



Brussels
SANTE/SG/JG/ed (2026)6227143
ECDC/CS0011111

Subject: Invitation to the second cycle of ECDC's assessment of prevention preparedness and response planning (PHEPA) 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.

Dear Ms Laarmann,

With this letter, we would like to invite you to the second Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment (PHEPA) in **Estonia**, following 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 health¹ and the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1232 as regards assessments of the state of implementation of national prevention, preparedness and response plans and their relation with the Union prevention, preparedness and response plan².

According to Regulation (EU) 2022/2371, the ECDC shall assess the status of prevention, preparedness and response planning of EU/EEA countries every 3 years in cooperation with relevant Union agencies and bodies. The ECDC will conduct the second cycle of PHEPAs following a standard procedure for these assessments between 2027 and 2029 in all 30 EU/EEA countries. The procedure has been adapted from the one used in the first PHEPA cycle and places emphasis on the advances made by each country when implementing the action plan developed based on the findings from the first cycle as well as capacities not assessed in depth in the first cycle.

The assessment team will use English as a working language. In case translation is necessary, the most appropriate solution will be sought together with your country to ensure good communication during the assessment. All the 16 capacities, as defined by the Regulations, will be assessed during this process.

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

² OJ L 2024/1232, 8.5.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2024/1232/oj

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The assessment will consist of a four-phase approach:

- Phase 1: a desk review (including the action plan developed following the previous PHEPA),
- Phase 2: a country visit (4 days),
- Phase 3: preparation of the assessment report with recommendations, and
- Phase 4: if applicable, the development or update of an action plan by the assessed country. If your country decides not to follow a recommendation, it will be requested to provide the reasons, in accordance with Regulation 2022/2371.

Additional details concerning the planning process and key elements of the assessment will be provided in subsequent meetings organised by ECDC in coordination with your team. Meanwhile, we would like to emphasise that comprehensive representation from various relevant stakeholders during the assessment mission, including different sectors, regions and other administrative levels within the country is necessary to ensure efficient and meaningful discussions.

For the purpose of initiating the planning process, within three weeks of the receipt of this letter, we kindly ask you to write to SANTE-HSC@ec.europa.eu with phepa@ecdc.europa.eu in copy to:

- 1) Confirm the date of the assessment country visit is **07 to 10 September 2027**.
- 2) Appoint a country focal point (one or multiple contact persons) to coordinate the assessment process for your country.

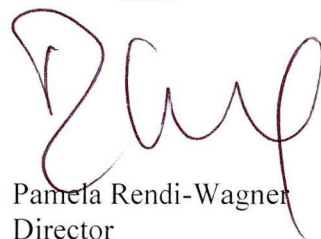
Should you have any question regarding the assessment process, please do not hesitate to contact ECDC at phepa@ecdc.europa.eu.

We look forward to continuing the collaboration on the assessments under Article 8 of Regulation 2022/2371 with you.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Gallina
Director General
Directorate General for Health
and Food Safety (DG SANTE)

2026-06-25



Pamela Rendi-Wagner
Director
European Centre for Disease
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