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Launch of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day logo at EU Health Council

The logo for the first ever European Antibiotic Awareness Day was unveiled on 10 June by Androula Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Health, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, Slovenian Minister for Health and Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director of ECDC. The three posed for photos with the new logo on the margins of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council meeting in Luxembourg, after the Council had adopted Conclusions on antimicrobial resistance. European Antibiotic Awareness Day, which will take place for the first time on 18 November 2008, will be an annual event to raise public awareness on how to use antibiotics in a responsible way in order to keep them effective for future generations.

The emergence of microbes that are resistant to most, or even all, antibiotics has been identified by experts as a major threat to public health. Despite several years of attention from EU health authorities on the need for antibiotics to be used prudently, not all countries have managed to achieve changes in the way antibiotics are consumed. Hence, the need to strengthen public awareness about prudent use of antibiotics remains on the agenda. The main objective chosen for the European Antibiotic Awareness Day campaign in 2008 is to convince the public not to seek antibiotic treatment for common viral diseases (i.e. common colds and influenza). It will also emphasise the need for the patients to follow the advice of their doctors.

ECDC's TB action plan presented to the Council of Health Ministers

ECDC's Framework Action Plan to Fight Tuberculosis (TB) in the EU was warmly welcomed by EU Health Ministers in June. After a lunchtime briefing on the plan from ECDC Director Zsuzsanna Jakab, Ministers gave strong support for its implementation and called on ECDC to support work on this crucial issue and for future EU presidencies to politically endorse it. The lunch took place at the EPSCO Council in Luxembourg. ECDC's TB action plan offers a unique opportunity to start developing an EU approach to the fight against TB. The plan should also help to initiate an analysis of the current situation of TB control in the various EU Member States which will highlight the specific needs of the individual countries. ECDC – in close collaboration with the European Commission – will continue to monitor the implementation of the action plan in the coming years.



Eurosurveillance received by His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden

On 14 May at a royal briefing on tuberculosis (TB), a special issue of the journal *Eurosurveillance* was presented to the King by Prof. Gunnar Boman, former Vice President of the International Union against TB and Lung Disease. *Eurosurveillance* is a leading scientific journal on the epidemiology, surveillance, prevention and control of infectious diseases. The TB issue, and all other editions of *Eurosurveillance*, are available online at www.eurosurveillance.org.

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First visit of Commissioner Vassiliou to ECDC



Androula Vassiliou, with Zsuzsanna Jakab, unveiling the plaque commemorating her visit.

On 30 June Androula Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Health, paid her first visit to ECDC's headquarters in Stockholm. The programme included a meeting with the senior management team, a briefing on ECDC's latest developments as well as a tour of ECDC's Emergency Operations Centre (see *ECDC Insight* March 2008). ECDC Director Zsuzsanna Jakab said that she was delighted to welcome Commissioner Vassiliou to the Centre.

View the Web TV report : ecdc.europa.eu

Editorial by Director Zsuzsanna Jakab

Learn more about ECDC's main achievements in 2007!

Reflecting on past events enables one to be better equipped for future ones. As ECDC began to draft its work programme for 2009, the Annual Report of the Director for 2007 was issued last June. This document highlights how 2007 has been a decisive and exciting year in ECDC's development. In his foreword, Marc Sprenger, Chairman of the ECDC Management Board, underlines that '2007 was the year in which ECDC entered adulthood'. The development of its infrastructures and the delivery of its scientific programme have both reached a level of maturity that allows ECDC to focus on consolidating its activities and delivering content. It also enables ECDC to concentrate on the results of its first ever external evaluation (see below).

These important milestones do not prevent us from performing the day-to-day work. This autumn ECDC will undertake a number of important activities.



Among others, I am glad to highlight:

- On 18 November, the first ever European Antibiotic Awareness Day will be launched at a European level in the European Parliament (see page 1). A number of initiatives are planned in the Member States;
- On 19–21 November, the second European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) will take place in Berlin, Germany. We welcome your participation in this conference which will bring together professionals involved in applied infectious disease epidemiology.

I look forward to seeing you at one of these events!

External evaluation of the Centre

ECDC has undergone its first external evaluation, as required in the Centre's Founding Regulation (EC 851/2004). This process started in 2007 when – following a call for tender – an independent evaluation was commissioned from an external consultancy (the Dutch firm ECORYS). The main purpose of this evaluation has been to assess, in an objective way, ECDC's achievements as compared to the Centre's objectives and programme of work, to identify pos-

sible shortcomings and possible improvements, and to assess the possible extension of mandate.

The final report on the external evaluation was completed by summer 2008, and its results will feed into the ECDC Management Board's recommendations on future structure, working practices and mission scope of Centre. The first report of the evaluators will be available on ECDC's website towards the end of September.



Eurosurveillance and EpiNorth journal signed a Memorandum of Understanding

On 30 May, *Eurosurveillance* signed a Memorandum of Understanding with *EpiNorth*, a journal issued quarterly in English and Russian. *EpiNorth* Journal is aimed at epidemiologists and public health experts working towards prevention and control of infectious diseases in Northern Europe and across the border to Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. Founded with EU funding in 1995, *Eurosurveillance* has been produced by ECDC since 2007. The agreement strengthens the cooperation between the two journals and will facilitate the exchange of relevant scientific information with a Russian speaking audience.

European Parliament's ENVI Committee pays a visit to ECDC



Zsuzsanna Jakab with John Bowis, Dorette Corbey, Niels Busk, Meni Malliori, Jacques Scheres, Ronald Haigh and ECDC staff members

On 15–16 May, a delegation from the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee paid its second visit to ECDC's headquarters in Stockholm. The delegation consisted of John Bowis MEP (EPP-ED, UK), Dorette Corbey MEP (PSE, NL), and Niels Busk MEP (ALDE, DK), accompanied by Professors Meni Malliori, Jacques Scheres and Ronald Haigh, the Parliament's representatives and alternate on the ECDC Management Board.

ECDC Director Zsuzsanna Jakab took the opportunity to brief the delegation on the latest developments in ECDC's work. Thereafter fruitful discussions followed on the on-going external evaluation, potential extensions of ECDC's mandate, budgetary issues, preparedness and response measures, current and upcoming activities on antimicrobial resistance and external relations. Zsuzsanna Jakab will attend her yearly hearing with the ENVI Committee in Brussels in October.

Finland hosted the 13th Management Board meeting

ECDC Management Board regularly holds three meetings per year, two of them in Stockholm and the other hosted by a Member State. This year, the 13th Management Board meeting held on 17–18 June was hosted by Finland and took place in the scenic location of Haikko Manor, outside Helsinki.

The opening session of the meeting began with an address by the Finnish Minister for Health and Social Services, Paula Risikko. She emphasised that the establishment of ECDC was a far-sighted decision, and stressed the importance of cooperation in the fight against diseases. This was followed by a presentation by the Director of the Department for Vaccines, KTL – Finland, Terhi Kilpi, on the country's national immunisation programme.

The agenda of the meeting focused on the preliminary results of the first external evaluation of the Centre. Other items on the agenda included the approval of the annual accounts 2007, budgetary issues and planning for 2009. ECDC wishes to thank the Finnish Ministry of Health and Social Services for hosting the 13th meeting of the Management Board.

ECDC Seminar for journalists

On 30 May, ECDC hosted a seminar for 15 journalists representing 10 different countries and many publications, such as Lancet Infectious Diseases, British Medical Journal and Nature, newspapers such as El Pais, De Standaard and Le Monde, and newswires such as Bloomberg, TT and Reuters. The seminar was an opportunity for the journalists to hear from ECDC and external experts on antibiotic resistance, including information about the first-ever European Antibiotic Awareness Day, and public health outbreaks, including a case study on Chikungunya. Following the seminar, many of the journalists published articles on the issues covered and sent very positive feedback on the seminar.

ECDC pays its first visit to Turkey



ECDC delegation with Recep Akdağ, Turkish Ministry for Health and his team.

On 8–9 July, an interdisciplinary team paid a first general ECDC country visit to Turkey. The main purpose was to establish contacts with key stakeholders, to prioritise areas for future collaboration and to discuss technical day-to-day working relations with experts. ECDC also intended to deepen its understanding of the epidemiological and public health situation in Turkey and identifying domains where ECDC could provide additional support. The Minister of Health kindly welcomed ECDC's experts and introduced his ministry, of which several directorates were presented. The team also visited the Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center. ECDC warmly thanks all participants in this country visit, a visit which proved very positive with open and constructive exchanges.

ECDC's info stand at the Commission's Open Doors Day

ECDC participated in the European Commission's Open Doors Day on 7 June at the Berlaymont building in Brussels. More than 6,000 visitors had the opportunity to visit the European institutions and learn more about them. Numerous visitors paid a visit to ECDC's stand and demonstrated a great interest in our activities. A lot of them participated with enthusiasm in a quiz that aimed at increasing their awareness of ECDC.



ECDC's Scientific Advice Unit (SAU): Providing information for action

One of the key ECDC targets included in the multiannual work programme is that *'by 2013, ECDC's reputation for scientific excellence and leadership will be firmly established among its partners in public health, and ECDC will be a major resource for scientific information and advice on infectious diseases for the Commission, the Parliament, the Member States and their citizens'*. Scientific Advice Unit (SAU) work focuses on achieving this goal. Five strategies are implemented to realize this target. In addition, four disease specific programmes are hosted in SAU. Strategies include:



From left to right: Ana-Belen Escriva, Catherine Dumartin, Dominique Monnet, Todd Weber, Andrea Bukšárová, Piotr Kramarz, Jonathan Suk, Jan Semenza, Pierluigi Lopalco, Canan Yilmaz, Cristina Manita, Johann Fontaine, Luca Fulgeri.

Absents from the picture: Tommi Asikainen, Laszlo Balkanyi, Piero Benazzo, Bruno Christian Ciancio, Johan Giesecke, Helena de Carvalho Gomes, Heidi Jung, Davide Manissero, Howard Needham, Angus Nicoll, Monica Nilsson, Teymur Noori, Christophe Opitz, Amanda Ozin, Svetla Tsoleva.

Being a public health research catalyst



Johan Giesecke, Head of the SAU, speaking at ESCAIDE 2007

This involves improving public health research in the EU, by identifying gaps in scientific knowledge and by liaison work with EU funders to steer research calls, and evaluate proposals. It also involves building links between scientists by developing and maintaining an interactive directory of experts and running scientific

symposia (e.g. on 'New tools to diagnose, prevent, and treat TB' or 'Expert meeting on HIV testing in Europe: from policies to effectiveness'). An example of such work is the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE) planned in November 2008.

Read more: www.escaide.eu

Promoting, initiating and coordinating scientific studies

The objectives of these studies are, among others, to assess the current and future burden of communicable diseases in the EU. A case study will be to quantify the burden of disease from climate change.

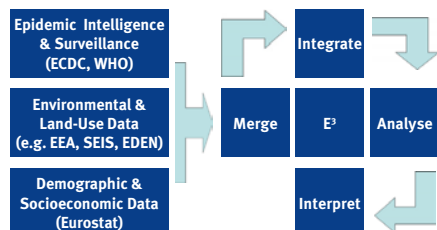
It is now widely recognised that the global climate is changing and that humans play a major role in driving this change. In Europe, we will not only see average weather conditions getting warmer over the long-run, but also a shift to more extreme weather events such heat waves,

excessive precipitation, storm surges, and droughts. In light of these environmental changes it is certain that the distribution of infectious diseases will change too, particularly combined with other societal transformations such as globalization and migration.

Emerging threats from infectious diseases have been linked to global climate change. An example of this is spread of Lyme disease or tick-borne encephalitis in Northern and Central Europe. Changing patterns of food- and water-borne diseases have also been linked to climatic conditions. The recent outbreak in Italy of Chikungunya Fever, a tropical disease caused by a virus and transmitted by Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes Albopictus*) is indirectly also related to climatic conditions, since mosquitoes depend on the weather for their reproduction.

Thus, the changing climate will impact infectious disease distribution in Europe and ECDC is taking a proactive approach

to address these challenges. At SAU there is currently an assessment under way to determine the contribution of climate on food- and water-borne diseases. We are also in the process of building the European Environment and Epidemiology Network (see graph below and read more page 7) and developing tool kits to prepare Member States for impending changes in infectious disease distribution.



European Environment and Epidemiology Network

Prime repository for scientific advice on infectious diseases

One SAU section provides internal services to ECDC by operating the Library (eLibrary and 'traditional' library services) and by building and operating Knowledge and Information Services (KISatECDC). The components are the Content Service, the Terminology Service, Public Health Directories & Maps, and Knowledge Navigation. Some services are targeted also for external use by the public health research community in the future.

Microbiological laboratory support

A key task of ECDC is to strengthen the microbiological laboratory support for infectious diseases prevention and control in EU. This is being done in collaboration with an EU 'lab forum' (National Microbiological Focal Points, NMFPs). SAU is currently working with the NMFPs on mapping the structure and functioning of public health microbiology in all Member States.

Produce guidance, risk assessments, scientific advice

One of the main activities of SAU is the development of public health guidance and risk assessment on infectious disease prevention and control, e.g. guidance on human papilloma vaccination, rapid risk assessment on a new strain of seasonal H1N1 influenza resistant to oseltamivir (Tamiflu), or scientific opinion on the use of influenza H5N1 vaccines for humans.

Read more: ecdc.europa.eu

Four disease specific programmes are hosted in SAU: antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections, influenza, tuberculosis and vaccine-preventable diseases and invasive bacterial infections. Below are some examples of their work:

Antimicrobial Resistance: fighting an Increasing threat

The burden of antimicrobial resistance is increasing in the EU and new antimicrobial resistant strains are constantly emerging. The Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections team is providing guidance for the control of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms, e.g. *Clostridium difficile*, and contributes to building capacity for the prevention and control such microorganisms in Member States through a network of Antimicrobial Resistance National Focal Points and invited country visits to discuss these antimicrobial resistance issues.

Influenza: are we prepared for the next pandemic (while fighting seasonal flu)?

Even before the start of ECDC in May 2005 WHO's European office and the European Commission were making a major effort to improve pandemic preparedness in the Region. Then just after ECDC opened there were major fears that 'bird flu' (the avian A(H5N1) influenza virus) would evolve and cause the next pandemic. Thus the SAU and the rest of the flu team in other parts of ECDC focused on assessing the risk to humans from this disease. Since those early months the scope of the SAU work on bird flu and pandemic influenza has expanded widely including producing information on the scientific pros and cons for investing human avian influenza vaccines and which public health measures are likely to be helpful and unhelpful in a pandemic.

In 2008 more activities are focusing on helping Member States and the EU to reduce the burden of human disease due to seasonal influenza. This is done by monitoring the level of vaccination in individuals at risk of severe disease and by providing evidence-based opinions on how to increase vaccination, which should be specially protected and what other measures could be effective. To rapidly prompt public health interventions in years when the influenza vaccine is less effective, we are establishing the real-time monitoring of vaccine effectiveness. We also promote

research in areas where the evidence is scant i.e. how does the virus transmit from person-to-person?

Increasing pandemic preparedness encompasses many actions to assist the EU in improving its generic level of preparedness and in addressing the special needs of individual countries. We help member states assess the level of pandemic preparedness in their countries and so of all of the EU/EEA, collect and share examples of innovations and good practices among Member States and provide advice on ways to reduce the impact of a pandemic.

The Influenza team at SAU is constantly screening and disseminating the most relevant scientific advances and public health developments occurring worldwide which are widely read each week in the publication Influenza News.

Tuberculosis: can EU stop TB?

The SAU has substantially contributed to the work on tuberculosis (TB) on some key activities that are at the core of TB control in the EU. Recently the Unit has been assigned to coordinating the TB work within ECDC.

TB control and prevention in migrants population is an area where SAU has been particularly active. The ongoing work includes assessing the effectiveness of interventions in such communities as well as developing forecasting models to predict the needs and burden of TB control in the coming decades within the EU.

The Unit is also working on contributing to catalyzing TB diagnostic developments within the EU. Supporting the strengthening of TB laboratory network and identifying public health research needs in the development and application of new TB diagnostics in the EU context are two of the key activities in this field.

It should also be mentioned that – within its coordinating role – the Unit is preparing the follow-up of the recently launched Framework Action Plan to Fight TB in the EU in close collaboration with the Commission and in consultation with Member States, WHO/Europe and partners (read more page 1).

Public health event: ECDC better prepared

ECDC's readiness in responding to public health events has significantly improved since last year's exercise. This was the main conclusion following Exercise Green Field, conducted on 3–4 June 2008.



First meeting of the Strategic Public Health Event Group

This internal exercise simulated an outbreak of meningitis in Austria during the Euro 2008 Football Championship. It aimed to test ECDC's new Public Health Event Operation Plan (PHEOP) and the Standards Operating Procedures (SOP).



Decision to activate Public Health Event Level 1



ECDC's staff working in the Emergency Operations Centre

Fast internal awareness, enhanced internal communication and dedicated logistic/helpdesk services are some of ECDC's new strengths. Activating an intranet and convening a staff meeting have been unanimously highlighted as key elements in ensuring staff are kept up-to-date.



Johan Giesecke briefing ECDC's staff



Evacuation exercise

ECDC acknowledges the support of the English Health Protection Agency (HPA) and thanks Paul Riley, Mike Barker, David Dalby, Rosemary Hayward from HPA as well Gabriele Poggenses (Robert Koch Institut), Roberta Andraghetti (WHO/Europe), Frank Van Loock (European Commission), Todea Iuliu (Romania), Loïc Josseran (Institut de Veille Sanitaire) and Mike Granatt (Luther Pendragon) for their valuable inputs.



Evaluators and observers discussing ECDC's performance

ECDC's review of Chlamydia control activities in Europe

From November 2006 to January 2008, ECDC conducted the Screening for Chlamydia Review in Europe (SCREn) project, an EU-wide survey on Chlamydia control activities. 30 countries (the 27 EU Member States, Cyprus, Slovakia and Poland excluded) plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey and the USA participated in the survey. The study identified wide variation in the range and intensity of activities that contribute to the public health control of Chlamydia. Chlamydial infection remains the most commonly reported bacterial STI in the EU and other industrialised countries. Genital Chlamydia infection, usually asymptomatic, affects mainly young people below 25.

*Read more: ecdc.europa.eu;
www.eurosurveillance.org*



Risk of vector-borne disease outbreaks in Europe

Climate and environmental changes may increase the risk of vector-borne disease outbreaks in the future. This is the key finding of an ECDC-initiated assessment on the importance and magnitude of vector-borne diseases for Europe. On 12

June 2008 the initial findings of the risk assessment were presented at ECDC, at the end of a two day meeting of experts from across Europe. The final report on the assessment will be published in the coming months (see also below).



Chikungunya Communication Toolkit: a joint effort

Following the outbreak of Chikungunya Fever in the area of Ravenna, Italy in Summer 2007 and the increasing presence of *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes in Europe, ECDC has prepared a Chikungunya Communications Toolkit. The Chikungunya Communications Toolkit provides template materials containing background information and practical advice on Chikungunya prevention and control. The template materials are targeted at

three key audiences: the general public in affected areas, visitors travelling to affected areas and health practitioners. Communicators in the Member States can adapt these materials, which include factsheets, brochures, posters and presentations, for use at national level.

For more information: please contact Sarah Earnshaw at sarah.earnshaw@ecdc.europa.eu or +46 858601624

World Hepatitis Day 2008: ECDC briefs EU deputies about hepatitis

On 20 May Marita van de Laar, Senior Expert at ECDC, briefed Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the latest EU-wide data on hepatitis. The MEPs marked World Hepatitis Day (which takes place 19 May) at a lunchtime meeting held in tandem with the European Parliament's plenary session in Strasbourg. ECDC also published a special hepatitis-

themed issue of its scientific journal *Eurosurveillance*. An analysis of hepatitis trends published in this issue shows that both Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C continue to pose significant public health challenges both for the EU and globally.

Read more: www.eurosurveillance.org

Online presentation of TESSy now available



Patrick Hau with flowers from ECDC

Learn more about The European Surveillance System (TESSy) through an online presentation. Containing material prepared for the training sessions organised since January 2008, it is a user-friendly information source for colleagues who need a speedy introduction to TESSy principles, data format and/or variables.

Between November 2007 and June 2008, ECDC's Surveillance Unit (SUN) concentrated its efforts on preparations to train Member States' surveillance contact points on submitting data to TESSy. To date, around 215 people have been trained through three on-site and two on-line trainings. More training is planned in the future. SUN found it extremely

encouraging that the overwhelming majority of participants felt confident about their ability to submit data to TESSy following completion of the training. Asked to provide feedback, training participants reported an average level of 95% satisfaction. To support less confident colleagues, the TESSy team is running a TESSy support line. National surveillance counterparts can request help via phone (+46 8 5860 1601) and email (tessy@ecdc.europa.eu). This service is actively used and appreciated.

Luxembourg is the first country that submitted data for all diseases to TESSy. ECDC expresses its gratefulness to Patrick Hau, epidemiologist and national strategic contact point for surveillance from the Division de l'Inspection Sanitaire for being the first to submit comprehensive disease data to TESSy.

Read more: www.world-television.se/projects/ECDC/2008/TESSy_training/

EPIET Fellowship Selection Day



On 12–14 May, ECDC hosted the third round of face-to-face interviews for the EPIET Fellowship competition. Candidates who had reached this stage had survived the initial culls by their respective nations and the EPIET/ECDC selection committee. For this final round the selection committee firstly interviewed and ranked candidates. Host institutes thereafter presented their projects and interviewed successful candidates, after which both parties ranked each other. To conclude

the round the selection committee convened with experts and programme coordinators to match up fellows with host institutes, based on the aforementioned rankings. After much deliberation, the final match-ups were sent to ECDC Director Zsuzsanna Jakab for approval. As a result of the selection meeting, EPIET cohort 14 will start in September with 19 fellows in 17 training sites.

Read more: www.epiet.org

ECDC in Vienna: keeping supporters healthy!



Peter Buxbaum

Peter Kreidl

Keeping supporters healthy during mass gatherings is a mission ECDC takes very seriously. Recently ECDC offered its support both to the Austrian and Swiss authorities during the EURO 2008 football cup. Daily telephone conferences were organised by ECDC and a bulletin on communicable disease threats and their impact on the Euro was sent to both countries on a daily basis including during weekends. Two persons, Peter Kreidl and Peter Buxbaum, an EPIET fellow hosted by the French Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVs) were in Vienna to support the Austrian authorities in their activities.

E³ Network: a proactive approach to climate change

The EU strategy for health 2008–2013 highlights climate change as a potential major threat to health, due to new communicable disease patterns which may arise as a result. However, the European capacity to analyse, predict and respond to changing communicable disease patterns is underdeveloped. ECDC (in collaboration with the European Environmental Agency, the WHO, and the Joint Research Centre) proposes to create a European Environment and Epidemiology Network – the E³ network. E³ would connect epidemic intelligence and infectious disease surveillance data (currently housed at ECDC) with environmental variables (meteorology, water and air quality, geology etc.). By linking existing data sets and harmonizing data models, changes in regional disease patterns could be related to environmental data. The network would also assist in the rapid detection of emerging environmental public health threats and would further the collaboration between agencies for the benefit of European and even global public health.

New Publications

For more information: publications@ecdc.europa.eu

Annual Report of the Director: 2007

The report outlines the activities of ECDC during 2007, being the second full year of the Centre's operation. As well as listing the main achievements in each area of work, the administrative and financial results are summarised, together with annexes detailing ECDC's partners and listing the key events of the year.

ECDC Strategic Multi-Annual Programme 2007–2013

This strategy paper offers a glimpse of ECDC's future by outlining the Centre's public health activities, its disease-specific programmes and its multilateral partnerships. Discussed and supported by ECDC's Management Board, this strategic multi-annual programme defines ECDC's targets and sets forth the strategies to achieve these goals.

HIV testing in Europe: from policies to effectiveness

When a group of HIV researchers met on 21–22 January in Stockholm to discuss HIV testing, their discussions were placed within a framework highlighting a paradigm shift whereby HIV testing should no longer be subject to different ethical parameters than other diseases. This paradigm shift poses strategic challenges for the organization of HIV prevention services. The researchers also noted that an estimated 30% of HIV infected persons in EU countries are unaware of their infection, and that there were many missed opportunities to diagnose HIV infections in EU countries. This meeting report paints a concise yet comprehensive picture of the current situation of HIV testing in Europe.

Workshop on Linking Environmental and Infectious Diseases Data

Based on the assumption that environmental change has an impact on infectious disease patterns, this meeting report (28–29 May, Sigtuna, Sweden) explores the possibility of using trend analysis to establish an early warning system which could help Member States to enact measures to prevent or control disease outbreaks.

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Upcoming events...

03–05.09.2008	'Eurogrippe' Pandemic Preparedness Workshop organised by the French Presidency with ECDC, Angers, France
08–09.09.2008	Informal Health Council, Angers, France
08–11.09.2008	Cooperation Visit for Self Assessment of Pandemic Preparedness, Turkey
10–11.09.2008	Competent Bodies for Scientific Advice meeting, Stockholm, ECDC
13.09.2008	Joint ECDC-WHO Global Consultation on Oseltamivir Resistant H1N1 Viruses, Portugal
23.09.2008	Extraordinary Management Board meeting on the External Evaluation, Stockholm, ECDC
25–26.09.2008	3 rd meeting of the National Microbiology Focal Points, Stockholm, ECDC
08–09.09.2008	Eurosurveillance editorial board meeting, Stockholm, ECDC
09–10.10.2008	Advisory Forum meeting, Stockholm, ECDC
08–11.11.2008	WHO Intergovernmental Meeting on Virus Sharing, Geneva
13–14.11.2008	Management Board meeting, Paris
18.11.2008	First European Antibiotic Awareness Day, Across Europe
19–21.11.2008	European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Epidemiology (ESCAIDE), Berlin
26–27.11.2008	Surveillance in a Pandemic Workshop, Stockholm
9–10.12.2008	Advisory Forum meeting, Stockholm, ECDC

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