Responding rapidly and in coordinated fashion to health threats

Health Threats: context

- **Work plan 2004**
- **Network on communicable diseases**
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**
- **Results of the call for proposals 2003**

Tasks of the Centre 1(2):

- **search for, collect, collate, evaluate and disseminate** <u>relevant scientific and technical data</u>;

- <u>provide scientific opinions</u> **and scientific and technical assistance including** <u>training</u>;

Tasks of the Centre 2(2):

provide timely information **to the Commission, the Member States, Community agencies and international organisations active within the field of public health;**

co-ordinate the European networking **of bodies operating in the fields within the Centre's mission,** including networks arising from public health activities supported by the Commission **and** operating the dedicated surveillance networks;

Community Network on Communicable Diseases

- **Decision 2119/98/EC of the European Parliament and the Council: network for epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases in the Community and ensuing regulations:**

    - **Commission Decision 2000/96/EC: Surveillance**
    - **Commission Decision 2000/57/EC: Early warning**
    - **Commission Decision 2002/253/EC: Case definitions**

Projects funded in 2003

- **2003 grant agreements are being finalised;**
- **For most of them, the duration is three years;**
- **Specific topics covered in 2003 will not be a priority in 2004;**
- **A list of projects proposed for funding is available.**

Work plan 2004

- **Surveillance**
- **Exchanging information on vaccination and immunisation strategies**
- **Health security and preparedness**
- **Safety of blood, tissues and organs**
- **Antimicrobial resistance**
- **Supporting the networking of laboratories**
- **Capacity building**

Surveillance

- **to facilitate and accelerate the** cooperation under the Community network **on epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases**

- **Priority will be given to** merging networks

- **support will be provided for evaluating and modifying existing networks to improve quality and comparability**

Exchanging information on vaccination and immunisation strategies

- **Priority setting and strategic planning;**

- **preparedness strategies (such as pre-event vaccinations or stockpiling) for serious health threats such as pandemic influenza and bioterrorism.**

Health security and preparedness

- **collaboration on laboratory diagnostics for biological agents;**

- **exploring the feasibility of setting up a surveillance system for syndromes caused by exposure to chemicals recorded by poison centres, and for detection of chemicals that might be used in attacks;**

- **decontamination of ventilation systems and decontamination of water systems after a biological/chemical agent attack;**

Safety of blood, tissues and organs

- **development and implementation of quality management programmes to improve the safety of** blood donations

- **to develop a strategy for the EU in order to raise awareness and increase availability of** organs **used for transplantation.**

Antimicrobial resistance

- **Activities should support the** 'Strategy against antimicrobial resistance' **as laid down in a Communication of the Commission of July 2001**

- **developing principles and guidelines for** best practice **on the prudent use**

- education and intervention programmes **aimed at the health professionals and hospitals**

Supporting the networking of laboratories

- **to promote quality assurance, implementation of schemes of accreditation and standardisation of laboratory methods;**

- **Priority will be given to external quality assurance of microbiological laboratories, quality improvement, proficiency assessment and accreditation schemes to develop networks of reference laboratories and enhance the capabilities of public health laboratories.**

Capacity building

- **Training**

- **Common methodologies and sharing of know-how in investigative epidemiology, holistic public health approaches, laboratory techniques and analyses**

Conclusions

- **Proposers should carefully consider the legal, organisational, and financial context;**

- **Judging from 2003, competition for funds will be very fierce: successful projects will need to match exactly the work plan 2004.**