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## Press release

### New EU health agency moves to Karolinska Campus: Tomtebodaskolan to be ECDC headquarters

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) will this weekend relocate from its temporary offices at Solna city hall to a new home on the campus of the Karolinska Institute. It has signed a contract to rent the Tomtebodaskolan building from its owner Akademiska Hus. As from Monday 3 October ECDC will be operating from its new headquarters

The contract includes two buildings at Karolinska Campus Solna. The 5 300 sq meters former Tomtebodaskolan will contain offices for the authority. The building was remodelled in 1995 and is being upgraded to house the ECDC. As well as the installation of new heating, security and air conditioning systems a crisis room is being created. This will be equipped with state of the art communication technologies to enable ECDC to assist in the coordination of the Europe-wide response to major disease outbreaks.

ECDC will also rent the adjacent building that is 600 sq meters and contains sleep over facilities.

- *"Solna city has been an excellent and very generous host to us since March this year. However, I am looking forward to moving into our new home at Tomtebodaskolan. It is a unique building located in a beautiful park with a strategic location close to The Karolinska Institute and the Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control", said Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director of the ECDC.*
- *"It is with great pleasure we welcome our new tenant ECDC. The European agency for disease prevention and control strengthens Karolinska Campus Solna as the leading centre for medical education and research in northern Europe", said Lennart Karlsson, Managing Director at Akademiska Hus i Stockholm AB.*

ECDC's new headquarters will become operational in stages starting on October 1 this year when about 60 workstations will be ready. In January 2009, at the latest, 140 people will be able to work in the building.

ECDC is inviting the media to visit its new offices on Monday 17 October between 11:30 and 12:30. Journalists will be able to meet key staff, including the Centre's Director, view its current crisis room and hear plans for developing its crisis communications facilities.

Tomtebodaskolan was built in 1888. It was used as a training centre for sight impaired children and youngsters until last year.

ECDC is the first European agency to be located to Sweden. In February the Swedish government decided that the Centre would be placed in the Stockholm region.

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Journalists interested in visiting the ECDC's new offices on 17 October should contact Helena Holland-Burman on 0708 597817

## About ECDC

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control is a new EU agency that has been created to help strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases, such as influenza, SARS and HIV/AIDS. Mrs Zsuzsanna Jakab, formerly the senior official at Hungary's Ministry of Health, took up post as the Centre's Director in March. Following several months of intensive recruitment ECDC now has a team of senior scientists and administrators from across the EU. The Centre currently has 40 staff. Up until now it has been operating out of temporary offices in Solna city hall.

## About Akademiska Hus

Akademiska Hus is one of the largest real estate companies in Sweden and leads in creating environments for higher education and research. Its largest group of clients is universities and colleges. Rental income was 4 482 million SEK year 2004. The property portfolio has an estimated value of 38 billion SEK and a rentable space of 3.3 million sq meters. Akademiska Hus operates in the whole country, from Lund in the south to Kiruna in the north. [www.akademiskahus.se](http://www.akademiskahus.se)