



ECDC Management Board

Minutes of the Forty-fifth Meeting Stockholm, 20-21 March 2019

Adopted by the ECDC Management Board at its Forty-sixth meeting, 18-19 June 2019

Contents

Opening and welcome from the Chair (and noting the Representatives)	4
Welcome from the Director, ECDC.....	4
Adoption of the draft programme (and noting the declarations of interest and proxy voting, if any) (<i>Document MB45/01 Rev.2</i>)	4
Adoption of the draft minutes of the 44 th meeting of the Management Board (Stockholm, 13-14 November 2018) (<i>Document MB45/02</i>).....	5
Update on the Third External Evaluation.....	5
a) Update on the process and developments	5
b) Appointment of the External Evaluation Recommendations Drafting Group (<i>Document MB45/03</i>).....	5
Draft conclusions from the external evaluation of the ECDC Fellowship Programme	6
Draft ECDC Strategy 2021-2027 (<i>Document MB45/04</i>).....	7
Annual Report of the Director on the Centre's Activities in 2018 (including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2018) (<i>Document MB45/05</i>).....	8
Code of Conduct of the Management Board (<i>Document MB45/06</i>).....	8
Summary of discussions held at the 40 th Meeting of the ECDC Audit Committee (20 March 2019), including its recommendation	9
Report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2019 up until present (<i>Document MB45/10 Rev. 1</i>)	10
Discussion on the Single Programming Document 2020 – preliminary comments from the European Commission.....	11
Update on the planning of the Third ECDC Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM)	12
Implementation of the ECDC Independence Policy	12
Update on ECDC implementation of new data protection Regulation 2018/1725	12
Update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting of the Management Board (13-14 November 2018) (<i>Document MB45/11</i>).....	13
Update on Next Generation ECDC	13
ECDC Chief Scientist's Annual Report on the work of the Advisory Forum (<i>Document MB45/12</i>)	14
Update from the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.....	14
Update from the European Parliament.....	15
Update from the European Commission.....	15
Reimbursement practices in relation to Management Board meetings.....	15
Any other business.....	16
Annex: List of Participants	17

Summary of Proceedings – ECDC Management Board Meeting

The Forty-fifth meeting of the ECDC Management Board (MB) convened in Stockholm, Sweden, during 20-21 March 2019. During the meeting, the Management Board:

- ❖ adopted the programme of the meeting;
- ❖ adopted the minutes of the Forty-fourth meeting of the Management Board¹;
- ❖ took note of the update on the process and developments of the Third External Evaluation of ECDC, and appointed the MB External Evaluation Recommendations Drafting Group. The composition of the Drafting Group will be as follows: Bolette Søborg, Alternate, Denmark, Taneli Puumalainen, Alternate, Finland, Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France, Gesa Lücking, Alternate, Germany, Georgios Saroglou, Member, Greece, Francesco Maraglino, Alternate, Italy, Ciska Scheidel, Member, Netherlands, Johan Carlson, Member, Sweden, Marilena Koppa, Member, European Parliament, and Wolfgang Philipp, Alternate, European Commission;
- ❖ took note of the update on the draft conclusions from the external evaluation of the ECDC Fellowship Programme;
- ❖ discussed the Draft ECDC Strategy 2021-2027, and agreed that a revised version of the Strategy shall be sent to the Management Board for written consultation, and subsequently discussed during the next Management Board meeting in June 2019;
- ❖ approved the Annual Report of the Director on the Centre's Activities in 2018, including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2018;
- ❖ approved the Code of Conduct of the Management Board;
- ❖ took note of the Progress report – Overview of 2019 Budget Implementation up until 18 March 2019;
- ❖ approved the Provisional Annual Accounts 2018, including Report on Budgetary and Financial Management;
- ❖ took note of the Third Supplementary and Amending Budget 2018;
- ❖ approved the revised Mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee, and appointed Daniel Shine, MB Alternate, Ireland, to join the Audit Committee in replacement of Martina Brix-Zuleger, former MB Alternate, Austria;
- ❖ approved the Report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2019 up until present, including the proposed change to the Financing Decision;
- ❖ took note of the preliminary comments from the European Commission on the Single Programming Document 2020;
- ❖ took note of the update on the planning of the Third ECDC Joint Strategy Meeting;
- ❖ took note of the update on the implementation of the ECDC Independence Policy;
- ❖ took note of the update on ECDC implementation of new data protection Regulation 2018/1725;
- ❖ took note of the update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting;
- ❖ took note of the update on Next Generation ECDC;
- ❖ took note of the update from the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU;
- ❖ took note of the update from the European Parliament;
- ❖ took note of the update from the European Commission;
- ❖ took note of ECDC Chief Scientist's Annual Report on the work of the Advisory Forum;
- ❖ took note of the update on Reimbursement practices in relation to Management Board meetings.

¹ With an amendment in point 55 suggested by one Member State

Opening and welcome from the Chair (and noting the Representatives)

1. Anni Virolainen-Julkunen, Chair of the ECDC Management Board, welcomed all the participants to the Forty-fifth meeting of the Management Board. A special welcome was extended to Maroussa Konnari Jeronymides, Alternate, Cyprus, Marlene Øhrberg Krag, newly appointed Member, Denmark, Heli Laarmann, Member, Estonia, Daniel Shine, Alternate, Ireland, and Andreas Johansson, newly appointed Alternate, Sweden, as well as to Stephanie Ekelschot, who was participating as an adviser to the MB Member from the Netherlands.
2. Apologies had been received from Greece, the Slovak Republic (proxy to Bulgaria), and Spain. In addition, the following countries did not attend the meeting: Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Poland.

Welcome from the Director, ECDC

3. Andrea Ammon, Director, ECDC, warmly welcomed the Management Board members and noted that she was looking forward to having fruitful and inspiring discussions during the meeting.

Adoption of the draft programme (and noting the declarations of interest and proxy voting, if any) (*Document MB45/01 Rev.2*)

4. The Chair asked the Board members whether anyone wished to amend or add anything to the Draft Programme.
5. One member noted that during the previous Management Board meeting she had requested to receive information on two points at the following meeting: firstly, on the planned foresight activities which were to be discussed by the Advisory Forum in February, and secondly, on how ECDC is preparing for Brexit. However, none of these two points were on the agenda of the current meeting. Another member asked whether some further information on the planned organisational changes would be given during this meeting.
6. Andrea Ammon, Director, ECDC, mentioned that she would report back on the last Advisory Forum meeting in her update the following day; this update would also include information on the cross-sectional projects on e-health and foresight. Similarly, she suggested briefing the Board about what ECDC is doing in relation to Brexit during her regular update. Concerning the planned organisational changes, she noted that this point would be covered in the update on Next Generation ECDC the following day.
7. One of the representatives of the European Commission noted that the update from the Commission was rather extensive this time with some information to be provided also by DG RTD, and asked whether the update could be placed slightly earlier on the agenda of the second day.
8. The Chair suggested reviewing the agenda during the coffee break; she would then inform the Board about possible changes in the order of the items or time distribution. The Board members agreed with this proposal.
9. Following the adoption of the programme, the Chair asked each member whether s/he wished to add any oral declaration(s) of interest to her/his Annual Declaration of Interest (ADoI) submitted previously. None were declared.

The Management Board adopted the draft programme.

Adoption of the draft minutes of the 44th meeting of the Management Board (Stockholm, 13-14 November 2018) (Document MB45/02)

10. The Chair noted that the draft minutes had been circulated to the Board ahead of the meeting. No comments had been received. France requested an amendment of point 55 related to Lyme disease, and suggested sending the proposed text in writing. Referring to the text under "Any other business", the member from France suggested a follow-up discussion during the next Management Board meeting on the results of the written procedure on the ECDC Preparedness and Response Support Strategy, in order to clarify some of the comments provided by the European Commission and some Member States.

11. No further comments were provided on the draft minutes.

The Management Board adopted the minutes of the Forty-fourth meeting of the Management Board with the above mentioned change in point 55.

Update on the Third External Evaluation

a) Update on the process and developments

12. Anne-Catherine Viso, Chair, External Evaluation Steering Committee (MEES), MB Alternate, France, updated the Board on the Third External Evaluation of ECDC. She mentioned that the MEES had met with the contractor the day before to discuss the interim report. She explained that the MEES members considered the report as a draft interim report as it did not meet their expectations in terms of content and structure. In particular, the report was mainly based on surveys and interviews, and lacked information on the desk research carried out. During the meeting, it was agreed with the contractor that a revised interim report will be submitted at the end of the first week of April. This should not delay the process, and thereby the draft final report is still expected to be presented to the Management Board in June 2019.

The Management Board took note of the update on the Third External Evaluation.

b) Appointment of the External Evaluation Recommendations Drafting Group (Document MB45/03)

13. The Chair of the Management Board recalled that, during the Second External Evaluation, the MB Recommendations Drafting Group had been composed of 12 members, some of which were also MEES members. This time, the group would in practice have only three months to formulate the conclusions and recommendations given that documents for the November MB need to be submitted for internal review already around mid-October. During the previous evaluation, having members of the MEES in the drafting group, in addition to other members, was considered useful. She asked whether this issue had been discussed in the MEES meeting the day before.

14. Anne-Catherine Viso responded that the MEES had discussed the Drafting Group but not all MEES members had been present in the meeting. Of those present, all had indicated that they were ready to continue also in the Drafting Group. Last time, the Drafting Group members had worked with the report in pairs, which had functioned well. In order to gain time, she suggested that the group could start its work already following receipt of the draft final report in June. This would change the wording in the proposed Terms of Reference of the Drafting Group indicating that the group will initiate its work "after receipt of the *draft* final report".

15. In the discussion that followed, Ciska Scheidel, MB Member, Netherlands, volunteered to join the Drafting Group. Zofija Mazej Kukovič, MB Member, European Parliament, mentioned that Marilena Koppa will join the group as representative for the European Parliament. Wolfgang Philipp, MB Alternate, European Commission, noted that he will participate on behalf of the Commission.

16. Consequently, the Management Board agreed that the Drafting Group will be composed of the following members: Bolette Søborg, Alternate, Denmark, Taneli Puumalainen, Alternate, Finland, Anne-Catherine Viso, Alternate, France, Gesa Lücking, Alternate, Germany, Georgios Saroglou, Member, Greece, Francesco Maraglino, Alternate, Italy, Ciska Scheidel, Member, Netherlands, Johan Carlson, Member, Sweden, Marilena Koppa, Member, European Parliament, and Wolfgang Philipp, Alternate, European Commission.

The Management Board appointed the MB External Evaluation Recommendations Drafting Group.

Draft conclusions from the external evaluation of the ECDC Fellowship Programme

17. Tsvetelina Blagoeva, PwC EU Services, gave a presentation on the preliminary findings of the external evaluation of the ECDC Fellowship Programme. The Programme is assessed according to the following evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, EU added value, coherence, and complementarity. According to the preliminary findings, the overall performance of the programme is positive in terms of all criteria. Some areas of improvement were however identified. In particular, the analysis shows that not all EU/EEA countries are benefitting from the programme equally. The identified obstacles refer to lack of resources for such positions, and lack of accreditation of the programme. Moreover, there is remaining lack of clarity among the consulted stakeholders about the objective of the two-path format (EPIET/EUPHEM) under the One Fellowship Programme, as well as persisting dissatisfaction with the name of the programme, which does not emphasise the Member State role in the programme. In addition, a solution should be found to the issue of decreased opportunities for international assignments, which the fellows/alumni see as providing a lot of value for their professional development. In general, more opportunities for short-term assignments in other EU countries would be beneficial, especially for MS-track fellows. Other identified areas for improvement relate to the need to provide more professional development opportunities for supervisors and coordinators, the need to increase awareness of the programme at country level among public health institutions other than the national public health institutes and training sites, potential efficiency gains related to the costs of meetings, and the need to lower the administrative burden of the programme within ECDC and among training sites. Concerning the timeline of the evaluation, she mentioned that the draft final report is expected to be submitted in April, and the final report is foreseen to be presented to the Management Board in June 2019.

18. Following the presentation, a few questions were raised: in particular, how stakeholders will be involved in the further drafting of the report, and how ECDC is planning to evaluate the recommendations and decide on the next steps. One MB member raised some concern regarding the fact that PwC is in charge of both the Fellowship evaluation and the Third External Evaluation and asked how they will be able to manage both evaluations within the given deadlines. Several MB members drew attention to the complexity of the network of partners involved in the Fellowship Programme. It was stressed that the programme is one of the most important activities of ECDC from the Member State point of view and therefore has to be protected.

19. Tsvetelina Blagoeva ensured that there is a large team from PwC working on each of the evaluations. Concerning stakeholders, she mentioned that the evaluation team is currently looking at ways to involve further stakeholders and one suggestion is to include these in the Steering Committee of the evaluation.

20. Karl Ekdahl, Head of Unit Public Health Capacity and Communication, ECDC, reported that a joint meeting had taken place the week before gathering the Training Site Forum (representatives of all the training sites) and coordinators. He agreed that the Fellowship Programme is indeed very complex and, naturally, there are different views among the different stakeholders. Concerning the next steps following the delivery of the final report, he explained that the intention is to set up a working group with representatives of the Advisory Forum and NFPs for training to go through the recommendations. It might not be possible to achieve consensus on all the issues but at least there should be a majority view on the next steps. He expected that the conclusions and recommendations could be presented to the Board in November 2019.

The Management Board took note of the draft conclusions of the external evaluation of the ECDC Fellowship Programme.

Draft ECDC Strategy 2021-2027 (Document MB45/04)

21. Andrea Ammon, Director, ECDC, recalled that the elements of the ECDC Strategy had been presented to the Management Board in November 2018, and thereafter written comments had been provided by the Board members. One of the questions raised was why there is a need for a strategy. She explained that not having a strategy is first of all perceived as lack of direction sensed by staff, but also the performance review showed that there are certain effects from the fact of not having a clear strategy in place. Also, some of ECDC's sister agencies have developed own strategies. She added that now there are several ECDC 'sectoral' strategies, which are not aligned, and there is a lack of ownership as there is no overarching strategic document in place. The strategy gives internal and external clarity of direction and should be based on a shared vision and sense of purpose; this is also the reason why a vision statement has been developed. This statement has now been amended to express that the Member States and the European Commission are the main stakeholders, but that there are also other partners, such as WHO and other EU agencies, which are relevant for ECDC. The Strategy document is based on the vision statement, and follows closely the elements previously proposed. It identifies focus areas for action while still remaining a high level document. In the June MB, it is suggested to present a revised draft based on the MB input received during the current meeting, as well as targets for 2027 and annual milestones (roadmap), on which the priorities for 2021-2023 will be based.

22. Following the presentation, a number of comments were raised. Several MB members mentioned that it was not sufficiently clear who was the target audience of the document. There was some divergence of views on whether the document was mainly an internal document for the ECDC management or rather a position paper outlining the way forward in the field and thus targeting an external audience such as European Commission, European Parliament, and other stakeholders. It was noted that the rationale of the Strategy needed to be more strongly stated in the preamble. The MB members agreed that the document should be kept at high level and not go into detail about resources, tasks, etc. It was further noted that ECDC's role is to apply scientific excellence, i.e. scientific excellence is a means and not an objective per se. It was also pointed out that the document makes no reference to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Referring to the pyramid on page 4, it was commented that vision and strategy are living documents and, as such, these can influence the rest but they should not be included in the pyramid. There were also some divergent views expressed concerning the need for a roadmap, and regarding the global approach. The need for flexibility was stressed, taking into account the upcoming EU elections and the new Commission taking office, as well as the ongoing External Evaluation. In this context, it was noted that it would perhaps be more prudent to finalise the Strategy in November rather than in June 2019.

23. Andrea Ammon thanked for the valuable comments. She clarified that, from her perspective, the Strategy needed to target both an internal and an external audience. Since there is a final goal set for 2027, the Strategy would need to be broken down to a roadmap which will guide the implementation; this does not mean that there cannot be flexibility. She agreed that the Strategy document should be kept at a general level without going into details about resources as these can change. Concerning the global dimension, she stressed that all international work is done in the view of how this affects the EU. The collaboration with the neighbouring countries is therefore of particular importance. Given the amount of comments received, and the fact that some contrasting views were expressed, she suggested revising the document based on the feedback received and thereafter sending it for written consultation to the Board prior to continuing the discussion during the next meeting in June.

24. The Management Board agreed with this proposal.

The Management Board discussed the Draft ECDC Strategy 2021-2027, and agreed that a revised version of the Strategy shall be sent to the Management Board for written consultation, and subsequently discussed during the next Management Board meeting in June 2019.

Annual Report of the Director on the Centre's Activities in 2018 (including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2018) (Document MB45/05)

25. Andrea Ammon presented the Annual Report of the Centre's Activities in 2018. She mentioned that 89% of ECDC's planned activities were implemented (target 85%). The budget of the Centre was 58.2 M€ which meant an increase of 0.2 M€ compared to 2017, while the number of staff was reduced, from 282 in 2017 to 280 in 2018. She then presented the budget consumption for operations (Title 3), and explained that the largest part (36%) was devoted to the Disease Programmes, followed by ICT and Training and Capacity building. The main priorities in 2018 were AMR, increasing vaccine coverage/addressing vaccine hesitancy and contributing to the SDG targets for HIV and TB. During the year, ECDC moved to new premises, started preparing the ECDC Strategy 2021-2027, initiated the Third External Evaluation, engaged in discussions on cross organisational projects (e-health and foresight), and launched the "Next Generation ECDC" initiative. The collaboration with WHO was further strengthened with co-branding applied to all joint products and regular review of the joint work programme. ECDC also started chairing the Network of EU Agencies in September 2018, and initiated further cooperation with the African CDC and the China CDC.

26. In the discussion that followed, one MB member asked for a clarification regarding the cancellation of the cross-sectional survey for Lyme disease (Annex 1 p. 73). Another member commented that the number of people visiting the ECDC website seemed to indicate that there is a lack of visibility of the Centre among the general public (638 713 website sessions compared to 500 million EU citizens).

27. Andrea Ammon responded that the survey on Lyme disease had been cancelled as it was no longer relevant due to the fact that Lyme neuroborreliosis had been added to the list of diseases covered by EU-wide surveillance. On the same topic, one MB member noted that, following the introduction of the new case definition, her country had suggested a study to look at the implications of this new reporting obligation. Andrea Ammon mentioned that ECDC is in contact with experts in Member States about the matter, and an analysis is being planned. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, added that ECDC recognises the level of concern around Lyme disease and a discussion on the topic has been scheduled for the next Advisory Forum meeting in May in order to exchange views and to identify the most useful way in which ECDC can support Member States while moving into this new era of reporting.

28. Following the discussion, the Management Board approved the Annual Report of the Director for 2018.

The Management Board approved the Annual Report of the Director on the Centre's Activities in 2018, including Draft Analysis and Assessment of Annual Report of the Director 2018.

Code of Conduct of the Management Board (Document MB45/06)

29. Gesa Lücking, Chair of the Working Group on Code of Conduct, MB Alternate, Germany, recalled that a draft Code of Conduct had been submitted to the Management Board for guidance during MB44 in November 2018. The Management Board had agreed with the proposal of the Working Group not to include observers and other third persons in the scope of the Code of Conduct. Following suggestion of the Management Board, Article 8.2 had now been amended to better clarify that Board members can act in different capacity. In addition, Article 9 on data protection had been updated in view of the entry into force of the new Data Protection Regulation for EU Institutions (Regulation (EU) 2018/1725). The Management Board was now invited to approve the final draft Code of Conduct.

30. No further comments were provided on the document and the Code of Conduct was thereby approved without changes.

The Management Board approved the Code of Conduct of the Management Board.

Summary of discussions held at the 40th Meeting of the ECDC Audit Committee (20 March 2019), including its recommendation

a) Progress Report – Overview of 2019 Budget Implementation up until 18 March 2019

31. Anja van Brabant, Accounting Officer and Head of Section, Finance and Accounting, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, presented an overview of the 2019 budget implementation since the last Management Board meeting. Concerning committed appropriations in the first quarter of 2019, she noted that there was an increase in Titles I and II and a decrease in title III compared to the figures of the previous year. As for the executed payments, an increase was noted on all the titles. In respect to carry-forwards from 2018, 34.2% had been paid to date.

32. Johan Carlson, Chair of the Audit Committee (AC), summarised the discussions in the Audit Committee mentioning that the AC had requested to integrate actual amounts in future presentations. ECDC had provided explanation on the increased commitment rate on Title I, specifically for the salary related budget lines compared to the last year. Clarification was also provided regarding the fact that only 30% had so far been paid on the carry-forward amount of EUR 10 million from 2018. The Audit Committee was satisfied with the explanations and advised the Centre to continuously monitor its budgetary outturn for 2019 in order to secure its future annual budget.

The Management Board took note of the Progress Report – Overview of 2019 Budget Implementation up until 18 March 2019.

b) Provisional Annual Accounts 2018, including Report on Budgetary and Financial Management (Document MB45/07)

33. Anja Van Brabant presented the Provisional Annual Accounts 2018. She recalled that the Accounts consist of two parts: the financial statements of the Centre and the report on the implementation of the budget of the Centre. The Provisional Accounts were audited by an external audit firm (E&Y) during 4-8 March 2019. The Final Annual Accounts 2017 will be presented to the Board for approval in the June 2019 meeting.

34. Johan Carlson reported that the Audit Committee had received background information on the turnover rate of staff, confirming that this was similar to previous years (ranging between 5.3% and 9.06% including retirements). The Audit Committee had also received an explanation of why the administrative expenses of Management Board, Advisory Forum and administrative meetings had more than doubled in 2018. In fact, apart from the MB and AF meetings, the administrative meetings also included the costs of the External Evaluation Steering Committee (MEES) meetings, organisational consultancy meetings, and several network meetings due to the fact that ECDC chaired the network of EU agencies during the second half of 2018 (and will continue chairing it during 2019). In conclusion, the Audit Committee recommended the Management Board to adopt the Provisional Annual Accounts 2018.

The Management Board approved the Provisional Annual Accounts 2018, including Report on Budgetary and Financial Management.

c) Third Supplementary and Amending Budget 2018 (Document MB45/08)

35. Anja Van Brabant presented the Third Supplementary and Amending Budget 2018, consisting of the budget transfers approved by the Director since the last Management Board meeting held in November 2018 and up until 31 December 2018. She explained that one additional budget transfer for a total net amount of EUR 25 800 had been carried-out between the Titles I and II. Additional transfers were carried out within Title I, II and III. All budget transfers were approved by the Director within the limits of her powers, in accordance with Article 27.1 of ECDC's Financial Regulation.

The Management Board took note of the Third Supplementary and Amending Budget 2018.

d) Mandate of the ECDC Audit Committee (Document MB45/09 Rev.1)

36. Johan Carlson reported that the Audit Committee (AC) had discussed its mandate, and noted the need to amend the mandate to allow for the replacement of Members, subject to the agreement by the Chair. To ensure quorum and necessary flexibility, the Audit Committee recommended the Management Board to approve the proposed amendment accordingly. In addition, the Audit Committee requested the Management Board to identify a new member to replace Ms Martina Brix-Zuleger who left the Management Board and thus the Audit Committee as of 1 March 2019.

37. Following the presentation of the Chair of the Audit Committee, Daniel Shine, MB Alternate, Ireland, expressed his willingness to join the Audit Committee with the caveat that he would need to confirm with the MB Member for Ireland regarding participation in the MB and AC meetings.

38. The Chair thanked Daniel Shine for volunteering and asked him to liaise directly with the Chair of the Audit Committee after clarifying the issue at home.

39. The Management Board then approved the revised Mandate of the Audit Committee as outlined in the document.

The Management Board approved the revised Mandate of the Audit Committee.

Report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2019 up until present (Document MB45/10 Rev. 1)

40. Philippe Harant, Head of Section, Quality Management, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, provided an update on the implementation of the Work Programme 2019. He explained that a few changes were proposed in the ARHAI programme due to a new request from the European Commission to support the implementation of the European One Health Action Plan against AMR, and a request from the Romanian Ministry of Health to provide technical support to the Romanian EU Presidency High-Level AMR Conference, which took place on 1 March 2019.

41. The Chair noted that the proposed changes meant in practice that some of the activities already agreed by the Management Board were now postponed and others were added. She asked for the rationale behind prioritising these new activities instead of other activities on the same subject.

42. The European Commission explained that the request was due to prioritisations done in the area of AMR and that this was an evolving area. The new requested tasks relate to the implementation of the second action plan on AMR.

43. Philippe Harant clarified that the request came indeed from the Commission, but the de-prioritisation was suggested by the ARHAI programme to accommodate the additional needs.

44. Andrea Ammon, Director, ECDC, added that the planned comprehensive report on AMR across communicable diseases will be postponed, but separate reports will still be done in 2019.

45. Referring to the list of procurements, one MB member asked for a clarification on the new framework contract on WGS support for Member States and noted that not all Member States will be able to handle all pathogens in one year.

46. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, responded that the rate with which the use of WGS is becoming not only the best practice but a common practice is accelerating across the EU. Nonetheless, he acknowledged that there are important capacity differences between the countries, and the objective of the new framework contract is primarily to provide support to the Member States to participate in the outbreak response. He clarified that the implementation of EU-wide WGS-based surveillance would only be phased in as and when there is sufficient capacity across the EU/EEA as a whole.

The Management Board approved the Report on Implementation of the Work Programme 2019 up until present, including the proposed change in the Financing Decision.

Discussion on the Single Programming Document 2020 – preliminary comments from the European Commission

47. Martin Seychell, MB Member, European Commission, presented some preliminary comments on the ECDC Single Programming Document 2020. Firstly, he noted that SoHO (substances of human origin) was not reflected in the SPD 2020. Secondly, additional support from ECDC would certainly be expected in the area of vaccination, in particular for the development of a European Vaccination Information Sharing system and other deliverables arising from the Council Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases. Given that a new Commission will take office in 2019, a certain level of flexibility will be needed, and it may be necessary to come back on some of the issues at a later stage. However, it is unlikely that there will be any dramatic shifts in the policy priorities. Health security will surely be high on the agenda and this provides a good opportunity for ECDC to play a major role in this area. The Commission will continue to rely on ECDC for strengthening the preparedness in the Member States. This work needs to be linked to Decision 1082 and other relevant policy documents and initiatives, such as the Security Union (e.g. cyber and hybrid threats). Concerning the implementing act on diseases under mandatory surveillance reporting, he pointed out that the Commission is open to discuss how to support Member States with the reporting and ECDC will surely have a role in this work. In addition, he recommended keeping the GDPR under close watch as the new Commission will need to be aware if the application of the legislation results in challenges in the Member States.

48. Concerning the planned cross-sectional activities on foresight, he remarked that no less than 12 FTEs seemed to be allocated to this activity and stressed the need to find the right balance between these projects and ECDC's core activities. He noted that the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is very strong in foresight, and collaboration with JRC as well as with DG RTD would therefore be beneficial. With regards to e-health, a more visible link to the Commission's new initiative on digitalisation (Digital Europe) would be recommended.

49. Andrea Ammon clarified that there will be a maximum of 12 FTEs for both cross-sectional initiatives together. She added that, according to the MFF, ECDC will receive one million EUR more in 2020 whereby these activities will not be on the expense of any other activity.

50. In the discussion that followed, some MB members pointed out that, in the absence of a document, it was difficult for the Member States to comment on the matter. In general, some members expressed frustration with the current SPD process whereby the formal opinion of the Commission is provided only during the summer. With regards to the content, one member asked for a clarification of the role of ECDC in the work related to the vaccination information system on one hand, and hybrid threats on the other hand.

51. Martin Seychell responded that he fully understood the challenging nature of the SPD process and the objective of the presentation was to give an indication of what could come while keeping in mind that the new Commission could choose other initiatives. Concerning the information sharing system, he clarified that not only ECDC but also EMA will be involved. The initiative stems from the fact that there is no easy way to access and disseminate information on safety and effectiveness of vaccines and this information is necessary in order to combat vaccine hesitancy. As for the hybrid threats, he explained that a number of gaps have been identified in the Security Union and more technical support is needed: some of this support will need to come from ECDC, mainly in terms of technical scientific support.

The Management Board took note of the preliminary comments of the Commission on the ECDC Single Programming Document 2020.

Update on the planning of the Third ECDC Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM)

52. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, updated the Board on the planning of the Third Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM). He recalled that, following previous discussions with the Management Board, Advisory Forum, and Coordinating Competent Bodies, the main topics for discussion will be responding to the Third External Evaluation of ECDC, and the implementation of ECDC's strategy 2021-2027. The meeting is expected to take place in the first half of 2020. The Programme Committee had its first meeting in December 2018. The Committee will be responsible for setting the detailed programme and for contributing to the development of background papers. He then presented the suggested selection criteria for including topics on the agenda of the JSM. Some MB members questioned the criteria B ii) mentioning that the discussions should be limited to issues which are within the ECDC mandate. It was also mentioned that the criteria B i) and B iii) seemed to be overlapping. It was further inquired whether the criteria B iii) on development of new technology or competencies was not too technical.

53. Concerning the issue of the mandate, Mike Catchpole responded that, in his view, this was not always black and white, and there are some issues, such as hybrid threats for instance, where it is not totally clear where the boundaries are and where the responsibility starts and ends. As for the criteria B i), this was referring mainly to the roles and responsibilities of ECDC and partners, while B iii) was linked to new developments and how these impact the work and skill sets needed in the future. Thinking of WGS for instance, the discussion would rather be about the investments and not necessarily a technical discussion.

54. Responding to a question about the timeline, he suggested postponing the next Programme Committee meeting to after the June MB given that there was not yet a conclusion on the ECDC Strategy 2021-2027, and that draft conclusions of the external evaluation were not available at this point in time. It was agreed that further feedback on the criteria for topics could also wait until June.

The Management Board took note of the update on the planning of the Third JSM.

Implementation of the ECDC Independence Policy

55. Andrea Iber, Head of Section, Legal Services and Procurement, Resource Management and Coordination Unit, ECDC, provided a brief update on the implementation of the ECDC Independence Policy. She mentioned that 83% of the Annual Declarations of Interest (ADoI) had been collected from MB Members and Alternates, and 70% from AF Members and Alternates. All the DoIs had however been collected from members participating in meetings. A few relevant interests had been identified (three for MB and AF respectively), but no mitigation measures had been necessary. She further informed the Board that feedback had now been received from DG HR on the Independence Policy for staff. ECDC will address the comments received and, following formal approval, the document will be posted on the ECDC website. A practical guidance document for staff has been developed to consolidate the internal practices within the Centre.

The Management Board took note of the update on the implementation of the ECDC Independence Policy.

Update on ECDC implementation of new data protection Regulation 2018/1725

56. Andrea Iber updated the Board on the work carried out by ECDC to implement the new Data Protection Regulation No. 2018/1725. She explained that since 11 December 2018, ECDC is subject to new data protection rules, which mirror the rules in the GDPR applicable to Member States. As a consequence of the new legislation, a number of implementing rules will need to be adopted, for instance on data breach procedure and on restrictions of data subject rights. Some concrete changes which ECDC is currently implementing include replacing the previous "Data Notification forms" by new "Data Protection Records", and the obligation to carry out a "Data Protection Impact Assessment" (DPIA) for high risk processes instead of the "prior checking" with the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) which was part of the

previous procedure. If the DPIA shows high residual risk, notification to the EDPS is required. In addition, Privacy statements have to be updated with additional information and the internal register of data processing operations needs to be published on the ECDC website. An e-workflow to create data protection records has been created. Basic training and specialised training for specific staff is currently being provided.

57. The Chair thanked Andrea Iber for the clear presentation. She mentioned that the implementation of the GDPR seemed to create a lot of difficulty at Member State level. As there are different issues in different countries the best option for the member States is to raise their issues bilaterally with ECDC.

The Management Board took note of the update on ECDC implementation of new data protection Regulation 2018/1725.

Update from ECDC on the main activities since the last meeting of the Management Board (13-14 November 2018) (Document MB45/11)

58. Andrea Ammon, ECDC Director, provided the Management Board with an update on the main activities since the last Management Board meeting. The presentation referred to the key decisions of MB44, their status and progress, and to the main visits and meetings of the ECDC Director. An overview of what had been discussed at the 56th meeting of the Advisory Forum (February 2019) was also provided. In response to the question of one MB member concerning the foresight activities, she noted that the two cross-organisational initiatives on e-health and foresight had been brought back to the AF in February in order to receive further input on the single activities. She then described how ECDC is preparing for Brexit and for the worst-case scenario (hard Brexit). Lastly, she briefed the Board about the ESCAIDE meeting which took place in Malta in November 2018. In general, the outcome of the meeting was very positive and the cost of arranging the conference outside Sweden was only marginally higher. In 2020, the ESCAIDE conference is scheduled to take place in Poland; after this it will have to be decided whether to continue alternating the location of the conference or not.

59. Following the presentation, a few comments were made. One MB member commented that the foresight initiative looks promising but recommended to closely monitor it as some interventions could be rather complicated to implement.

60. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, reported that there was broad support in the Advisory Forum for the value of undertaking foresight activities. He agreed that there was a need to monitor and evaluate the activities. He added that involvement of the Joint Research Centre and DG RTD would certainly be helpful as suggested by the European Commission.

The Management Board took note of the update on the main activities since the last meeting of the Management Board.

Update on Next Generation ECDC

61. Andrea Ammon updated the Board on the latest developments under the Next Generation ECDC initiative focusing on the stream on structure. She explained that the working group on structure had identified a number of guiding principles for the reorganisation. Design criteria for the final structure have also been defined. Three potential models (a matrix model, a non-matrix and a mixed model) will be tested through a simulation exercise looking at the following key processes; planning and resource allocation, Rapid Risk Assessments, and handling requests for scientific advice. The simulation exercise will result in a report and the conclusions for the final model will be presented to staff in May 2019. Staff will be informed on the restructuring via different communication channels: e.g. staff meetings, intranet, and newsletter. Lastly, she informed the Board that the Executive Office will become operational on 1 April and will be in charge of strategy, planning and monitoring, as well as continuous improvement of the organisational performance (evaluation, audits, internal control), corporate bodies (MB, AF, CCB) and the Director's Consultation Groups.

62. In the discussion that followed, one MB member noted that the presentation mainly described the process but didn't provide any information on the different scenarios. One member questioned whether the timing of the restructuring was optimal considering that there were several processes going in parallel, such as the ECDC Strategy and the External Evaluation, which needed to feed into one another. Another member mentioned that big organisational changes can affect staff to switch into a defence mode; it is therefore crucial to communicate clearly the foreseen changes such as where each staff member will be located.

63. Andrea Ammon responded that the work to identify the future place of a staff member in the structure will be done only at a later stage, but it is clear that every change has to be underpinned by a rationale. Concerning the timing of the restructuring, she mentioned that she did not expect a large impact from the external evaluation on the structure itself but, if necessary, it will be tweaked and adjusted. Similarly, it seemed from the discussion on the ECDC Strategy 2021-2027 that the areas outlined in the draft Strategy were largely accepted. Concerning the three scenarios, she clarified that one implied very minimal change, one implied going away from the matrix structure, and the last one was a mixed model. After the simulation exercise there will most likely be adaptations to the models. She ensured that the independence of *Eurosurveillance* and the importance of EPIET will be preserved in the final model.

64. The Chair thanked the Director for the presentation and concluded that further information on the restructuring will be provided in the June meeting.

The Management Board took note of the update on Next generation ECDC.

ECDC Chief Scientist's Annual Report on the work of the Advisory Forum (Document MB45/12)

65. Mike Catchpole, Chief Scientist, ECDC, recalled that the first Annual Report of the Chief Scientist on the work of the Advisory Forum had been presented in March 2018. In response to feedback received at the time, the current report included an assessment of the extent to which the AF advice had an impact on ECDC outputs and activities.

66. In the discussion that followed, referring to IMI ADVANCE, a few MB members noted that the I-MOVE project is in a sort of competition with the DRIVE project, which is run by a public-private partnership. In general, the fact that industry is involved in the funding, planning and execution of vaccine post-marketing studies is still perceived as problematic by some members. The European Commission noted that the current EU regulatory framework allocates this responsibility to the marketing authorisation holder.

67. The Chair recalled that an MB working group had looked at the issue of public-private partnerships and a document had been prepared as a result of the discussions. The Management Board agreed that it would not be useful to discuss the same issue again, but the document should be sent to all the Board members for information and reintroduced on the ECDC www-site.

The Management Board took note of the Chief Scientist's Annual Report on the work of the Advisory Forum.

Update from the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU

68. Amalia Serban gave a presentation on the Romanian EU Presidency (1 January-30 June 2019). She mentioned that the overall priority in the area of health is "Guarantee of access to health for all European citizens". The sectorial priorities include Antimicrobial resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections as well as Vaccination. One of the key highlights so far was the Ministerial Conference on AMR which took place on 1 March. During the meeting, a simulation exercise was arranged with the help of ECDC, DG SANTE, and WHO.

The Management Board took note of the update from the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Update from the European Parliament

69. Marilena Koppa, MB Member, European Parliament, briefed the Management Board about the forecasts of the upcoming European elections. According to the previsions, there will still be a pro-European majority in the Parliament but increased volatility and fragmentation is expected. The uncertainties around Brexit of course make the situation even more complex.

70. Zofija Mazej Kukovič, MB Member, European Parliament, thanked the Management Board for the opportunity to address the Board also from the European Parliament side, and noted that it was important to understand the structure of the EP also when it comes to health, especially due to the role of the EP as budgetary authority deciding about the budget of the ECDC. She added that the ENVI committee is asked to provide its opinion on each legislation, in line with the health in all policies approach.

The Management Board took note of the update from the European Parliament.

Update from the European Commission

71. Martin Seychell, MB Member, DG SANTE, updated the Board on ongoing activities. The presentation referred to the current work to implement the Council Recommendation on vaccination, where ECDC will be a leading partner for some of the deliverables. He also informed the Board about ongoing and planned Joint Actions in the area of vaccination and preparedness, and described the latest developments related to the joint procurement of medical countermeasures and pandemic influenza vaccine. Lastly, he mentioned that a meeting had taken place on 8 March between DG SANTE, DG CONNECT, and the EU health agencies to discuss how agencies can be involved in next EC programmes such as Horizon Europe, to make best use of the agencies' expertise.

72. Cornelius Schmaltz, MB Member, DG RTD, informed the Board that, the day before, the Council and the European Parliament had found a political agreement on Horizon Europe. The budget has not yet been decided and the final adoption will depend on the new Parliament, but hopefully the programme will be supported. He then briefed the Board members about the ECRAID-Plan and COMPARE projects both funded by Horizon 2020. Lastly, he informed the Board members about current and future Horizon 2020 calls.

The Management Board took note of the update from the European Commission.

Reimbursement practices in relation to Management Board meetings

73. Andrea Iber introduced the topic explaining that the current Rules of Procedure of the Management Board and the Advisory Forum do not provide any clear rule about the reimbursement of expenses related to MB and AF meetings. According to the previous "informal" practice for MB and AF, participants were reimbursed of flight tickets up to EUR 500 and airport transfers. Hotel costs and per diems were at the expense of participants. Since 1 July 2018, there is a new internal procedure outlining one single set of rules and practices for all types of invitees to the ECDC meetings. This procedure is aligned with the principles of the Commission's mission guide. In order to harmonise the practices, ECDC will arrange travel and hotel bookings also for the MB and AF members. The members will also be entitled to receive a per diem and reimbursement of airport transfer. The practical implications of this arrangement is that MB and AF members need to request travel and hotel arrangements early. Reimbursement to participants will be provided through submission of the "Reimbursement Application Form" accompanied by supporting documents. Lastly, it was clarified that the current level of allocations is sufficient to cover the projected additional expenses occurred due to the changed reimbursement practice.

The Management Board took note of the update on Reimbursement practices in relation to Management Board meetings.

Any other business

74. The Chair asked the Board members whether they would agree to try the Radisson Blu Royal Park Hotel for the June meeting, on the condition that this was feasible from a logistical point of view given that the meeting preparations had already been initiated with hotel accommodation to be provided in hotel Reisen. A majority of the members present supported this proposal. ECDC Corporate Governance Secretariat will look into the matter and revert to the Board members with further information.

75. Andrea Ammon noted that this could be the last meeting where the United Kingdom was represented and extended a special thank you on behalf of the whole ECDC to all the UK colleagues.

76. Morwenna Carrington, MB Alternate, United Kingdom, thanked the Management Board and ECDC for the precious collaboration to date and the warm welcome she had herself experienced when joining the Board. Whatever was the outcome of Brexit she hoped that there would be ways to continue the fruitful collaboration with the EU and the ECDC in particular.

77. The Chair thanked all the Board Members for their active participation and valuable contributions. A special thanks of appreciation was extended to the interpreters and ECDC staff for their hard work. The next Management Board meeting will convene in Stockholm during 18-19 June 2019.

Annex: List of Participants

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
Austria	Bernhard Benka	Member
Belgium	Lieven De Raedt	Member
Bulgaria	Angel Kunchev	Member
Croatia	Bernard Kaić	Member
Cyprus	Maroussa Konnari Jeronymides	Alternate
Czech Republic	Jozef Dlhý	Alternate
Denmark	Marlene Øhrberg Krag	Member
Denmark	Bolette Søborg	Alternate
Estonia	Heli Laarmann	Member
Finland	Anni Virolainen-Julkunen (<i>Chair</i>)	Member
Finland	Taneli Puumalainen	Alternate
France	Anne-Catherine Viso	Alternate
Germany	Gesa Lücking	Alternate
Hungary	Ágnes Dánielisz	Member
Ireland	Daniel Shine	Alternate
Italy	Francesco Maraglino	Alternate
Latvia	Jana Feldmane	Member
Lithuania	Audrius Ščeponavičius	Member
Luxembourg	Jean-Claude Schmit	Member
Malta	Patricia Vella Bonanno	Member
Netherlands	Ciska Scheidel	Member
Netherlands	Stephanie Ekelschot	Adviser
Portugal	Paula Vasconcelos	Alternate
Romania	Amalia Serban	Member

Country/Organisation	Representative	Status
Slovenia	Mojca Gobec	Member
Sweden	Johan Carlson	Member
Sweden	Andreas Johansson	Alternate
United Kingdom	Morwenna Carrington	Alternate
European Parliament		
	Zofija Mazej Kukovič	Member
	Maria Eleni Koppa	Member
European Commission		
DG SANTE	Martin Seychell	Member
DG SANTE	Wolfgang Philipp	Alternate
DG RTD	Cornelius Schmaltz	Member
EEA Countries		
Norway	Karl-Olaf Wathne	Member