centres and protocols for public health emergencies

This workshop introduces different options for setting up a public health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and offers an overview of best practices when building, evaluating and using EOCs for public health responses. One of the focus areas is the identification of country-specific needs and constraints in information and communication technologies (ICT) that may hinder the development of EOCs.

Q2 Training courses on Epidemic Intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessment



The course combines the phases from early detection and validation to the analysis of public health threats. Facilitators present epidemic intelligence tools and platforms and cite examples of best practices among

experts in prevention and control of communicable diseases. The course is offered in English, Russian and French and consists of a theoretical part and a comprehensive group exercise based on a real-life event.

Q3 After Action and In-Action Review workshop

After-action reviews (AARs) are an essential part of the preparedness and response cycle. This workshop involves training in all phases of AARs: design, planning, implementation, and follow-up. It is a hands-on training and by the end all participants should be able to independently design and facilitate AARs. This workshop contains a practical exercise that allows participants to collectively design and implement an AAR on a topic of interest.

Q3 Regional workshop on entry/exit screening: science and practice

This workshop provides a forum for exchanging expertise and best practices among border management and public health authority personnel (*in 2022 this will be offered to the Eastern Partnership countries*).

The aim of the workshop is to raise awareness of the role of evidence-based best practices in entry/exit-screening and the importance of effective public health management at borders through a multi-sectoral approach and stakeholder engagement.

Q1 Community preparedness case study

Capacity-building activity offered to countries willing to work on a common case (e.g. long-term care facilities, closure of schools, or any other response measure) and to conduct a focused AAR on evidence-based decision-making. The study is based on a protocol developed to identify opportunities and constraints on the gathering and analysis of evidence-based information during a real-life emergency¹. It also offers guidance on community engagement for public health events caused by communicable disease threats².

Q2 Risk communication workshop



A four-hour workshop introducing the topic of risk communication. The objectives of the workshop are 1) to understand and discuss how to address communication shortcomings; 2) to use various sources of

information to conduct dynamic listening and rumour management; 3) to consider the factors affecting accuracy, transparency and timeliness of risk-communication and to offer strategies to overcome potential barriers and 4) to discuss strategies for fostering and maintaining trust during the risk communication process. The workshop will be delivered in an interactive format using real-world examples of direct relevance to the participants.

1 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Protocol-for-focused-AAR-on-evidence-based-decision-making-COVID-19.pdf>

2 <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/community-engagement-guidance.pdf>

Integration into ECDC systems, knowledge sharing and networking

The EU Initiative on Health Security aims to progressively integrate the partner countries into the work of ECDC. To share knowledge and create networking possibilities it also proposes that partner countries participate in relevant ECDC networks and activities as observers.

Joint webinars of ECDC National Focal Points for Preparedness and Response and National Focal Points (NFP) for Threat Detection, Epidemic Intelligence and International Health Regulations

Since 2020, ECDC has been organising monthly webinars for EU NFPs in Threat Detection and NFPs of Preparedness and Response. The webinars are designed for the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learnt in relation to response to the COVID-19 pandemics.

Q2 Annual meeting of the Emerging and Vector-borne Disease Network (EVD-Net)

During the meeting, ECDC experts present the EVD programme activities conducted over the past year, including outputs of the EVD outsourced networks on entomology (VectorNet) and laboratory diagnosis (EVD-LabNet). National representatives also showcase recent experiences in surveillance and control of EVD in the EU Member States.

Q4 Annual meeting of the European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance Network (ELDSNet)

During the annual meeting, ECDC experts present the ELDSNet programme activities for 2022–2023. Presentations and discussion forums are also arranged on different topics in relation to the surveillance and control of Legionnaires' disease.

Q4 Annual meeting of the European Food and Waterborne Diseases and Zoonoses Network (FWD-Net)

During the annual meeting, ECDC experts present the FWD programme activities conducted over the past year and discuss recent experiences in surveillance and control of FWD in the EU Member States.

Annual meeting

Q4 National ECDC Correspondents in European Neighbourhood partner countries and MediPIET National Focal Points

This meeting offers the opportunity to consolidate the outcomes of regional cooperation under the EU Initiative on Health Security in 2022, and conduct a forward-looking overview of capacity-building activities in 2023.

Q4 ESCAIDE

As part of the network building and knowledge sharing activity, representatives will also be invited to ESCAIDE 2022, European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology.



The scientific programme for ESCAIDE 2022 comprises plenaries and abstract-led sessions. During the plenary sessions, high-level speakers discuss topics of importance within the realm of infectious disease and public health.

Selected abstracts represent the latest cutting-edge research from a broad spectrum of fields, including infectious disease epidemiology, microbiology, surveillance, implementation science, modelling and preparedness.