

ECDC INFORMATION SHEET

Public Health Training Section

Senior Exchange Initiative (SEI)

Training overview

The **Senior Exchange Initiative** (SEI) for public health expert is considered part of ECDC Continuous Professional Development Programme (CPDP). It is a key target of the ECDC Strategic Multiannual Plan (SMAP).

The SEI is a multilateral exchange of senior public health experts from EU Member States (MS). The programme provides the participants with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with working methods of other EU countries, create a network and trust among colleagues and support the European dimension in public health cooperation and training. It is based on exchange visits and aims at providing bilateral learning opportunities. The Public Health Training section's senior exchange is targeted to experts working with Public Health institutes at the national, regional or local level, and is offered through a call for expression of interest every year. Since only a small group of experts can be reached, cascading as one means of broadening the impact of the initiative is a mandatory part of the exchanges, and visiting experts are requested to document their cascading activities.

Target group

The **Senior Exchange Initiative** is open to experts and institutions from all EU and European Economic Area (EEA) Member States in formal ECDC networks, such as disease programmes, core function networks, EPIET/EUPHEM supervisors, Coordinating Competent Body Structure (including all National Focal Point Functions).

Professional profiles of applicants may include: epidemiologist, microbiologist or any other public health expert fulfilling the national interest for capability building.

Content and learning objectives

The **objectives** of the SEI are:

- Create opportunity for PH experts to familiarise themselves with working methods of other EU countries and promote sharing of good practices.
- Foster **mutual learning, networking** and trust among colleagues within the EU.
- Improve MSs national, regional and local **capacity and competence** in the specific area targeted by the training.

- Support the European dimension in PH cooperation and training

Method

The **Senior Exchange Initiative** entails the exchange of professionals between PH institutions and/or laboratories across EU/EEA. Visiting experts will spend a period of **one to two weeks** in a selected hosting site in an EU MS or an EEA country on an **on-the-job training**. Each training visit is organised around one or more **specific topic/s** as outlined in the scope of the training. The visiting expert is expected **to cascade** newly gained knowledge to their colleagues in their home country after the exchange and/or have a marked impact on improving surveillance.

ECDC will cover the visit in terms of travel, accommodation and per diem.

Selection process for participants: visiting experts and hosting sites

Table 1: general criteria for participants' selection

General criteria for participants selection	
Visiting experts	Hosting sites
National of one EU/EEA MS or currently resident in a EU/EEA MS	Public health institute or laboratory in the public sector based in one EU/EEA MS
Currently working in a EU/EEA public health institute or laboratory in the public sector	Be willing to participate in the SEI as a host site
Professional profiles: public health expert, epidemiologist, microbiologist	Professional profile(s) matching the requesting exchange profile
Plan to cascade the knowledge acquired within the country and/or to improve the diagnostic/surveillance capacity at local/national level.	Be willing to provide mentorship to the visiting expert and identify a contact point for the purpose of the training visit/s
Good command of English (or of another EU language relevant for the purpose of the training visit)	Good command of English (or of another EU language relevant for the purpose of the exchange visit)

Selection of candidates is done via National Focal Points for Training in the Member States, and is based on a call for expression of interest.