

## ECDC Accession Support Action: Work plan 2026

ECDC Accession support to the EU candidate countries and potential candidates: strengthening communicable disease capacities to implement EU *acquis* in surveillance, public health emergency preparedness, and One Health responses against AMR, 2026–2029

### Background and description

ECDC's collaboration with non-EU countries is laid down in the [Regulation \(EU\) 2022/2370 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 amending Regulation \(EC\) No 851/2004 establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control the Centre](#) in several articles:

- Article 3: Mission and tasks of the Centre
- Article 5(b): prevention, preparedness and response planning
- Article 9: scientific and technical assistance and training
- Article 11: collection and analysis of data
- Article 11(a): support for international and field preparedness and response
- Article 30: participation of third countries, which have concluded agreements with the EU, to ECDC work and activities

The [signed Memoranda of Understanding](#) set the framework of cooperation between ECDC and national public health authorities in EU candidate countries, and this includes joint implementation of ECDC technical cooperation actions with external funding by the European Commission.

Building on the results achieved to date by five previous projects with IPA beneficiaries<sup>1</sup>, on 5 January 2026 the European Union Contribution Agreement No 700004344 was signed between ECDC and the

European Commission (Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood, DG ENEST) to implement [ECDC Accession Support Action](#) with external financial assistance under the EU Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI).

### Project scope

The aim of the project is to prepare the national public health authorities of EU candidate countries and potential candidates for their future participation with ECDC through strengthening their capacities to implement the *EU acquis* on serious cross-border threats to health from infectious diseases and advancing One Health responses against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



<sup>1</sup> ECDC funding and contribution agreements: ECDC-IPA1 No 2007/147-091, ECDC-IPA2 No 2009/202-963, ECDC-IPA3 No

2011/282-291, ECDC-IPA4 No 2015/361-042, ECDC-IPA5 No 2017/386-267, ECDC-IPA6 No 2019/409-781.

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## Work plan 2026

### **Work stream 1: Strengthening the capacities of Action beneficiaries to implement the EU *acquis* on communicable disease surveillance, preparedness and response planning, and early warning**

The tentative list of 2026 events as part of Work Stream 1 includes the following:

#### **Preparedness and Response Executive Training Programme, Cohort 2, meeting 2, 20–21 January 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **Preparedness and Response Executive Training Programme, Cohort 3, meeting 1, 23–27 February 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **Hepatitis B and C Network Meeting, 10–12 March 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **Hand hygiene app training meeting, 5 May 2026**

**Location:** Virtual

**Participants:** Observer NFPs for AMR

#### **EU/EEA Respiratory Virus Network meeting, 20–22 May 2026**

**Location:** In person, Vienna, Austria

**Participants:** Observer NFPs for VRD or CPOs for Epidemiology for COVID 19, Influenza or SARI

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **Epidemic Intelligence Training, 1–4 June 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** Designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC-IPA7/ NDICI Action

#### **TB Network meeting, 3–4 June 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **Preparedness and Response Executive Training Programme, Cohort 3, meeting 2, 9–10 June 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Seden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **STI Network meeting, 10 June 2026**

**Location:** Virtual

**Participants:** nominated gonorrhoea experts having access to TESSy GONO data reporting (epidemiology and microbiology profiles)

#### **Annual network meeting of the National Focal Points for Vaccine-preventable diseases, 10–11 June 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

#### **ARHAI - PPS training meeting, 11–12 June 2026**

**Location:** Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** CPOs HAI-PPS and HAI-HALT

**Funding source:** ECDC-IPA7/ NDICI Action

#### **Epidemic Intelligence Network Meeting, 15–16 September 2026**

**Location:** In person, Bucharest, Romania

**Participants:** Observer NFPs for Thread Detection (tbc)

**Funding source:** ECDC-IPA7/ NDICI Action

#### **Control of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in healthcare settings, 15–25 September 2026**

**Location:** Virtual

**Participants:** designated experts

#### **EURGen-Net Network Meeting, 16–18 September 2026**

**Location:** Munich, Germany

**Participants:** CPOs AMRISO

**Funding source:** ECDC-IPA7/ NDICI Action

#### **HIV Network meeting, 23–25 September 2026**

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget; joint ECDC-WHO activity

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### Annual Meeting of NFPs for Microbiology, 28–29 September 2026

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** Observers NFPs for Microbiology

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

### Annual Meeting of NFPs for Surveillance, 29–30 September 2026

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** Observers NFPs for Surveillance

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

### eHealth-based surveillance meeting, 1–2 October 2026

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** Observers NFPs for Surveillance/CPOs for Health-based surveillance

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

### HAI-Net Network meeting, 13–14 October 2026

**Location:** Virtual

**Participants:** Nominated HAI-PPS contacts or Observer NFP for AMR

### Preparedness and Response Executive Training Programme, Cohort 4, meeting 1, 19–23 October 2026

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

### SoHO Network meeting for blood, 20–21 October 2027

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

### EVD Network Meeting, 20–22 October 2026

**Location:** In person, Stockholm, Sweden

**Participants:** Observer NFPs for EVD

**Funding source:** ECDC core budget

### Hepatitis Network meeting, 10 November 2026

**Location:** Virtual

**Participants:** designated experts

### ECDC Regional EVD surveillance workshop and annual meeting of National ECDC Correspondents in

### EU enlargement countries, 17–18 November 2026 (TBC)

**Location:** In person, TBC

**Participants:** ECDC NCs, Observer NFPs for EVD and CPOs for EVD for Epidemiology and Microbiology, Observer NFPs for Surveillance

**Funding source:** ECDC-IPA7/ NDICI Action

### Winter Workshop, December (TBC) 2026

**Location:** Virtual

**Participants:** designated experts from BA, TR and UA

### EU *acquis* preparatory workshop for Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371, early warning and response, EU Health Task Force (tbc)

**Location:** ECDC (tbc)

**Participants:** Observer NFP for Preparedness and Response and designated experts

**Funding source:** ECDC-IPA7/ NDICI Action

### Indicator-based and event-based disease surveillance

In 2026, following the nomination of Observer roles for data reporting to EpiPulse Cases, online training will be provided for experts in Moldova and Ukraine. Training on Legionnaires' disease surveillance reporting to ECDC will be provided, if needed.

All beneficiary countries will be invited to the annual collection of surveillance data on agreed diseases in EpiPulse Cases, participation in EpiPulse Events will be encouraged and ad hoc support provided if necessary. Regular feedback on surveillance data quality, e.g. timeliness or completeness of data reported to ECDC will be provided.

ECDC will design annual surveillance reports for partners under the EU enlargement policy.

### Preparedness and response, risk assessment, outbreak investigation, incident management and emergency operation centres

ECDC will design and invite all Action beneficiaries to report their capacities and capabilities related to Chapters II and IV of Regulation 2022/2371, so that the progress on improvement can be measured annually.

Jointly with the countries ECDC will prepare for the upcoming 'observership facility' for ECDC Article 8 missions in EU/EEA countries that is planned as of 2027.

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## **Work stream 2. Advancing One Health approaches against AMR with the technical support from the EC and EFSA**

This Action will continue to support Action beneficiary countries in the advancement of the ‘One Health’ approach against AMR through: (i) the identification of gaps in current national AMR strategies and action plans; (ii) the development of country roadmaps on AMR and support for awareness-raising initiatives; (iii) support in the development of electronic surveillance of AMR. The gap analysis and ECDC/EFSA/EC country visit on One Health against AMR is planned to take place in Albania in 2026, and in Moldova in 2027.

After the country visit report with gap analysis and conclusions is finalised, the development of a roadmap is initiated with the national counterparts to address recommendations and ensure EU standards are respected. In liaison with the national public health and veterinary authorities, it is anticipated that the support to country roadmaps to advance One Health responses on AMR will be provided to the visited countries, i.e. Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and initiated in Albania.