



Preparatory measures for the participation of the Western Balkans and Turkey in ECDC with special focus on One-Health against AMR and enhanced SARI surveillance,

2020 – 2024

Project Background and Description

Collaboration with countries who have applied to join the EU has been one of the strategic priorities of ECDC since early years of its establishment and endorsed in the [ECDC Strategy 2021-2027](#). It is the [sixth ECDC project](#) with external financial assistance by DG NEAR under the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) aimed to prepare national authorities of Western Balkans and Turkey for their future participation in ECDC. The beneficiaries of this ECDC-IPA6 project benefit from a European perspective that was granted to them by the European Parliament and the Council, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Turkey (IPA beneficiaries). The work stream dedicated to the Advancement of One-Health responses against AMR primarily targets the Western Balkans as per the EU strategy for [A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans](#). In response to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak the EU approved a substantial support package to the Western Balkans in tackling COVID-19 and the post-pandemic recovery. To complement EU's response approach of reallocation of financial support to address the immediate effects of COVID-19 related crisis, ECDC has embarked on additional work area under this project on enhanced SARI surveillance in Western Balkans.

Project Scope

Contribute to increased health security in the EU through international collaboration and alignment regarding infectious disease policies and practice. Within the action area on strengthened cooperation and coordination between ECDC and partners in EU neighbourhood, ECDC supports Western Balkans and Turkey to strengthen their infectious disease prevention and control systems and public health workforce.

Project aim

To support national counterparts in IPA beneficiaries in their preparation for full participation in ECDC technical activities and to enhance IPA beneficiaries' capacities to advance One-Health responses against AMR and enhanced SARI surveillance.

Work Plan 2022

Work Stream 1 "Preparatory measures for participation of IPA beneficiaries' authorities* in ECDC activities and systems aims to further support national counterparts in the IPA beneficiaries in their preparation for full participation in ECDC work"



- Following discussions in the [Annual Meeting of National ECDC Correspondents in October 2021](#), the Observer role for NFP for Emerging and Vector-borne Diseases will be established.
- Data submitted by Western Balkans and Turkey on mutually agreed diseases will be reviewed in order to increase the level of EU-level data quality in terms of comparability, timeliness, and reliability of communicable diseases surveillance data.
- National ECDC Correspondents from Western Balkans will be granted access to SRM to update and managed their country contacts directly

- ECDC meetings with participation of experts from national public health authorities in Western Balkans and Turkey:

Here are the official translations:

ECDC/WHO European COVID-19 contact tracing meeting, 1 March 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** EVD-LabNet contact points invited by ECDC

EVD-LabNet Training, 28 – 30 March 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** EVD-LabNet contact points invited by ECDC external contractor

Annual Meeting of FWD Network, 30 – 31 March 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Nominated FWD experts from IPA beneficiaries

Workshop: Running an off-the-shelf exercise on Legionnaires' disease outbreaks, 4 May 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Nominated Legionnaires disease experts ELSDNet members

ERLTB-Net-2: Annual meeting and large capacity building workshop, 03 – 05 May 2022

Location: Hybrid, Italy **Participants:** One expert per country to be designated

Annual EVD Network Meeting, May or October 2022

Location: ECCD, Sweden **Participants:** Observers NFP for EVD (to be nominated)

EVD-LabNet webinars, Q2, Q3 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** EVD-LabNet contact points invited by ECDC

Summer School 2022 “Emerging challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic in ethics, risk communication, and public health emergency preparedness and response”, 29 April, 3-4 May 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Participants to be designated, in coordination with MediPIET

ECDC Epidemic intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessment training, 26-29 April 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Two experts per country to be designated

4th joint meeting on AMR for the FWD-Network and EURL-AR Network, 09-10 June 2022

Location: Hybrid, Denmark **Participants:** One expert per country to be designated

Tuberculosis Disease Network Meeting, Q3 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Experts to be designated

HAI-Net Network Meeting, September 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** One expert per country to be designated

Joint monthly webinars for NFPs for Preparedness and Response and for Threat Detection: January 13; February 24; March 24; April 28; May 19; June 30; August 25 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Observers NFP for Preparedness and Response and Observers NFP for Preparedness and Response

Annual Meeting of NFP for Preparedness and Response, Q3 2022

Location: ECDC, Sweden **Participants:** Observers NFP for Preparedness and Response

Annual Meeting of NFP for Threat Detection, EWRS and IHR, Q3 2022

Location: Hybrid, ECDC, Sweden **Participants:** Observer NFP for Threat Detection

Joint ECDC - WHO/Europe Meeting – Viral Respiratory Diseases, Q3 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Observers NFP for VRD

Annual EVD-LabNet Network Meeting, October 2022

Location: Hybrid **Participants:** EVD-LabNet contact points invited by ECDC

ELDSNet Annual Meeting, Q3 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Nominated Legionnaires Disease experts

Training of trainers workshop on Legionella disease for accommodation site managers in Western Balkans, Q3-Q4 2022

Location: To be decided **Participants:** Four experts per country

Annual Meeting of National ECDC Correspondents in Western Balkans and Turkey, Q3-Q4 2022

Location: Hybrid, ECDC, Sweden **Participants:** National ECDC Correspondents, Observers NFP for Preparedness, Threat Detection, Microbiology, Surveillance

Bimonthly COVID-19 coordinating meetings with Western Balkans, 29 March; May; June; August; October; December 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** National ECDC Correspondents in Western Balkans

Annual meeting of NMFP, Q3 2022

Location: Hybrid, ECDC, Sweden **Participants:** Observers NMFP

Annual meeting of NSFP, Q4 2022

Location: Hybrid, ECDC, Sweden **Participants:** National ECDC Correspondents in Western Balkans

Control of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) in healthcare settings, Q4 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Two experts per country to be designated

Winter Workshop 2022 “Recovery – from lessons identified to lessons learned”, 29 November, 1, 6 December 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Participants to be designated, in coordination with MediPIET

SRM user training webinars, Q2 – Q3

Location: Virtual **Participants:** National ECDC Correspondents

Vaccine hesitancy training of trainers course, Q4 2022

Location: Virtual **Participants:** Online modules open to everyone

Other possible meetings in 2022 with attendance of national experts from IPA beneficiaries

- Workshop on improved version of epitweetr
- Competency training workshop
- Biorisk awareness and management training (BAM)
- Cross-border simulation exercise (tentative)

Work Stream 2. Advancement of One-Health approaches against AMR

Following the conclusions of the [Joint ECDC and EFSA Regional workshop on One Health approach against AMR](#), it is planned to publish in 2022 the open call for procuring services for Country support to advance One-Health responses against antimicrobial resistance in Western Balkans and conclude a framework contract for the implementation of the country visits to discuss AMR issues and assist national authorities in programming national roadmaps on One Health against AMR.

Work Stream 3. Enhancing SARI surveillance to support the implementation of fit-for-purpose surveillance systems

Plan for 2022 is to ensure that technical support to national authorities is continued by EpiConcept through a new follow-up service contract for implementation of surveillance activities and of the studies, as well as for training and capacity building. This shall enhance the capacities in the countries to implement the protocols, validate data and contribute to the ECDC activities as per standards at the level of the EU Member States.