EU HEALTH **TASK FORCE**

EU Health Task Force: Background

Pandemic lessons learned → **New ECDC mandate***

Shortcomings in EU mechanisms for managing threats

Lack of readily available human resources for timely deployment

→ Need for a stronger EU deployable work force
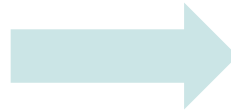
Establish the **EU Health Task Force** mechanism

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

*Regulation (EU) 2022/2370 of the European Parliament and of the Council

EU Health Task Force: Scope of work

Preparedness	
❖ Development, review of preparedness and response plans or guidelines/protocols related to specific technical areas	*Surveillance, public health laboratories, infection prevention and control, EOC, points of entry*
❖ Testing of preparedness and response plans, or plans related to specific technical areas	*Simulation exercise*
❖ Review implementation of preparedness and response actions	*IAR, AAR*
❖ Support implementation of capacity building activities	*Actions identified through other activities (e.g. country assessments), other capacity building needs*

Response	
❖ Threat detection and monitoring, including during outbreak or following disasters	*Development, strengthening or operation of surveillance systems*
❖ Outbreak investigation and emergency response	*EOC operations, epidemiological investigations, rapid threat and risk assessment, molecular epidemiology*
❖ Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	*Develop, implement, maintain incident management system and tools*
❖ Operational research in the context of an outbreak response	*Develop protocols, cross border studies, data analysis, support for collaboration with stakeholders and partners including relevant EU initiatives*

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

EU Health Task Force: Composition

ECDC Coordination Team

Who

- Led by Head of Section PHF
- ECDC Public Health Experts

What

- Communication and coordination
- Development of administrative, readiness and mobilisation procedures

Expert pools

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

Enhanced Emergency Capacity

Large mobilisations of the EUHTF in the event of the declaration of a public health emergency, under the European commission and ECDC coordination

EU HEALTH TASK FORCE

Supporting emergency preparedness and response in the EU and globally

For further information: EUHTF@ecdc.europa.eu

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