



Stockholm, 27 March 2024

Our ref: CS0001910

**Subject:** Invitation to nominate experts to join the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Emergency Preparedness Assessment (EPA) missions under Article 8 of the Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 November 2022 on serious cross-border threats to health<sup>1</sup>.

Dear National Focal Point for Preparedness and Response,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to nominate country experts to participate in the ECDC's Emergency Preparedness Assessments that will take place in May and June. In this period there will be two assessments where participation for a country expert will be possible.

The country missions are scheduled as follows:

- **Belgium: Monday, 13 May to Friday, 17 May 2024**
- **Finland: Monday, 10 June to Friday, 14 June 2024.**

As per the Regulation 2022/2371, the ECDC is mandated to assess the status of prevention, preparedness, and response planning in EU/EEA countries every three years, in cooperation with relevant Union agencies and bodies. Additionally, these assessments aim to identify gaps at national level and provide tailored recommendations for improvement enhancing coordination between Member States and EU structures and strengthening global health security. To fulfil this requirement, ECDC has established a standard procedure for assessments across all 30 EU/EEA countries, with English as the working language. The procedure and the assessments are to a large extent similar to WHO's Joint External Evaluations (JEE), except that there will be no additional self-assessment prior to the mission. Instead, the self-assessment report from the respective country under Article 7 of the Regulation will serve as basis.

The first cycle of assessment 2024-2026 will commence in May 2024, and the assessment will consist of four-phases:

- Phase 1: desk review,
- Phase 2: country visit,
- Phase 3: ECDC assessment report, and
- Phase 4: (if applicable) Country Action Plan.

Throughout this process, all 16 capacities defined in the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1808<sup>2</sup> of the Commission regarding Article 7 of the Regulation will be assessed.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 314, 6.12.2022, p. 26–63 <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2371/oj>

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 234, 22.9.2023, p. 105–141 ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2023/1808/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/1808/oj)

Following the agreement with the assessed country, one country expert from another EU/EEA country will be able to join the assessment team to support the process. This option is offered with the objectives of broadening the expertise of the team, providing mutual learning, and strengthening cross-border collaboration, as well as adding a national perspective to the assessment. The country expert will join the assessment process as a member of the assessment team. The country expert is expected to participate actively in the desk review, country visit, and the drafting of the assessment report. Their involvement will be requested in assessing one or more capacities relevant to their area of expertise.

We kindly request your nomination of a maximum of two experts from your country with the necessary expertise to contribute to the assessment process.

Nominated experts are kindly requested to inform us of the following:

- Their availability to participate in the missions detailed above
- The capacities where the expert has sufficient expertise and would like to support with the assessment (please, see the list of capacities in the attached document)
- Share with us an updated CV.

We would be extremely grateful if you could send nominations at your earliest convenience, **no later than 10 April** to [preparedness.response@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:preparedness.response@ecdc.europa.eu). Further information will be shared with the selected experts for these missions.

In accordance with the Rules of Reimbursement at ECDC, all expenses related to travel, accommodation, and daily subsistence allowance for the selected country experts during the assessment missions will be covered by ECDC.

We appreciate your consideration of this invitation and look forward to your participation in advancing emergency preparedness efforts in the European Union. Further opportunities to join assessment missions to other countries later in the year will be communicated in due date.

Yours sincerely,



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Encl.: List of capacities included in the assessment process