

# PRESS RELEASE

## ECDC publishes Annual epidemiological report 2011

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***Today ECDC releases the Annual epidemiological report 2011. The major findings are continuous high numbers of tuberculosis cases, the developing epidemic of measles, antimicrobial resistance, ongoing transmission of HIV and lessons learned from the pandemic of 2009 and 2010, among others. The report illustrates that Europe should always be ready for the emergent diseases that pose a public health risk.***

The fifth ECDC Annual epidemiological report presents the analysis of surveillance data reported for 2009 by the 27 Member States of the European Union and three EEA/EFTA countries, and provides an analysis of threats detected in 2010. By collating data from across Europe, the report provides an annual picture of the state of infectious diseases in Europe on which public health policymakers can make informed decisions and prioritise action to improve the health of all Europeans. Relevant data can be used both in crisis situations, e.g. outbreaks, as well as for long-term planning, e.g. monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of public health interventions.

*'The quality and comparability of surveillance data gathered in 30 European countries continue to improve. Nevertheless, in order to fight against infectious diseases, continuous investment in and improvement of surveillance systems in these countries is of outmost importance despite times of economic recession across Europe', says ECDC Director Marc Sprenger.*

The data of 2009 show that tuberculosis remains a common infection, with nearly 80 000 cases still notified annually across the EU. The report sends worrying signals on outbreaks and epidemics of measles in Europe. Data analysed show that countries need to intensify their programmes for infection control and prudent use of antibiotics to prevent and control the spread of multi-drug resistant strains of bacteria in Europe. One of the major public health concerns is HIV with ongoing transmissions in all countries. However, the epidemiology in population risk groups continues to differ from country to country. A lesson learned from the pandemic of 2009 and 2010 is the need to strengthen routine seasonal influenza surveillance in hospitals and especially intensive care units in many Member States.

The report identifies emergent diseases in Europe that might pose a risk to public health. The indications are that West Nile virus might have established itself in parts of south-east Europe. There have even been locally acquired cases of diseases previously only considered to be imported, like malaria, dengue fever and chikungunya.

ECDC Director Marc Sprenger stresses: *'We now need to take the responsibility, together with relevant stakeholders, to see how we can translate these findings into action'.*

ECDC now has five years of experience in epidemic intelligence and threat assessment and continues to further develop tools and support Member States in their preparedness activities. In 2010, ECDC monitored 93 threats across Europe. Of these, 83 were new, including poliomyelitis in Tajikistan, cholera in Haiti and West Nile virus infection in Europe. Ten threats were still monitored from previous years. Nearly half of the 2010 threats were of environmental and zoonotic origin (47 %), followed by vaccine-preventable and invasive bacterial diseases (13 %), food- and waterborne diseases (10 %) and influenza (8 %).

1/2

### Further information

The full report is available on our website:

[http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Forms/ECDC\\_DispForm.aspx?ID=767](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/Forms/ECDC_DispForm.aspx?ID=767)

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The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is an EU agency tasked with identifying assessing and communicating threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. It supports the work of public health authorities in the EU and EEA/EFTA Member States.