

Revised Roadmaps for EC/WHO Europe collaboration

Title: Health Security

Key elements of the Roadmap:

Activities below are linked to Roadmap 6: In country collaboration in the European region and Roadmap 1 on innovation and health.

International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)

Main focus is on maintaining political commitment in Europe to implement IHR as a key public health security framework, together with the EC health security initiative 2011/0421 (COD), and supporting Member States in assessing and developing their core capacity for surveillance and response and in implementing joint reporting to IHR and EWRS.

Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness

Collaboration focuses on improving the preparedness of Member States for pandemic and other public health emergencies.

HIV/AIDS

Cooperation in this area continues within the policy frameworks set by the Commission Communication on Combating HIV/AIDS in the European Region and neighbouring countries 2009-2013 of 26/10/2009 COM(2009)568final, the WHO Regional Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2012-2015, the commitments and goals outlined in the UNGASS-HIV Declaration of Commitment, the Dublin, Vilnius and Bremen Declarations, the WHO Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS 2012-2015, and the UNAIDS HIV/AIDS Strategy 2012-2015.

Tuberculosis (TB)

The collaborative actions provide continuous support to Member States for monitoring and follow-up of the Berlin Declaration. Consideration is also given to the WHO Regional Action plan to achieve Universal Access to diagnosis and treatment of M/XDR-TB. The collaboration addresses health inequalities and social determinants of health which contribute to emergence and spread of drug resistant TB. Technical collaboration between the WHO Europe and ECDC covers surveillance as well as monitoring, which, includes indicators linked to the Berlin declaration, the WHO Regional MDR TB Action plan, and the ECDC monitoring Framework *Progressing towards TB elimination: A follow-up to the Framework action plan to fight TB in the EU*.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Collaboration includes implementation of WHO regional strategy on AMR, Council Recommendation of 15 November 2001 on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents in human

medicine COM(2001)333 and recently adopted Commission communication on the Action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance COM(2011)748. This area is particularly linked to the Roadmap on innovation and health.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Immunization

Collaboration focuses on diseases with elimination and eradication targets: sustaining the Region's polio-free status, controlling the current measles outbreaks, and achieving measles and rubella elimination by 2015. Technical collaboration between WHO Europe and ECDC covers vaccine preventable disease surveillance, particularly for polio, measles, rubella, and congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), as well as monitoring the progress towards elimination goals.

General Surveillance

The Commission and WHO Europe have common objectives and face similar challenges in general communicable disease surveillance and will jointly analyze the advantages of the establishment of a uniform, effective, and efficient communicable disease surveillance system throughout the region based on common definitions, protocols, and platforms. WHO Europe and ECDC are already conducting coordinated surveillance on HIV/AIDS, TB, and influenza.

Update on the progress made with the implementation of the Roadmap so far:

International Health Regulations (2005)

The IHR core capacity implementation process was discussed at a meeting of National IHR Focal Points of EU/EEA countries, plus Croatia, Monaco, San Marino and Switzerland, held on 25 Jan 2012 in conjunction with the EWRS Contact Points' meeting in DG SANCO Luxembourg. Also discussed was the Health Security Initiative (HSI) of the EC and possible overlaps with IHR.

Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness

Four joint workshops were held between WHO, ECDC, and EC in Sept-Nov 2011.

Current Status:

- 28/45 participating Member States have evaluated their response (17 have not); 12 have published their evaluations
- 32/45 MS are revising their pandemic plans (13 have not); 2 have published their revised plans

Participants concluded that pandemic preparedness planning will be facilitated by:

- The continued exchange of information and best practices;
- Use of experiences to benefit generic preparedness and IHR core capacity
- The revision of the WHO global pandemic guidance
- Countries determining more effective ways of communicating to policy-makers;
- Developing combined approaches for increasing vaccine access;
- Enhancing severe influenza disease surveillance
- Revising the joint EC/ECDC/WHO Europe European pandemic preparedness indicators

On generic preparedness, the project "Support Health Security, Preparedness Planning and Crisis Management in EU, EU accession and neighboring (ENP) countries" is entering its final stage. A technical workshop is organised in Vienna end of March 2012 to present the deliverables of the project and identify ways forward and possible future cooperation.

HIV/AIDS

WHO continued to play an active part in the meetings of the EC HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum and HIV/AIDS Think Tank, most recently in Luxembourg (December 2011) where, amongst others, the following issues were discussed: the WHO European Action Plan on HIV/AIDS 2012-2015 and opportunities for collaboration on its implementation; continued collaboration and cooperation in collection of strategic information (surveillance and monitoring and evaluation); the IQhiv initiative and the EC funded harm reduction project.

WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF together with ECDC have reached consensus on a common regional HIV/AIDS monitoring and data collection tool: Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting (former UNGASS); Universal Access in the Health Sector Reporting; and the Dublin Declaration Reporting. By 31 March 2012, countries will report HIV monitoring and evaluation data in a single coordinated process against a list of regional indicators. The amount of information requested from countries was reduced by over 50% compared to previous reporting rounds, thus responding to Member States requests to reduce HIV/AIDS reporting burden. ECDC, UNAIDS, and WHO are supporting Member States in the use of the tool. Europe is the first region to harmonize data collection. A training workshop for all 55 countries covered by the Dublin Declaration was organized by ECDC in January 2012 in Lisbon.

In 2011 ECDC/WHO produced the annual HIV/AIDS surveillance report for 53 European countries. The HIV surveillance data collection for the 2012 report will be done during summer 2012. A joint ECDC/WHO HIV surveillance network meeting was held in Stockholm on 17th February 2012.

The IQhiv initiative, established by WHO, the German Health Promotion Centre, and the NGO AIDS Action Europe in 2009, identifies, adapts, and disseminates practical tools for quality improvement that can be used to assess and strengthen operations and activities. Discussions between the HIV/AIDS Think Tank, the Civil Society Forum, and WHO have generated a significant level of interest to develop more concrete activities in this area. This resulted in a proposal for a Joint Action on Quality in HIV Prevention submitted for funding in March 2012. WHO will contribute to the Joint Action.

The EC funded project 2008 52 02 "Scaling up access to high quality harm reduction, treatment and care for injecting drug users in the European region" is producing excellent results.¹² and 24 month progress reports together with outputs have been submitted to EAHC in Jan 2012. A no cost extension to the project until June 2012 was accorded.

WHO Europe has co-organized and contributed to several EC supported conferences the next of which will be the "HIV in Europe 2012 Conference" in Copenhagen (March 2012) which will focus on HIV testing. WHO have contributed to the organization and scientific programme of the conferences.

Tuberculosis

The Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat M/XDR-TB in the WHO European Region 2011-2015 was endorsed by the 61st WHO Regional Committee in Baku September 2011. EC

has been a member of the steering group overseeing development of the Action Plan.

During a satellite meeting in Moscow MDG6 summit, the Roadmap for implementation of MDR-TB Action Plan was launched by RD, the European Commissioner John Dalli, Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) Executive Director and StopTB Executive Secretary, 10 October 2011.

A monitoring framework for follow-up of the Berlin declaration and a monitoring framework for the Consolidated Action Plan to Prevent and Combat M/XDR-TB are integrated in the ECDC-WHO Europe annual TB report, which will be published by the World TB Day 24 March 2012.

ECDC and WHO Europe worked on several joint activities, including an advocacy paper on Childhood TB in the European Respiratory Journal in December 2011, and a programme review of TB control interventions in Norway May 2011. ECDC and WHO Europe conduct joint TB surveillance and publish the annual surveillance report for Europe (in 2012, the report will include a monitoring aspect also, monitoring the Berlin Declaration, the MDR Action Plan and the EU Framework action plan). Within the joint surveillance activities, ECDC and WHO Europe hold the joint annual surveillance meeting with the national surveillance contact points.

WHO Europe under Dutch partnership and in collaboration with KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation developed an assessment tool to identify and address the health system determinants of MDR-TB.

Commissioner Dalli met President Sampaio – UN Special Envoy to Stop TB on 22 February 2012 along with the WHO Europe TB Director. Necessity to strengthen existing cooperation between WHO Europe and SANCO on TB and more particularly on drug resistant TB in the context of the Health Security WHO SANCO Roadmap was stressed and approved by all participants.

AMR

With the adoption of the WHO Europe regional action plan on antibiotic resistance (15 September 2011) and the announcement of the EC Communication on the action plan against the rising threats from antimicrobial resistance (17 November 2011), technical counterparts in DG SANCO, DG Research and Innovation, ECDC, WHO HQ and WHO Europe have begun discussions on collaboration in the various areas that both action plans are covering. A meeting was held in Brussels on 13 January between RTD and WHO Europe and an audio conference organized on 7 February between SANCO and WHO Europe, during which current and planned activities/opportunities were presented and discussed. .

Good collaboration exists with EU Agencies, such as ECDC and EFSA and through WHO's close links to the Ministries of Health of Member States, Collaborating Centers and other international organizations such as FAO and OIE.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Under an agreement arrived at in late 2011, ECDC has resumed sharing case-based and aggregated measles and rubella data collected from 27 EU member states, Iceland and Norway. The first tranche of data (for the period Jan-Oct 2011) was received on 1 Dec 2011.

WHO Europe and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) jointly initiated "MESSAGE - MEaSles and rubella Self Assessment GEnerating tool" for country self-

assessments of progress towards eliminating measles and rubella; participated in the Strengthening National Surveillance Systems towards Measles and Rubella Elimination in the WHO European Region, a meeting organized by WHO Europe on 8-9 Dec 2011 in Bonn; and the 1st meeting of the European Regional Commission for the Verification of Measles and Rubella Elimination.

The ECDC and WHO/EURO/VPI closely collaborate on management of the vaccine safety signals, notably narcolepsy, following the use of adjuvanted pandemic influenza vaccine.

ECDC and WHO Europe plan several key joint activities in the upcoming EIW2012 campaign. In 2011 ECDC joined WHO in Brussels to launch the EIW 2011 campaign.

ECDC will sit as one of three executive committee members (ECDC, UNICEF, WHO Europe) on the Vaccine Communications Working Group, inaugurated by WHO Europe in 2010. Joint social media activities are also being discussed.

Ongoing joint work between WHO Europe and ECDC on reaching hard-to-reach groups, including 4 regional joint pilot projects on improving immunization reach to marginalized and vulnerable populations, has been initiated.

General Surveillance

The daily exchange of epidemic intelligence information between WHO Europe and ECDC continues. A system of regular staff exchange visits between Alert and Response Operations WHO Europe and ECDC Epidemic Intelligence Unit continues, with next visit from ECDC to WHO Europe scheduled for March 2012.

On the response side, a joint WHO (WHO Europe and HQ) – ECDC assessment of malaria *P. vivax* situation in Greece took place in October 2011.

Coordination with ECDC

The Joint Coordination Group between ECDC and WHO (JCG) met on 23 November 2011 in Copenhagen. It reviewed the many areas of ongoing collaboration, the successes and challenges, and discussed a number of general principles for collaboration to be further elaborated and endorsed in early 2012.

Major challenges:

IHR

There is a need for an assessment of gaps in implementing the IHR in view of harmonization of obligations under IHR and HSI for member states and avoiding duplications in areas such as alert notification and capacity development programs.

Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness

The main challenges in this area include insufficient political commitment and resources to revise national pandemic preparedness plans in many Member States, together with some delays in WHO revisions of global guidance, and the fact that influenza surveillance is still being established in a number of countries. In addition, a number of countries still do not readily share viruses with WHO Collaborating Centres and, in non-health sectors progress towards setting up

pandemic and health emergency preparedness planning has been slow.

HIV

Harmonizing collection, analysis, and reporting of HIV/AIDS strategic information across 53 Member States has presented challenges, many of which have been solved. A major challenge remains to reach consensus on strategic use of the data and on the reporting processes. WHO Europe is tasked to monitor implementation of the WHO European Action Plan on HIV/AIDS partner. Likewise, ECDC is mandated by the EU Commission to monitor the implementation of the Dublin Declaration as well as the Commission communication on combating HIV/AIDS in the European Region and Neighbouring countries 2009-2013.

Tuberculosis

Accurate surveillance and control of X/MDR-TB will remain a challenge as health system weaknesses remain, together with difficulties to reach vulnerable populations.

AMR

The interest of Member States in addressing antibiotic resistance is currently not matched by available funding. Provided funding, there is a large pool of experts available in Europe that can be mobilized to provide technical assistance. In addition to funding, a challenge will be ensuring that activities are coordinated and synergies exploited.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

ECDC and WHO Europe will continue to address the practical challenges encountered in surveillance activities, including data sharing.

Member States, where needed, should facilitate access to all relevant national data for both ECDC and WHO Europe.

The Commission and WHO Europe would further focus on vaccine safety issues related to public health, in collaboration with relevant EU Agencies.

Future steps:

Where appropriate, detailed steps for each technical area have been addressed through specific joint action plans for 2012 between ECDC and WHO Europe. These plans will be submitted for approval to the Joint Coordination Group.

IHR

WHO Europe and EC will identify new areas for collaboration, particularly in relation to the identification of gaps in implementing the IHR, particularly the development of national core capacity requirements under IHR, and coordination of national response to public health emergencies, including in the context of the EU Health Security Initiative.

Pandemic and Emergency Preparedness

Revision of the WHO Europe pandemic preparedness indicators is underway. WHO Europe will continue to support work on pandemic and generic preparedness at the country and inter-

country level, coordinated or performed jointly with the EC/ECDC. WHO Europe will continue to attend HSC Flu Section/generic preparedness meetings. Joint work will continue to establish routine surveillance of severe disease associated with influenza and other respiratory pathogens, build capacities of the National Influenza Centres, and support seasonal influenza vaccination programmes.

The project "Support Health Security, Preparedness Planning and Crisis Management in EU, EU accession and neighboring (ENP) countries" will present the deliverables of the project and identify ways forward and possible future cooperation in the context of the new Health Security Initiative.

Other issues which need to be addressed are risk and crisis communication in the context of preparedness and management of a crisis. This is the subject of a separate exchange of letters between the Commission and WHO Europe.

HIV/AIDS

A discussion on the further use and exploration of results/deliverables of Health Program funded projects to support WHO initiatives in non-EU countries could be envisaged (e.g. SIALON II, Joint Action on HIV prevention).

Joint reporting against UNGASS, ECDC, and WHO indicators has been established and needs further follow up.

Further discussions on roles and responsibilities regarding HIV response monitoring in the region are needed, involving the Commission, the ECDC, and WHO Europe. Further collaboration on topics such as harm reduction will be further pursued.

Tuberculosis

A joint WHO Europe-ECDC extensive review to TB control programme in Hungary is planned for 2012 as well as a joint country visit to Latvia in late spring.

WHO Europe and Green Light Committee (hosted by WHO Europe) have conducted several country visits to support Romania where there is an urgent need for assistance. A high level visit is needed followed by intensive technical support. Together with WHO Europe, ECDC supported the country in further developing its National TB strategy.

Joint activities within TB surveillance and monitoring continue between the WHO Europe and ECDC.

AMR

Potential areas for further cooperation were identified during SANCO-WHO Europe meeting and a new meeting is under preparation to further follow-up on future cooperation and explore specific areas for collaboration, including exchange of experience, protocols and expertise, meetings and workshops. Tentative date: 15 March 2012.

Vaccine Preventable diseases

An invigorated relationship between vaccine communications staff has resulted in some significant planned WHO Europe-ECDC activities over the coming year. Issues to be addressed

in coming months include:

- Both agencies must work to ensure that all Member States have established case-based reporting of measles, rubella and CRS.
- The WHO Europe and ECDC teams are planning regular teleconferences as a way forward to fine-tune standard operating procedures, reporting time lines, and reconcile data issues.

Coordination with ECDC:

Regular joint coordination meetings between ECDC and WHO Europe will continue. A major technical meeting took place in ECDC on 20-21 February 2012, in order to agree on the joint activities and develop specific actions plans for each of the technical areas. These plans will be submitted to the Joint Coordination Group, which will have its next meeting in April 2012.

Joint assessment missions in countries will be planned with the Commission and ECDC.