



# **EU Initiative on Health Security**

## **Work Programme 2025**





# EU Initiative on Health Security

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The EU Initiative on Health Security aims to set up a competent regional workforce for the prevention and control of challenges posed by communicable diseases and to enhance regional cooperation to tackle cross-border health security threats. It focuses on three major areas:

- Workforce-oriented capability building delivered through the Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)
- Capacity building in epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness, and response
- Integration with ECDC systems, knowledge sharing, and networking

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## Work Package 1

### Field epidemiology workforce development through Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)



MediPIET is an established regional training programme in intervention epidemiology, aiming to consolidate the competence of national and sub-national workforces to enable them to carry out essential public health functions for the prevention and control of national and cross-border challenges posed by communicable diseases. The current phase of the programme, funded by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) (ENI/2020/415-420), is being implemented from 2021 to 2025.

MediPIET is structured to allow partner countries to tailor implementation based on their specific needs. Key components include:

- A two-year, 'learning-by-doing' advanced Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP).
- Training of trainers to enhance capacity building.
- Network strengthening activities to foster collaboration.
- Support for knowledge transfer and cascading of training within partner countries.

### MediPIET modules

In 2025, ECDC will deliver five MediPIET modules with additional activities to support MediPIET fellows currently in training (Cohort 6: 2023–2025) and other nominated participants from partner countries.

### **Q1 Module 1: Multivariable analysis (MVA) (Cohort 6)**

This module aims to provide participants with practical skills in conducting the different types of multivariable analysis, including linear regression, logistic regression, Poisson regression, survival analysis, and Cox regressions.

### **Q2 Module 2: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Awareness and Mitigation Module (CBRN) (Cohort 6, supervisors and external nominated participants)**

This module is designed to help participants understand the principles and processes involved in preparing and responding to threats caused by Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) agents to the human health.

### **Module 3: Rapid Assessment and Survey Methods (RAS) module (Cohort 6 and external nominated participants)**

This module aims to equip field epidemiologists with the skills to contribute to surveillance, outbreak alert and response in mass gathering events. Participants learn to apply appropriate sampling methods and techniques tailored to the population; support multidisciplinary and international responses to complex emergency situations (CES) and use epidemiological skills to serve public health interventions.

### **Q3 Module 4: Project Review Module (Cohort 6)**

This module aims to provide participants with methodological knowledge on giving and receiving feedback to scientific projects, as well as communicating project findings to peers. It will also prepare them to interact with multidisciplinary audiences at scientific conferences.

### **Module 5: Introductory Course (External nominated participants)**

This module introduces fellows to the conceptual framework of field epidemiology, including analytical epidemiology, public health surveillance, operational research, outbreak investigation, communication and public health microbiology.

## **Additional activities within MediPIET**

**Throughout the year, MediPIET fellows will benefit from visits to other public health organisations and to scientific conferences to acquire the competencies necessary for a field epidemiologist.**

### **Training Centres Forum meetings**

The MediPIET Training Centres Forum (TCF) will meet at regular intervals during the year, both virtually and face-to-face. In addition, ECDC will organise a joint

annual meeting of national ECDC correspondents and MediPIET National Focal Points.

### **Meeting of the MediPIET alumni network (MediAN)**

MediPIET supervisors will be offered the opportunity to take part in training activities provided annually by ECDC, such as the ECDC Summer School. MediPIET will also organise training solely for supervisors to acquire and improve their competencies in R programming. In addition, supervisors will be given the opportunity to express their interest in the facilitation of modules which they can attend as a ‘train-the-trainer’ participant if it is an area where they wish to build their skills.

### **Graduation of Cohort 6**

Cohort 6 fellows will be celebrated at a graduation ceremony in connection with ESCAIDE 2025.

### **Training site review visits**

In 2025, ECDC will continue to offer MediPIET training site review visits to partner countries with an existing training site. Training site review visits will be organised and scheduled bilaterally.

## Work Package 2

### Epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response



The EU Initiative on Health Security aims to address the prerequisites for efficient public health systems by helping partner countries to strengthen their capacities to assess, detect, respond, and prevent threats from communicable diseases, as well as by enhancing regional cooperation.

The programme for 2025 is based on relevant assessments of preparedness and response capacities alongside continuous dialogue between partner countries and ECDC.

The work programme presented here outlines activities primarily organised as multi-country capacity-strengthening events. In addition to these activities, ECDC embarks on tailored bilateral activities, based on expressed interests and requests.

All participants are nominated by ECDC National Correspondents from the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) partner countries.

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## Q1 Workshop on infodemic management during outbreaks

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	19–20 February
<b>Location</b>	Djerba, Tunisia
<b>Description</b>	This workshop has been designed to increase knowledge on the operationalisation of infodemic management in national settings. By the end of the workshop the participants will have a deeper understanding of infodemics and their impact on public health during health emergencies.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The aim is to equip participants with practical skills, tools and strategies to detect, track and manage infodemics during public health emergencies.</p> <p>In addition, the workshop will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• explore the behavioural and socio-cultural factors driving the acceptance and spread of false information;</li> <li>• guide participants in developing actionable strategies for national infodemic management.</li> </ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	The workshop is designed for professionals who might have a role in overseeing or implementing infodemic management activities or whose roles are related to emergency communication preparedness and response.

## Q2 Training workshop on Epidemic Intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessment

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	8–10 April
<b>Location</b>	Chişinău, Moldova
<b>Description</b>	Practical and activity-based training on approaches for conducting Epidemic Intelligence (EI) and Rapid Risk Assessments (RRA) following ECDC methodology.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Participants will learn how to conduct epidemic intelligence and carry out rapid risk assessments to ensure a timely response to potential health risks.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand the principles of EI and RRA</li> <li>• recognise steps in EI process and RRA production</li> <li>• summarise the reasons for doing EI and RRA</li> <li>• identify and apply EI and RRA methodology and tools</li> <li>• contribute to a team working on EI process and RRA production</li> <li>• promote dialogue and exchanges among countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	The workshop is designed for public health professionals from the EU Eastern Neighbourhood who actively work in epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response to public health emergencies in their respective countries.

## Q2 Training on evidence-based public health

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	TBC
<b>Location</b>	TBC
<b>Description</b>	The workshop introduces basic concepts of evidence-based public health and evidence informed decision-making.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The goal of the course is to provide participants with a theoretical and practical overview of methods and tools for evidence-based public health, with the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand key principles and concepts for evidence-informed and evidence-based decision-making, and</li> <li>• To recognise the importance of conducting systematic reviews and their relevance to evidence-based practices in infectious disease epidemiology, prevention and control.</li> </ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	Public health professionals with diverse professional backgrounds who work in prevention, preparedness, and response to public health emergencies in their respective countries.

## Q3 Workshop on integrated vector control and public health entomology

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	TBC
<b>Location</b>	TBC
<b>Description</b>	To strengthen regional capacities and dialogue related to the preparedness and response to vector-borne diseases in the EU Southern Neighbourhood
<b>Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote cross-country exchange on trends and strategies related to vector-borne disease risk;</li> <li>• Promote enhanced awareness among public health specialists of entomology and key strategies for the control of vector-borne disease;</li> <li>• Discuss strategies for integrating vector control into preparedness and response strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	Public health professionals from the EU Southern Neighbourhood who are currently, or who may in the future be involved in developing and implementing strategies for the control of vector-borne disease in their respective countries.



## Q4 Workshop on population displacement and infectious diseases

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	TBC
<b>Location</b>	TBC
<b>Description</b>	Displaced and internally displaced populations are vulnerable to a range of health outcomes, including infectious disease, and the delivery of healthcare services to these population groups can be challenging. In addition, sudden, unanticipated cross-border population flows may challenge preparedness at points of entry.
<b>Objectives</b>	The workshop will foster dialogue between ENP and EU Member States on key trends, solutions, and challenges related to the provision of public health and communicable disease control services among displaced populations.
<b>Target audience</b>	Public health, civil protection and humanitarian professionals with diverse professional backgrounds who work in prevention, preparedness and response to public health emergencies in their respective countries.

## Q4 Training workshop on Epidemic Intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessment

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	TBC
<b>Location</b>	TBC
<b>Description</b>	Practical and activity-based training on approaches to conducting Epidemic Intelligence (EI) and Rapid Risk Assessments (RRA) following ECDC methodology.
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>Participants will learn how to conduct epidemic intelligence and carry out rapid risk assessments systematically, to ensure a timely response to potential health risks.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand the principles of EI and RRA;</li> <li>• recognise steps in EI process and RRA production,</li> <li>• summarise the reasons for doing EI and RRA,</li> <li>• identify and apply EI and RRA methodology and tools,</li> <li>• contribute to a team working on EI process and RRA production,</li> <li>• promote dialogue and exchanges among countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Target audience</b>	The workshop is tailored to public health professionals from the EU Southern Neighbourhood who actively work in epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response to public health emergencies in their respective countries.



## Q4 Workshop on tuberculosis management in populations on the move in Europe and neighbouring regions

<b>Format</b>	Face-to-face
<b>Dates/duration</b>	TBC
<b>Location</b>	TBC
<b>Description</b>	A key focus of this meeting will be identifying and prioritising the most pragmatic strategies and activities to accelerate the progress towards the elimination of tuberculosis (TB) through cross-border TB management in EU/EEA, and European Neighbourhood partner countries.
<b>Objectives</b>	The key areas of interest will be information for action, prevention, screening, treatment, and identifying factors that are critical to success.
<b>Target audience</b>	Public health professionals from the EU Neighbourhood and EU/EEA countries who actively work in prevention, preparedness and response to TB management in their respective countries.

## Annual meetings



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### **Annual meeting for National ECDC Correspondents in European Neighborhood partner countries and MediPIET National Focal Points**

The meeting will focus on the outcomes and achievements of regional cooperation under the EU Initiative on Health Security. It will also explore future strategies to strengthen collaboration and address emerging health security challenges.

### **ESCAIDE**

As part of the network-building and knowledge-sharing activities, representatives from partner countries will also be invited to ESCAIDE 2025, the European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology, taking place on 19 – 21 2025 November in Warsaw, Poland.

The scientific programme for ESCAIDE 2025 comprises plenaries and abstract-led sessions. During the plenary sessions, high-level speakers will discuss topics of significant importance in the field of infectious diseases and public health. Selected abstracts will describe the latest cutting-edge research from a broad spectrum of fields, including infectious disease epidemiology, microbiology, surveillance, implementation science, modelling and preparedness.

It is also possible to join online. Read more here: [www.escaide.eu/en](http://www.escaide.eu/en)

# Annex 1. Work programme 2025

## Work package 1

Field epidemiology workforce development through the Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

Activity	Date
Module 1: Multivariable analysis (MVA) (Cohort 6)	Q1
Module 2: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Awareness and Mitigation Module (CBRN) (Cohort 6, supervisors and external nominated participants)	Q2
Module 3: Rapid Assessment and Survey Methods (RAS) module (Cohort 6 and external nominated participants)	Q2
Module 4: Project Review Module (Cohort 6)	Q3
Module 5: Introductory Course (external nominated participants)	Q3

Additional activities within MediPIET

Training Centres Forum meetings	Whole year
Meeting of the MediPIET alumni network	Q4
MediPIET annual scientific event	Q4
Graduation of Cohort 6	Q4
Training site review visits	Whole year

## Work Package 2

Epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response

Workshop on infodemic management during outbreaks	Q1
Training workshop on Epidemic Intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessments	Q2
Training on evidence-based public health	Q2
Workshop on integrated vector control and public health entomology	Q3
Workshop on population displacement and infectious diseases	Q4
Training workshop on Epidemic Intelligence and Rapid Risk Assessments	Q4
Workshop on tuberculosis management in populations on the move in Europe and neighbouring regions	Q4

## Annual meetings

The European Scientific Conference on Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology (ESCAIDE)	Q4
Annual meeting for National ECDC Correspondents in European Neighbourhood partner countries and MediPIET National Focal Points	TBC

## How to participate

The nominated ECDC National Correspondent in each partner country coordinates participation of experts in the activities of the EU Initiative on Health Security\* . This person is employed either by the Ministry of Health, the National Public Health Agency, or similar.

Please contact ECDC for more information:

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