

Stockholm, 24/10/2025

Internal Reference: CS0008443

TO: National Focal Points for Microbiology, Observer National Focal Points for Microbiology

CC: National Focal Points (Observer) for Surveillance, AMR, HAIs, FWD and Zoonoses, Legionnaires' disease, Training; Operational Contact Points for Bioinformatics, Operational Contact Points (Microbiology and Epidemiology) for Antimicrobial-resistant isolates (AMRISO), Diseases Caused by Antimicrobial-Resistant Microorganisms (AMR), Healthcare-Associated Infections: All (HAI-GEN), Healthcare-Associated Infections: Clostridium difficile Infections (HAI-CDI), Campylobacter isolates, Campylobacteriosis, E. Coli isolates, Shigellosis, Verotoxigenic Escherichia Coli Infection (VTEC), Legionellosis, Listeria isolates, Listeriosis, Salmonella isolates, Salmonellosis, National Coordinators (Coordinating Competent Bodies)

Subject: Nomination of participants for the ECDC training programme in genomic epidemiology and public health bioinformatics - "GenEpi-BioTrain", Pathogen wave 7 (One Health)

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to nominate candidates for the fourth year of the **training programme in genomic epidemiology and public health bioinformatics - "GenEpi-BioTrain"**.

The trainings in 2026 will focus on the topic of One Health (Wave 7) with a particular emphasis on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and food- and waterborne (FWD) pathogens, including trainings on plasmid analysis and legionella. The topic for the subsequent wave (Wave 8) remains to be defined, based on need assessments and feedback from Member States and will be announced separately.

Similar to previous pathogen waves, the One Health wave consists of several training blocks with different activities and durations (Annex 2).

The overall objectives of the programme are to support countries strengthen their capacity in genomic epidemiology and bioinformatics for public health, while promoting interdisciplinary collaboration between bioinformaticians, epidemiologists and microbiologists. This will facilitate the routine use of genomic data in surveillance, preparedness, and outbreak response. Additionally, the trainings aim to foster cross-border collaborations and improve data sharing between countries and with ECDC. For more details, please refer to the information letter sent to EU/EEA countries, Western Balkans and Türkiye on 10 October 2025 (Annex 1).

The training is designed for public health professionals with a background in computational biology and/or bioinformatics, as well as those without prior bioinformatics experience who are, or will be, involved in analysing, understanding and interpreting genomic data for public health surveillance (i.e. microbiologists, epidemiologists, professionals in public health response and surveillance).

I would like to invite you as **National Focal Point for Microbiology/Observer National Focal Points for Microbiology to nominate up to two participants per training block per pathogen wave** from your country who could benefit from this activity. Due to limited training spaces available, nominations will not guarantee selection and participation in the course.

Listed training candidates should complete their applications by filling out the [**GenEpi-BioTrain nomination survey**](#) by Wednesday, 26 November 2025. You as **National Focal Points for Microbiology/Observer National Focal Points for Microbiology** are kindly asked to provide a brief paragraph explaining the reason for selecting each candidate. This paragraph needs to be included in the candidate application.

Of note: all costs for training, per diem, accommodation and travel arrangements will be covered and there will be no costs for training participants or countries.

Successful participants will be notified by email no later than 19 December 2025 and will receive an invitation to an information meeting scheduled for January 2026.

Yours sincerely,

28/10/2025

 Vicky Lefevre

Vicky Lefevre
Head of Unit SPR
Signed by: Vicky Lefevre