

# Call for expression of interest from European learned societies, professional associations and industry representations

ECDC is looking for expressions of interest from European learned societies, professional associations and European industry representations to participate in technical consultation meetings on digital technologies for public health key functions. The aim of the meeting(s) is to support ECDC in assessing the possible beneficial and/or disruptive impact of current and emerging digital technologies on public health key functions within the remit of the Centre and provide a forward look covering a period of 7-10 years.

## (1) Date and place of the first consultation meeting

**24-25 March 2020**

**ECDC premises in Solna, Sweden**

Prior to the meeting of 1.5 days, there may be assignments, which should not take longer than 3-5 hours to be completed (e.g. review of background material before the meeting; preparation of a short presentation). The final meeting agenda and all necessary background material will be made available to the meeting participants at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.

The language of the meeting and meeting materials will be English.

Depending on the results of this first meeting, additional 1-3 individual or group consultations may follow. These will take place later in the year 2020 or in the first quarter of 2021, by phone/video, and/or a maximum of one additional face-to-face meeting. At this stage, it is not possible to confirm the number of these additional consultations.

This call for expression of interest and the resulting selection applies to this activity alone and does not imply any further involvement in other or future ECDC activities.

## (2) Scope and objectives of the consultation

The scope of the meeting are digital technologies and innovations, such as:

- machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI)
- blockchain
- data science, including big data analytics and analysis of large datasets from a variety of different data sources
- data exchange across sectors and/or countries, related governance, standards, interoperability, standardisation within health informatics (health data standards and classifications), related aspects of digital data protection, privacy and cybersecurity
- automation, robotics, wearables, nanotechnologies, point-of-care and lab on a chip
- augmented/virtual reality

and their possible impact on and use for public health key functions, such as:

- communicable disease surveillance
- signal and outbreak detection and validation
- identification, collection, appraisal, analysis, reporting and visualisation of surveillance and research data and other possibly relevant information such as grey literature and social media data
- implementation of public health measures and monitoring and assessment of their effects and effectiveness
- epidemiological, modelling and forecasting studies
- provision of evidence-based guidelines and advice.

The objectives of the meeting are to review and discuss the results of a scoping review and other related work on digital technologies for public health key functions, exchange ideas and information as well as practical examples and lessons learned, discuss opportunities and challenges, and perform a forward look covering a period of 7-10 years.

It is not the intention of the meeting to agree upon or recommend specific technical solutions. The meeting is purely consultative and there is no obligation to reach consensus.

The meeting results will be summarised by the meeting facilitators to support the ECDC upper management in its decision-making regarding the Centre's possible technical direction and next steps.

### **(3) Meeting composition**

The meeting will consist of a maximum of 40 participants with different expertise and background, with the following indicative composition:

- 5 meeting facilitators (ECDC and contractor);
- Up to 10 participants from ECDC, other EU and international partner institutions like DG SANTE, DG RTD, JRC, EFSA, WHO;
- Up to 20 individual public health and technical experts appointed by the ECDC Director following a selection process, in their personal capacity (individuals appointed in their personal capacity are to act independently and in the public interest), selected from the [ECDC Candidate Expert Database](#), based on their self-reported competencies and work experience;
- Up to 10 representatives from European learned societies, professional associations and European industry representations, selected based on this open call for expression of interest.

### **Purpose of the call**

The purpose of this call is to provide equal opportunities to European learned societies, professional associations and European industry representations to express their interest to participate in the consultation by sending a representative.

### **(4) Application process for organisations**

**Deadline: 20 December 2019, 23:59 CET**

Interested organisations are invited to express their interest by submitting the filled out expression of interest form to [CSS@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:CSS@ecdc.europa.eu).

Whilst it is clear that industry representations will have links with the private sector, for the sake of transparency ECDC requires applicants to disclose any links with the private sector, in particular links to the pharmaceutical/biotechnology/diagnostics industry and digital/information and communication technology sectors.

This is in order to determine whether there is any potential or actual conflict of interest. Examples of such links to be disclosed would be receipt of funding from the private sector or any engagement between the applicant and private sector influencing their respective operations e.g. the applicant sits on an advisory board of the company or vice versa<sup>1</sup>.

ECDC will review all expressions of interest and evaluate them against the criteria listed below under (5). Please note that ECDC reserves the right to decide on the final composition of the meeting in order to obtain a balance of interests, expertise, geography and gender and to ensure no conflict of

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that disclosure of an interest does not necessarily imply a conflict and/or exclusion from the selection process. ECDC has discretion to review all relevant information and to determine whether a disclosed interest constitutes a potential or actual conflict.

interest. The applying organisation will be notified within 10 working days of the deadline, and formal meeting invitations will be sent in January 2020.

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018<sup>2</sup>.

Successful applicants will not receive any form of financial remuneration from ECDC in relation to this activity. Please also note that ECDC is not responsible for travel and accommodation arrangements for meeting participants and does not provide any reimbursement of expenses incurred by participants in connection with the meeting.

#### **(5) The following eligibility criteria will apply**

##### **At the level of the organisation:**

5.1 Is legally established within the EU/EEA as an umbrella organisation<sup>3</sup>, e.g. a registered European learned society, professional association or industry representation.

5.2 Is active in digital technologies and innovations and/or public health key functions, and able to provide expertise, practical examples and references describing the possible application of digital technologies and innovation to public health key functions - see also (2) Meeting scope and objectives).

5.3 Is able to fund an individual representative's participation in the activity and ensure high-level expertise and active contribution.

5.4 Is able to ensure, upon request of ECDC, the submission of an individual declaration of interest and CV, demonstrating relevant competence and expertise of the individual representative, as well as good English language skills to be able to follow and actively contribute to the meeting (at least B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference for Language).

#### **Application process for individual experts**

The above call targets organisations. However, individuals with expertise in areas of concern to the above consultation who would like to contribute to the activity, are also invited to express their interest by sending an email to [CSS@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:CSS@ecdc.europa.eu), *subject line: Expression of interest - ECDC technical consultation meeting on digital technologies for public health key functions* AND signing up to the [ECDC Candidate Expert Database](#) (ECED). ECDC accepts applications on a continuous basis and there is no deadline for signing up to the ECDC Candidate Expert Database (ECED).

Individuals invited to participate in their personal capacity are to act independently and in the public interest, and do not represent a country, organisation or other affiliated entity.

Please note that ECDC reserves the right to decide on the final composition in order to obtain a balance of interests, expertise, geography and gender.

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

<sup>3</sup> An organization that represents or organizes the activities of several others, all of which have a similar purpose or common objective.