EU Health Task Force: Background

Pandemic lessons learned

- Shortcomings in EU mechanisms for managing threats
- Lack of readily available human resources for timely deployment

→ Need for a stronger EU deployable work force

New ECDC mandate*

- Establish the **EU Health Task Force** mechanism
  - Effective operational response and crisis preparedness support to EU/EEA and global health security
  - Creation and coordination by ECDC, in collaboration with EU/EEA countries, European Commission, and EU partners

## EU Health Task Force: Scope of work

### Preparedness

- Development, review of preparedness and response plans or guidelines/protocols related to specific technical areas
- Testing of preparedness and response plans, or plans related to specific technical areas
- Review implementation of preparedness and response actions
- Support implementation of capacity building activities

### Response

- Threat detection and monitoring, including during outbreak or following disasters
- Outbreak investigation and emergency response
- Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
- Operational research in the context of an outbreak response

**Surveillance, public health laboratories, infection prevention and control, EOC, points of entry**

*Simulation exercise*

*IAR, AAR*

*Actions identified through other activities (e.g. country assessments), other capacity building needs*
EU Health Task Force: Requesting support

Who can request support: national health authorities; EC; WHO; GOARN; non-governmental organisations

Geographical scope: EU/EEA countries, EU candidate countries, potential candidate countries, European Neighbourhood Policy countries and other partner countries

Criteria for EUHTF mobilisation: focus on one country or one crisis and a related emergency preparedness or response area of work related to infectious diseases or of unknown origin

- Technical support for an emergency/outbreak response, focused on investigation, prevention and control activities, including surge capacity support during times of crisis
  OR
- Technical support for an ad hoc preparedness activity that is country/setting specific and addresses a specific technical gap
  AND
- Technical support that is time limited in nature and does not involve intensive work over medium- long-term
  AND
- Technical support related to the above points, that will have a clear public health impact for EU/EEA or globally
**ECDC Coordination Team**
- Led by Head of Section PHF
- ECDC Public Health Experts
- Communication and coordination
- Development of administrative, readiness and mobilisation procedures

**Enhanced Emergency Capacity**
Including experts from:
- ECDC staff
- Experts from EU/EEA countries
- ECDC Fellowship Programme (during the 2-year placement)
- Field deployments / missions
- Remote technical support
- Community of knowledge and practice