

ECDC and vector-borne disease

Evelyn Depoortere
LeishRisk workshop, Antwerp, 12 Nov 2007

Health threats in Europe

21st century challenges



- New threats emerge
 - SARS, pandemic flu, WNV, antimicrobial resistance
- Old diseases re-emerge
 - HIV/AIDS, STI, TB, food borne diseases
- Threat of bioterrorism
- EU without borders: free movements of goods and people
- Fast spread of diseases in a globalized and interconnected world

Limitations with old setup



- Surveillance networks uncoordinated, no sustained funding
- No central expert authority
- Limited resources for rapid response
- Unflexible system (bound by contracts)
- 10 new Member States

- Above evident during SARS crisis → ECDC



Tomtebodan – Home of ECDC

ECDC milestones



- July 2003: Commission's proposal to establish ECDC
- December 2003: Council decision that Sweden will host the Centre
- April 2004: Regulation 851 establishing the Centre
- December 2004: Director Zsuzsanna Jakab nominated
- March 2005: Director takes office (start-up phase)
- May 2005: Centre operational
- October 2005: Move to own facilities at Tomtebodavägen
- 2007: Evaluation of the possible need to extend the scope of the Centre's mission

Very broad mandate

Founding Regulation 851/2004/EC



- Close cooperation with MS and EU bodies
- Surveillance
- Risk identification and risk assessment
- Preparedness planning
- Response to health threats and events
- Training
- Communication
- Scientific opinions and guidelines

Staffing and budget

(2004 cost)



- 2005: 60 staff 5 M €
- 2006: 90 staff 18 M €

Proposal

- 2007: 170 staff 27 M €
- 2008: 210 staff 36 M €
- 2009: 270 staff 45 M €
- 2010-2013: 320 staff 50 M €

Director and Director's Cabinet

Management

Governance

External relations

Country cooperation

Scientific
advice

Surveillance

Preparedness &
response

Health
communication

Administrative
services

Antimicrobial resistance & healthcare-associated infections

Food- & waterborne diseases

HIV, STI & blood-borne viruses

Influenza

Other diseases of environmental & zoonotic origin

Tuberculosis

Vaccine preventable diseases & invasive bacterial infections

**“I would like to consult Europe –
but I don’t know the number there”**

Henry Kissinger

Director's Cabinet



- Overall co-ordinating responsibility of all ECDC activities
- External relations
- Country cooperation
- Integrated information system

Health Communication



- Scientific communication
 - Eurosurveillance, reports
- Public communication & media
 - Insight corporate newsletter
 - info@ecdc.europa.eu
- Web services

Scientific Advice



- Provide sound and independent technical and scientific advice
 - Questions, guidelines, toolkits
 - No own research capacity
- Well acquainted with front-line research
- Network of experts and scientists in Europe
- Cooperation with laboratories
- Roster of > 300 top experts

Surveillance



- Gradually coordinate/integrate surveillance networks into ECDC
 - Keep the networks
 - Databases at ECDC
 - Data output (website, reports, scientific journals)
 - Some components outsourced
- Technical assistance to MS on surveillance issues
- Surveillance → public health action

Preparedness and Response



- Epidemic intelligence
 - Keep track of emerging health threats inside and outside the EU
- Operating the EWRS, 24h/7d duty system
- Outbreak assistance
- Preparedness
- Training (EPIET, short courses)

Director and Director's Cabinet

Management

Governance

External relations

Country cooperation

Scientific
advice

Surveillance

Preparedness &
response

Health
communication

Administrative
services

Antimicrobial resistance & healthcare-associated infections

Food- & waterborne diseases

HIV, STI & blood-borne viruses

Influenza

Other diseases of environmental & zoonotic origin

Tuberculosis

Vaccine preventable diseases & invasive bacterial infections

Other diseases of environmental & zoonotic origin



- Vector-borne diseases
 - Borreliosis, malaria, tularaemia, West Nile Virus, VHF, CCHF, chikungunya, hanta, dengue, yellow fever, etc
- Travel related diseases
 - Cholera, malaria, leptospirosis, plague, VHF, CCHF, chikungunya, hanta, dengue, yellow fever, etc
- Intentional release agents
 - Anthrax, smallpox, tularaemia
- (Re-)emerging diseases:
 - SARS, West Nile Virus, VHF, Chikungunya
- Other diseases
 - Legionellosis, Q-fever

Strategic focus



To ensure a rational European approach for prevention and control

- Coordination of EU expert network
- Promotion of applied scientific research
- Involve experts in international outbreak investigations
- Contribute to networking in- & outside EU
- Up-to-date disease information for public

Key activities 2007



- Assess magnitude & importance of vector-borne diseases
 - Impact of environmental change workshop
 - Collaboration with EDEN
- Ensure rapid diagnosis of re-emerging diseases
 - Outbreak assistance labs
- Develop strategy for ECDC's role in relation to intentional release agents
- Contribute to forensic epidemiology training
- Health communication

Chikungunya

- Risk assessment 2006
 - Outbreak in Indian Ocean
- Outbreak in Italy
 - Revised risk assessment
 - Advice for travellers
 - Distribution of *Aedes albopictus*
 - Joint ECDC/WHO visit
 - Advice on surveillance, algorithm for interventions, vector monitoring

Key activities in 2008



- Assessment magnitude and importance of vector-borne diseases
 - Tender continued
 - Expert meeting to validate action plan
- Link with vector monitoring activities
- Identification of needs for European Overseas territories
- Transition of legionnaires' disease surveillance activities
 - Revision of guidelines for prevention and control
- Laboratory network for response
 - Ongoing call for tender
 - Framework contract

Key activities in 2008



- Role of ECDC for travel-related medicine
- Guidelines and risk assessments
 - TBE, bio-safety
- Mapping of European research activity
- Integration of deliberate release strategy components in ECDC activities
 - Training continued
 - Participation in European networks and projects

Thank you !