

Call for expression of interest of international and non-profit organisations to be part of the EU Health Task Force (EUHTF) Advisory Group

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed shortcomings in the European Union (EU) mechanisms for managing public health threats, including a lack of readily available resources for timely deployment to emergency settings. Following the initial lessons learnt from COVID-19, the reinforced role for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) according to its new mandate (REGULATION (EU) 2022/2370, amending REGULATION (EC) No 851/2004) includes the establishment of an EU Health Task Force (EUHTF) to provide operational outbreak response and crisis preparedness support to EU/European Economic Area (EEA) Member States (MS) as well as supporting wider global health security. The ECDC is establishing and coordinating the EUHTF, with the support and collaboration of the European Commission (EC), EU/EEA MS and EU partners.

The scope of the EUHTF is as follows:

Upon request, the EUHTF supports EU/EEA countries and other partner countries and international organisations for:

- **Timely emergency response** during outbreaks and crises related to communicable diseases or diseases of unknown origin including remote support and rapid in-country field deployment, support for outbreak investigations and response, provision of science-based recommendations, support for operational and outbreak-related research and provision of guidance and tools.
- **Strengthening countries emergency preparedness** including the development, testing and updating of preparedness protocols and plans, assessment of preparedness gaps, simulation exercises (SimEx), in- and after-action reviews (IAR/AAR), tailored capacity building activities and trainings.

The EUHTF works in coordination with the EC (e.g. DG SANTE, DG ECHO, DG HERA, DG RTD), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), as well as other international organisations. [More information about the EUHTF can be found on the ECDC website.](#)

The role of the EUHTF Advisory Group is as follows:

The EUHTF comprises a Permanent Capacity (the ECDC Coordination Team, which coordinates all EUHTF activities), EUHTF Expert Pools and an Enhanced Emergency Capacity. The EUHTF Advisory Group advises the ECDC Coordination Team on operational, administrative and technical decisions, including setting annual work plan priorities, and assisting in identifying opportunities for international collaboration.

The EUHTF Advisory Group includes ECDC staff. In addition, external members include six EU/EEA country representatives (rotating every two years), four EC representatives from DG SANTE, DG ECHO, DG HERA and DG RTD, one representative from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), one representative from GOARN, one representative from WHO-EURO, one representative from the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and one representative from an international and/or non-profit organisation.

The EUHTF Advisory Group was convened for the first time in January 2024 and meets twice a year. Ad hoc consultations are also expected. In addition, the ECDC Coordination Team will remain in close contact with the EUHTF Advisory Group.

The role of the international and/or non-profit organisation representative in the EUHTF Advisory Group is as follows:

- Provide expert advice on the operation of the EUHTF, particularly on the operation of emergency alert and response teams;
- Identify potential assignments or areas of international collaboration for the EUHTF;
- Advise on available trainings of interest;
- Facilitate liaison with partners in the field during EUHTF operations.

The international and/or non-profit organisation to be represented on the EUHTF Advisory Group is required to satisfy the following criteria:

- Legally established within the EU/EEA as a non-profit organisation, (preferably in the humanitarian field);
- Operates at national level, with activities across the EU/EEA and globally;
- Expertise in public health and the investigation, treatment, control, or prevention of infectious diseases;
- Experience in international deployment contexts, including field epidemiology and research;
- Prior cooperation with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, WHO Health Emergencies Programme mechanism, Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) or equivalent mechanisms;
- Experience in advising a national or international committee or advisory board;
- Availability of representative(s) to attend EUHTF Advisory Group meetings (and participate in related activities).

Selection of an international and/or non-profit organisation representative will be based on the satisfaction of the criteria above. ECDC is responsible for the evaluation of applications and the resulting selection of a successful candidate. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process.

Please note that ECDC intends to select a maximum of one representative. ECDC is responsible for deciding upon the final composition of the EUHTF Advisory Group in order to obtain a balance of interests and the required expertise.

Please express your interest by sending an application to EUHTF@ecdc.europa.eu. Include a short description of the scope and activities of the international and/or non-profit organisation and how they would fit the criteria above. In addition, provide a CV of the potential representative.

Deadline for submission: 13 September 2024