



**EU Initiative on Health Security**  
Implemented by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



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# EU Initiative on Health Security

Work Programme 2021

Epidemic Intelligence, Rapid Risk Assessment,  
Preparedness and Response

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## How to participate

Nominated ECDC National Correspondent in each partner country coordinates participation of experts in the activities of the EU Initiative on Health Security\*. This person is employed by either Ministry of Health or National Public Health Agency (or similar).

Please contact ECDC for additional information by email:

[eu-initiative-on-health-security@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:eu-initiative-on-health-security@ecdc.europa.eu)



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

# Training on Epidemic Intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessment

This course will combine the steps from the early detection of a signal through to the assessment of a public health event.

The course will focus on understanding the process of early detection, validation and analysis of health threats, in identifying Epidemic Intelligence tools and platforms and cite examples of best practices on epidemic intelligence among the experts in prevention and control of communicable diseases.

The course will also focus on the basics in deciding, planning, conducting and generating rapid risk

assessments through the introduction of concepts, principles and succession of actions. At the end of the course, the participant should have sufficient knowledge and basic skills to be involved in a team producing rapid risk assessments for public health event caused by infectious diseases.

The course will consist of a theoretical part and a group exercise from early detection to producing the essential parts of a rapid risk assessment based on a real-life event.



5 days



30 participants

## Primary Audience

Professionals with public health background working at local, regional or national level (Public Health Institutes and Ministerial level) who are involved in the early detection, monitoring and assessment of public health events have an interest in becoming familiar with the tools, standards and practices adopted at technical level for these purposes.

ECDC can also second a trainers to partner country. This activity would be particularly beneficial for partner countries who are willing to build capacity of many experts, working on national, but also sub-national levels.

# Advanced Training on Epidemic Intelligence

This advanced course will focus on development of Epidemic Intelligence Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on a national level. This will include a training for a better understanding of epidemic intelligence processes in the context of the country of interest, an outline for the SOP, as well as understanding of necessary arrangements for regular documentation and reporting to national public health authorities.

During this course the participants will be provided with theoretical background, followed by practical part, which involves exercises in smaller groups and shadowing sessions of ECDC Epidemic Intelligence experts.

At the end of the advanced course participants should have a good understanding of epidemic intelligence steps, perform early threat detection and develop SOP on a national level.



10 days



4 participants

## Primary Audience

Professionals at local, regional or national level (Public Health Institutes and Ministerial level) with public health background who are already familiar and have experience with the tools, standards and practices adopted at technical level for early detection of health threats.

## Workshop on Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans

The workshop will focus on challenges and enablers in the process of planning, coordinating and implementing public health emergency preparedness and response plans.

The themes to be covered in the workshop would include interoperability of plans with other sectors; use of methodologies to incorporate risk assessments and elements of business continuity, availability of standard operative procedures with sectors considered as important for public health emergency

planning and response actions, community preparedness aspects, etc.

During the workshop, the participants will exchange views on enablers and barriers, inter-sectorial and cross border cooperation in planning and implementation phases. Participants in the workshop will be encouraged to share good practices and the challenges they face while planning and implementing preparedness and response plans. During the workshop, a guided discussion to exchange views on key areas and elements included in the plans is foreseen.



1-2 days



15-20 participants

### Primary Audience

Professionals with public health background who are in charge of writing, coordinating and implementing emergency preparedness plans at all levels national, regional or local (e.g. Public Health Institutes, Ministerial level).

## Workshop on After Action Review

After-action reviews (AARs) are an essential part of the preparedness and response cycle. This workshop involves training on all phases of AARs: design, planning, implementation, and follow-up on action plans. The workshop is hands-on and by the end

all participants should feel comfortable to independently design and facilitate AARs. This workshop will also contain a practical exercise where participants will collectively design and implement an AAR on a topic agreed upon by participants.



5 days



30 participants

### Primary Audience

Mid- to senior-level public health officials who may be responsible for conducting AARs as part of their work.

# Workshop on setting-up Emergency Operation Centres and developing protocols for Public Health Emergencies

This workshop will present and introduce the different options on how to build/develop a Public Health Emergency Operations Centre, as well as share expertise, lessons and experiences in building, evaluating and utilizing EOCs for public health responses. During the workshop ECDC will use the EOC-NET and the three associated EOC-NET main handbooks:

- Handbook for PHEOC critical infrastructure and information system

- Handbook for PHEOC policies, plans and procedures
- Handbook for PHEOC training and exercises

One of the focus areas will be identification of country specific needs and constraints for information and communication technologies (ICT) and in which area ECDC can support the strengthening or the development of EOC.



 <b>2 days</b>	 <b>30 participants</b>
<b>Primary Audience</b> National Public Health institutions planning to develop their own EOC or improve their existing EOC.	

# Cross border simulation exercise to test emergency preparedness and response plans

The purpose of conducting simulation exercises is to support countries capacity and capability building, in order to ensure a timely, efficient and effective response to local and national outbreaks of communicable diseases that have the potential to cross borders. This includes strengthening interoperability and enhancing cross-sectoral and cross border linkages as well as strengthening crisis response capacities and competences to ensure resilience to respond.

Simulation exercises can also promote the exchange of knowledge and practice among relevant professionals and organisations at regional level to further strengthen competences and capabilities for health security.



The scenarios for cross border simulation exercises will be chosen based on a consideration of relevance to the region and current hot topics.

 <b>1-2 days</b>	 <b>30-40 participants</b>
<b>Primary Audience</b> Professionals working in Public Health who have a role in preparedness and response to emergencies in addition to subject matter experts working on the topic under consideration.	

# Country visit to review early detection system, including revision of Standard Operating Procedures

During the country visit the ECDC Epidemic Intelligence experts will together with the country representatives review the early detection system already in place or to be implemented. This include



a gap analysis and a review of the tools and skills for proper early detection. Countries will have a great opportunity to share their experiences and examples of good practices of existing early detection system.

 <b>5 days</b>	 <b>n/a</b>
<p><b>Primary Audience</b></p> <p>Professionals with public health background who underwent Advanced Training on Epidemic Intelligence and are, on strategic and technical level involved in the detection, monitoring and assessment of public health events.</p> <p>Professionals who are directly involved in planning and/or have established the system for early detection of health threats on national and/or regional level.</p>	

# Sectoral mission to advise partner countries on specific public health emergency preparedness activities

During the visits the ECDC experts in the area of preparedness and response will together with the country representatives review public health emergency preparedness and response plans. Discussion will include strategic overview of preparedness and response framework in place, availability of operational

plans, aspects of inter-sectoral and cross border collaboration for cross border health threats, etc. Countries will have an opportunity to share experiences and seek advice from ECDC team and peers from EU/EEA countries.

 <b>1-5 days</b>	 <b>5-20 participants</b>
<p><b>Primary Audience</b></p> <p>Professionals with public health background who are in charge of writing, coordinating and implementing emergency preparedness plans at all levels national, regional or local (e.g. Public Health Institutes, Ministerial level).</p>	