

# Protecting Europe against disease for **20 years**



Since its establishment in 2005, ECDC has worked to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases. Let's take a look at our journey:

## IN THE BEGINNING

**11%** SARS fatality rate during the 2002-3 outbreak. This showed the speed at which a pathogen could emerge, spread across borders, and take lives, prompting the EU to take action.

**22** Number of months it took for ECDC to be set up from the introduction of draft legislation to its opening in May 2005. This was record time for an EU agency.

**25** Number of member states in the EU when ECDC was opened. Today, there are 27. ECDC was created because the EU's open borders and growing membership made scientific coordination essential.

*"Citizens should know, value, and most importantly, trust ECDC."*

*Pamela Rendi-Wagner, ECDC Director*

From the outset, ECDC has been coordinating key aspects of disease prevention and control, in particular:



### Surveillance

Detecting and monitoring any multinational communicable disease outbreaks - focusing on source, time, population and place



### Epidemic intelligence

Providing a central hub for detecting and assessing public health threats across Europe, allowing for timely responses and risk assessments



### Preparedness

Providing information and tools to ensure that EU members are fully prepared for disease outbreaks at a national and local level



### Response

Helping EU members during emergencies. This includes contact tracing, field deployment, simulation exercises and more

## OUR JOURNEY

### ECDC EVOLUTION

**2005**

#### ECDC opens

ECDC's office opens in Stockholm in Sweden with just 30 staff.

**2008**

#### TESSy

The European Surveillance system (TESSy) is launched, providing a one-stop shop for all surveillance data collected by ECDC in Europe and worldwide.

**2014**

#### Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases

ECDC creates a new tool allowing users to generate their own charts and maps on key infectious diseases.

**2020-23**

#### Covid-19

First detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, Covid-19 reached the EU in January 2020. ECDC activated its emergency plan which remained in place for 1 168 days.

**2021**

#### EpiPulse

The EpiPulse portal creates a single access point for infectious disease surveillance, drawing on data from TESSy.

**October 2022**

The European Parliament endorses the extended mandate of ECDC, to improve European preparedness and response for future health challenges.

### KEY OUTBREAKS

**2009**

#### Swine flu

At its peak in October, there were 100 000 cases a week in the EU. ECDC activated its Emergency Plan and worked 24/7 providing surveillance and critical updates.

**2013**

#### Ebola

This was the largest ever outbreak of the disease. Starting in West Africa, it would kill over 11 000 people. ECDC sent its experts to West Africa and increased its surveillance of ebola to prevent its spread outside of the affected region.

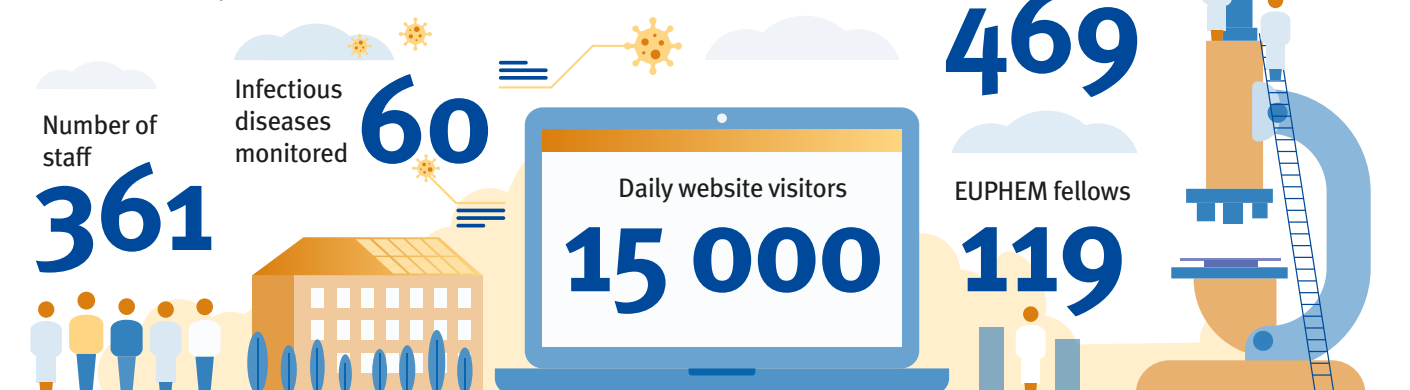
**2024**

#### Mpox

ECDC staff are sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the European Health Task Force, in response to the WHO declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

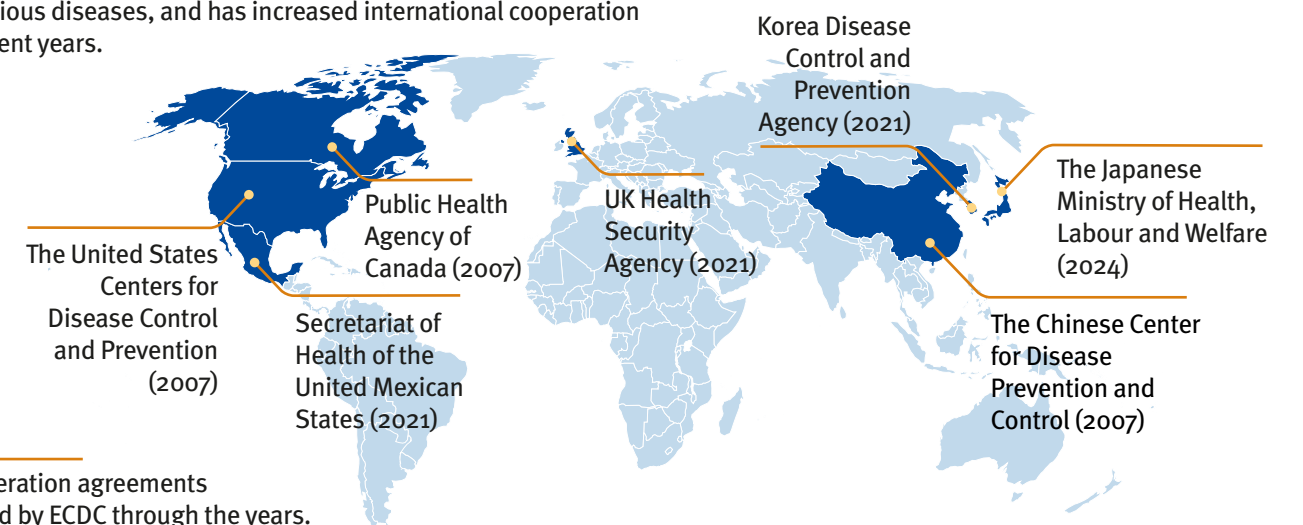
## ECDC TODAY

Since 2005, ECDC has grown in staff, website visitors, the number of fellows it trains, and the diseases that are under surveillance.

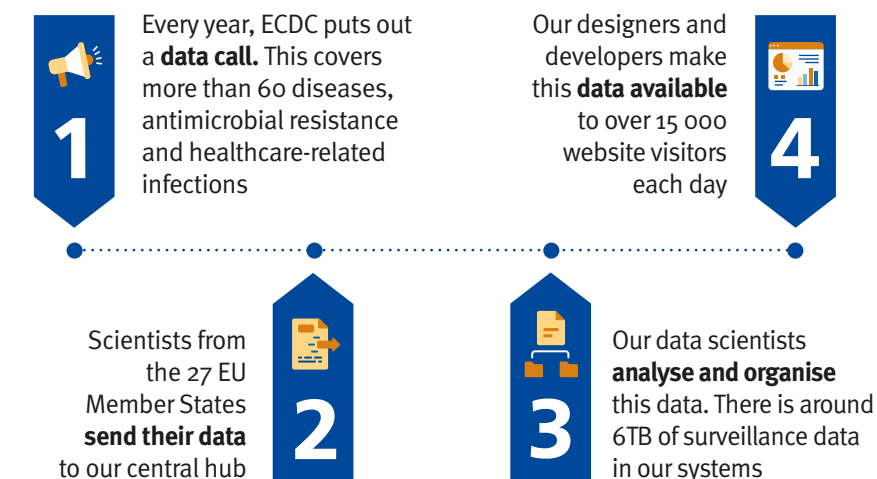


## OUR INTERNATIONAL REACH

ECDC works with countries across the globe in the fight against infectious diseases, and has increased international cooperation in recent years.



## HOW WE MONITOR AND COLLECT DATA



## THE NEXT 20 YEARS

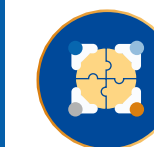
ECDC aims to keep protecting Europe against infectious diseases through:



Strengthened preparedness and response measures



Enhanced and integrated real-time epidemiological surveillance



Building trust in science and fostering collaboration

For more information, visit [ecdc.europa.eu](https://ecdc.europa.eu)