

Dear team,

The Netherlands would like to express our interest to participate in this project.

Kind regards,

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.5 5.1.2e @ecdc.europa.eu>

Sent: maandag 22 juni 2020 17:46

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Subject: Involvement in ECDC project establishing EU SARI surveillance system

To: 5.1.2e

Cc: National Focal Points for Influenza and other respiratory diseases, OCPs for COVID-19 (epidemiology and microbiology), OCPs for Influenza (epidemiology and microbiology)

Subject: Involvement in ECDC project establishing EU SARI surveillance system

Dear National Coordinator,

One of the public health priorities in the response to COVID-19 is the establishment of robust, population-based surveillance systems for severe acute respiratory infections (SARI). Such systems provide ongoing estimates of severe disease incidence by pathogen, thus informing public health measures such as non-pharmaceutical measures and vaccination strategies. In times of co-circulation of SARS-CoV-2, influenza, RSV, and other respiratory viruses, it will be particularly challenging to obtain reliable incidence data to guide public health policies both at National and European levels. In the absence of standardised case definitions, surveillance methods, and data collection forms, it will be difficult to compare epidemiological findings within and between countries.

In anticipation of the next winter season, ECDC is launching a project to support establishing or strengthening SARI surveillance systems in EU/EEA Member States. In addition to SARI surveillance, the project includes building capacities for hospital-based studies (including nosocomial transmission studies and sero-epidemiological studies among healthcare workers), and general country support for population-based sero-epidemiological studies.

Given the urgency of supporting the development of these actions in Member States, ECDC is preparing an exceptional negotiated procedure that would allow the rapid deployment of resources and expertise to Member States via a third party. The World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Europe, is developing a similar action to support non-EU countries in the European Region.

The project entails working together to develop and implement a common EU surveillance protocol for active, population-based, sentinel or comprehensive surveillance system of hospitalised SARI, by pathogen. At National level this means establishing a representative number of surveillance sites with known underlying populations that can report data regularly to the national public health authorities and from these to ECDC. Within the network of hospitals, specific epidemiological studies will also be supported as described above.

After an initial phase of the duration of ten months, ECDC will continue to support this action through a multi-annual project with a broader scope (e.g. including vaccine effectiveness studies and covering additional vaccine preventable pathogens) which will be assigned through an open competition and where additional or different Member States can join.

Before initiating the procurement process, in order to plan the financial investment accordingly, ECDC would like to ask whether your country is interested to participate to this project. Your expression of interest in response to this email does not represent a commitment from your side nor from ECDC side.

I would be grateful for receiving your answer by email 5.1.2e [@ecdc.europa.eu](mailto:5.1.2e@ecdc.europa.eu) by **Friday 26 June**.

Kind regards,

5.1.2e

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5.1.2e



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