Role of ECDC in implementing EU Action Plan on HIV/ AIDS

10th Think Tank meeting, Brussels, 9-10 April 2008

Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director, ECDC
Role of ECDC in the Founding Regulation

Identify, assess & communicate current & emerging health threats to human health from communicable diseases

- Detection of health threats through surveillance and epidemic intelligence;
- Provide evidence-based scientific opinions/advice;
- Strengthen preparedness and response
- Capacity building through training;
- Health communication.

ECDC role: risk assessment and evidence based scientific advise to support sound decision making
ECDC Strategic Multi-annual Programme 2007–2013

- Approved by ECDC’s Management Board in June 2007;
- Analyses the challenges that infectious diseases will pose to Europe in 2007–2013;
- Specifies ECDC’s role in helping the European Union and its MS to compile evidence and to promote the right decisions for the prevention and control those diseases;
- Lists 7 targets that ECDC committed to reach by 2013.
Who are ECDC's strategic partners?

- Commission
- Council
- EU agencies
- MSs
- Networks
- WHO
- Research community
- NGOs
- Industry
- CDCs
- Other countries
- Other countries
- Other countries
HIV/AIDS, STI, Viral hepatitis

Rate of newly diagnosed cases of HIV reported in 2006

- < 20
- 20–99
- 100–199
- 200+
- Data not available
New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006
EU & EEA/EFTA countries
ECDC and key partners in HIV/AIDS

- **Commission** - important on-going close relationship;
- **Think Tank**’s leadership role is fully supported – to participate and support its work; contribute to monitor the EU action plan;
- **NGOs** - to establish a closer dialogue with Civil Society Forum;
- **Member States** - to keep continuous interactions on all levels;
- **WHO** - to collaborate within MoU – joint surveillance of HIV and TB in European region;
- **EMCDDA** - to collaborate re MoU and share data collection on HIV and hepatitis to avoid double reporting.

**ECDC added value:** to bring epidemiological data to policy-makers: Bremen/ Berlin and in epid report
ECDC’s on-going activities in HIV (1)

**Surveillance**
- Coordination of EU-wide surveillance of HIV/AIDS
- Develop and implement surveillance for STI, hepatitis B and C

**Modelling**
- Develop new user-friendly models for national HIV estimates

**Communication**
- Updated information to stakeholders, professionals and large public

**Strategy 1.1- Enhance knowledge of health, economic and social impact in EU**
ECDC’s on-going activities in HIV (2)

Surveillance
- Develop standardised behavioural surveillance

Research priorities
- Identify research priorities

Review HIV in migrants
- Assess the epidemiological situation
- Access to health care and testing

Strategy 1.2 - To improve the scientific understanding of HIV determinants
ECDC’s on-going activities in HIV (3)

**Monitoring & evaluation**
- Develop M&E programme to monitor Dublin Declaration
- Evaluate key interventions
  - Identify barriers to HIV testing;
  - Identify public health benefit of partner notification for STI and HIV – Call to be launched shortly.

**Guidance**
- Guidance for the introduction of HPV vaccines in EU (Jan 08)
- Issue guidance for chlamydia control in Member States (June 08)

**Strategy 1.3** - To improve evidence based methods and technologies for prevention and control
ECDC’s on-going activities in HIV (4)

Monitoring & evaluation
– Country visits (2008: Portugal, Bulgaria, Poland + 2 follow-up visits to Estonia and Romania)

EU level collaboration
– Commission, Think Tank
– World AIDS Day
– Meet stakeholders
– Etc.

Strategy 1.4 - To strengthen programmes for CD prevention and control at the EU level
HIV surveillance in Europe
Transition to ECDC and WHO - Europe

- **Joint surveillance** by ECDC and WHO-Europe as from 2008

- **Transition plan** covers:
  - Transfer of the databases for HIV and AIDS (case-based reporting, aggregate reporting)
  - HIV prevalence database
  - Coordination group and annual meeting

- **Recommendations from Annual meeting 2007:**
  - To improve HIV/AIDS surveillance re quality, completeness and standardisation,
  - To promote case-reporting,
  - To add CD4 counts
HIV surveillance in Europe
Framework

53 HIV data providers
National correspondents to be confirmed

Data sent to ECDC/WHO joint database
Collection and Validation done by ECDC

Full access to validated data

WHO Europe

Access for nominated non-EU

Non-EU countries

ECDC

MS-EU

MS-EU

MS-EU

Countries

EMCDDA, other

WHO Europe

Full access to validated data
HIV surveillance in Europe
Transition to ECDC and WHO - Europe

Preparation for data collection:
- Transfer from old format to new TESSy format
- Protocol for data collection & TESSy converter tool available
- Training for HIV data providers organised in March 2008
- TESSy is up and running – testing site available
- Data collection for 2007 starts soon
HIV surveillance a good model

- HIV/AIDS surveillance is a good model of one notification system with Member States;
- Good model for our collaboration with WHO;
  - 53 countries together
  - One database
  - One network
  - Joint annual report.
- We are exploring similar approaches to other diseases under EU-wide surveillance.
Behavioural surveillance in Europe

• Behavioural surveillance related to HIV and STI as part of second generation surveillance;

• ECDC’s study is starting in April 08:
  – To map behavioural surveillance programmes and specific surveys;
  – To develop a set of behavioural key indicators and methods for behavioural surveillance;
  – Carried out by University of Lausanne.

• Focus on the general population and specific groups at high-risk (homo- and bisexual men, sex workers, STI clinic attendees, individuals living with HIV/AIDS, young people, drug users, ethnic minorities).
Behavioural surveillance in Europe

- Overall goal: to facilitate the implementation of standardised behavioural surveillance in EU Member States
- Expected results: toolkit with set of key indicators per group (winter 08/09)
- Workshop on behavioural indicators in MSM in Feb 08 – meeting report published shortly; discussions included:
  - Type of sexual technique
  - Safe sex practices
  - HIV testing
  - Time frame
  - HIV serostatus (discordant/concordant couples)
Monitoring and Evaluation Programme

To monitor the Dublin Declaration in EU

- **4th Q 2007**  
  Request from Commission to construct a framework to monitor the Dublin Declaration in the EU 27 + 3 EEA countries

- **1st Q 2008**  
  1st draft of the monitoring framework developed

- **2nd Q 2008**  
  Collaboration with key partners in developing DD indicators

- **3rd Q 2008**  
  Tender awarded

- **4th Q 2009**  
  First ECDC follow-up report published
HIV testing in EU

**Background:**
- About 30% of HIV-infected people in the EU are unaware of their infections;
- Missed opportunities to diagnose HIV in the health care setting;
- Knowledge on practices and barriers to HIV testing & counselling in the EU is lacking;
- Need for improved access, offer, uptake and effectiveness of HIV testing in the EU.
HIV testing in EU

From policy to effectiveness:

• ECDC study to map policies and practices and to identify barriers to HIV testing & counselling;
  – Commissioned to University of Ghent

• Expert meeting took place in Stockholm in January 2007 – report available soon;

• Main goal: to provide evidence-based advice for improving access, offer, uptake and effectiveness of HIV testing & counselling in the EU.
Conclusions (1)

- HIV remains a major public health problem both in the EU and in neighbouring countries;
- The diversity of the epidemic across Europe requires adapted local response;
- HIV is a global epidemic and the EU response needs to be seen in this context;
- Sustain and strengthen surveillance activities in Europe to inform prevention programmes & plan health care.
Conclusions (2)

• Priorities for prevention in the EU:
  – Reducing barriers to HIV testing;
  – Developing innovative prevention approaches for MSM;
  – Providing specific services for migrant communities;
  – Strengthening prevention and care in high-burden countries
• Political commitment is key – support when and where we can
• Commission may wish to call upon ECDC to support the development of the new Action Plan for EU.
• My dream is to turn the epidemic around in Europe(EU)!
Thank you!
Zsuzsanna Jakab
Director ECDC

www.ecdc.europa.eu
New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006 per million pop, EU15 and EEA/ EFTA countries

Note: the graphs are on a different scale!
New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006 per million pop, Member States which have joined EU since 2004

Note: the graphs are on a different scale!
New HIV diagnoses 2001-2006 per million pop, EU neighbourhood

Note: the graphs are on a different scale!
Predominant mode of HIV transmission, cases reported in 2006

- Heterosexual contact
- Men having sex with men
- Injecting drug users
- Data not available

Source: EuroHIV