Protecting Europe against disease for 20 years

Since its establishment in 2005, ECDC has worked to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases. Let's take a look at our journey:

IN THE BEGINNING

11% **SARS fatality rate during the 2002-3 outbreak.** This showed the speed at which a pathogen could emerge, spread across borders, and take lives, prompting the EU to take action.

22 **Number of months it took for ECDC to be set up** from the introduction of draft legislation to its opening in May 2005. This was record time for an EU agency.

25 **Number of member states in the EU when ECDC was opened.** Today, there are 27. ECDC was created because the EU's open borders and growing membership made scientific coordination essential.

"Citizens should know, value, and most importantly, trust ECDC."

Pamela Rendi-Wagner, ECDC Director

From the outset, ECDC has been coordinating key aspects of disease prevention and control, in particular:

Surveillance
Detecting and monitoring any multinational communicable disease outbreaks - focusing on source, time, population and place

Epidemic intelligence
Providing a central hub for detecting and assessing public health threats across Europe, allowing for timely responses and risk assessments

Preparedness
Providing information and tools to ensure that EU members are fully prepared for disease outbreaks at a national and local level

Response
Helping EU members during emergencies. This includes contact tracing, field deployment, simulation exercises and more

OUR JOURNEY

ECDC EVOLUTION

2005
ECDC opens
ECDC's office opens in Stockholm in Sweden with just 30 staff.

2008
TESSy
The European Surveillance system (TESSy) is launched, providing a one-stop shop for all surveillance data collected by ECDC in Europe and worldwide.

2014
Surveillance Atlas of Infectious Diseases
ECDC creates a new tool allowing users to generate their own charts and maps on key infectious diseases.

The Epipulse portal creates a single access point for infectious disease surveillance, drawing on data from TESSy.

2021
EpiPulse

October 2022
The European Parliament endorses the extended mandate of ECDC, to improve European preparedness and response for future health challenges.

KEY OUTBREAKS

2009
Swine flu
At its peak in October, there were 100 000 cases a week in the EU. ECDC activated its Emergency Plan and worked 24/7 providing surveillance and critical updates.

2013
Ebola
This was the largest ever outbreak of the disease. Starting in West Africa, it would kill over 11 000 people. ECDC sent its experts to West Africa and increased its surveillance of ebola to prevent its spread outside of the affected region.

2020-23
Covid-19
First detected in Wuhan, China in 2019, Covid-19 reached the EU in January 2020. ECDC activated its emergency plan which remained in place for 1 168 days.

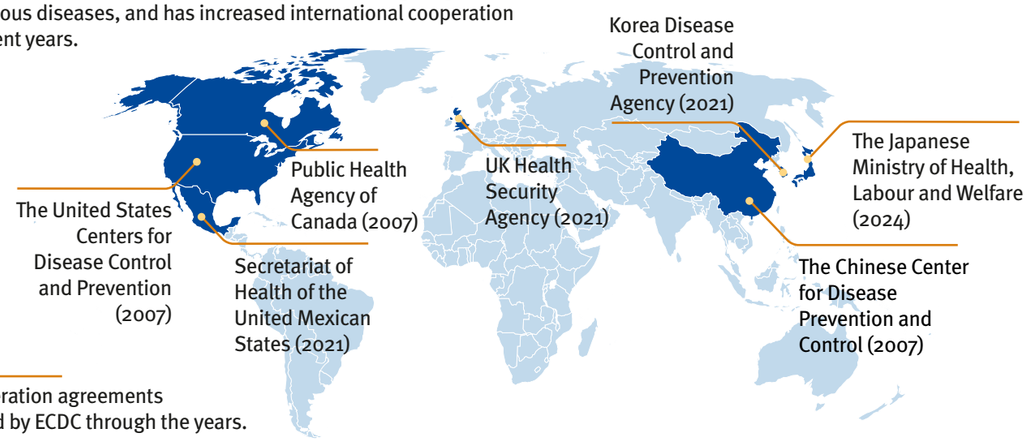
2024
Mpox
ECDC staff are sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the European Health Task Force, in response to the WHO declaration of a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

ECDC TODAY

Since 2005, ECDC has grown in staff, website visitors, the number of fellows it trains, and the diseases that are under surveillance.

OUR INTERNATIONAL REACH

ECDC works with countries across the globe in the fight against infectious diseases, and has increased international cooperation in recent years.



Cooperation agreements signed by ECDC through the years.

HOW WE MONITOR AND COLLECT DATA

1 Every year, ECDC puts out a **data call.** This covers more than 60 diseases, antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-related infections

2 Scientists from the 27 EU Member States **send their data** to our central hub

3 Our data scientists **analyse and organise** this data. There is around 6TB of surveillance data in our systems

4 Our designers and developers make this **data available** to over 15 000 website visitors each day

THE NEXT 20 YEARS

ECDC aims to keep protecting Europe against infectious diseases through:

- Strengthened preparedness and response measures
- Enhanced and integrated real-time epidemiological surveillance
- Building trust in science and fostering collaboration

For more information, visit **ecdc.europa.eu**