Joint Action on Union and national surveillance systems

EU4Health 2021 work programme Info Session

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Background

- Rapid response to cross-border health threats requires surveillance and monitoring mechanisms to ensure timely detection and identification of such threats

- Early lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic have shown that the Union's preparedness and response to cross-border health threats were sub-optimal.

- Integrated surveillance, with other health data areas, is therefore essential to ensure a timely response to health emergencies.

- This needs to be based on the capacities and requirements at Union and national level.

European Commission

A stronger EU health security framework

The EC proposes a **new Regulation on serious cross-border threats to health** to:

➢ **Strengthen preparedness**: adoption of plans at national levels; comprehensive and transparent frameworks for reporting and auditing

➢ **Reinforce surveillance**: surveillance system at EU level, using Artificial intelligence (AI) & other advanced technological means

➢ **Improve data reporting:** reporting of health systems indicators

A declaration of an EU emergency situation would trigger increased coordination and allow for the development, stockpiling and procurement of crisis relevant products

European Commission

General objective:

To upscale national integrated surveillance systems, this action will

- Improve national surveillance system by using **available electronic health data, by linking digital registers and databases from the health and non-health sectors**, thereby enhancing EU/EEA surveillance system

- A real-time integrated surveillance system will be developed for **epidemic monitoring and response**
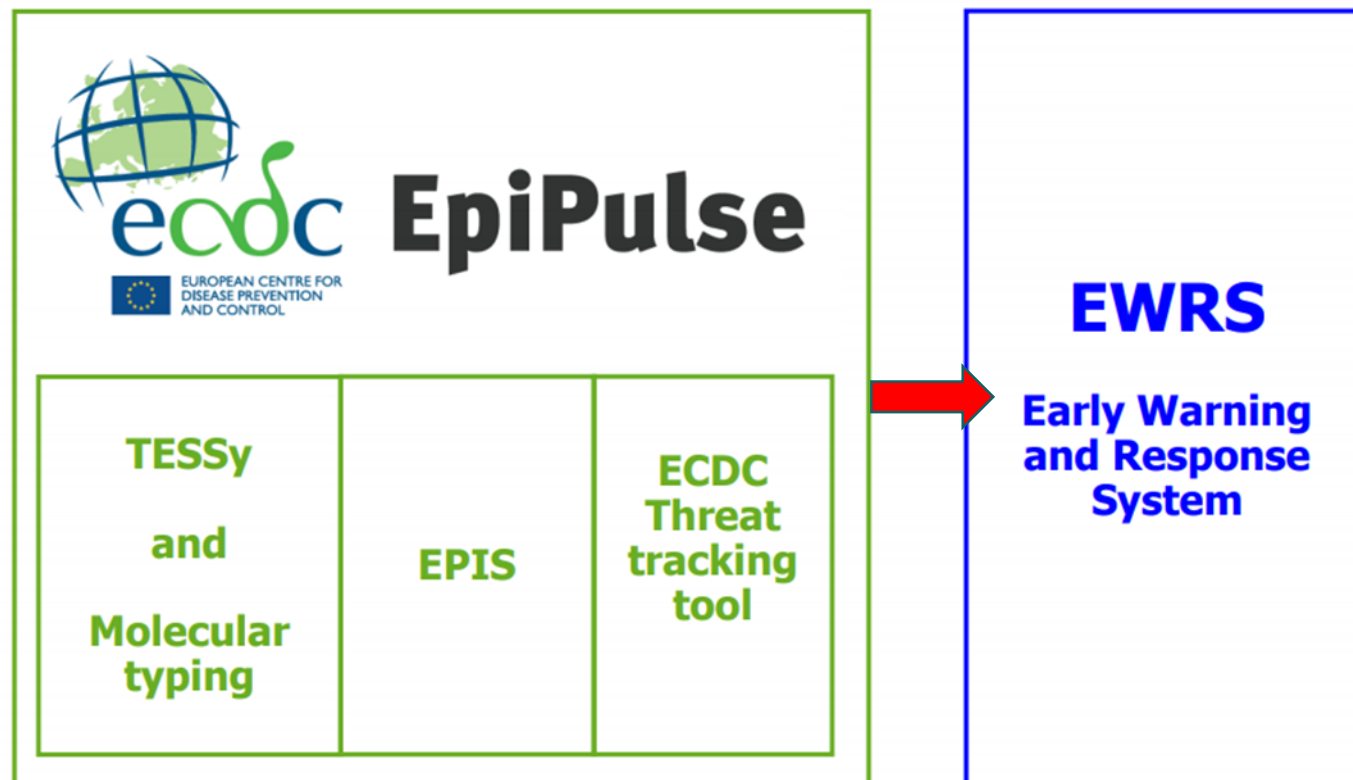
European Commission

Long term surveillance strategic framework (LTSF) 2022-2025

It is expected to support the implementation of two priority areas of the ECDC LTSF

- strategic objective 2: unlocking existing and new data sources for more comprehensive EU/EEA infectious disease surveillance, prevention and control and

- strategic objective 4: contributing to surveillance capacity building within Europe and beyond for better global health security.

European Commission

European surveillance portal for infectious diseases (EpiPulse)

- Contrary to the AWP 2021, the JA will **not create a new digital platform,** because ECDC has recently launched the EpiPulse on 22 June 2021.

- It integrates several surveillance systems that were previously independent, it provides new functionalities and seamless access to data in a single platform

The European Surveillance System (TESSy)
Epidemic Intelligence Information System (EPIS)

Specific objectives

- SO1 – **to assess the digital readiness for setting up integrated surveillance systems** at national and regional level; this also includes the identification of legal and technical barriers to using electronic health data for integrated surveillance and an inventory of good practices to overcome these barriers;

- SO2 – **to strengthen capacity building, through continuous professional development at national level, on integrated surveillance, molecular biology, data science and digital public health**, in support to LTSF actions on workforce development and tailored support;

- SO3 – **to support outbreak detection and pandemic preparedness by improving real-time surveillance for more timely coordinated response**, supporting LTSF action on early outbreak detection and pandemic preparedness;

Specific objectives

- SO4 – **to establish a sentinel hospital system for integrated surveillance of severe infectious diseases**, in support to LTSF action on Integrated sentinel hospital surveillance;

- SO5 – **to explore innovative approaches to integrated infectious disease surveillance and evaluate their public health value**, in support to LTSF action on innovation;

✓ To perform proof-of-concept studies using **electronic health records to assess risk factors and to understand the effectiveness of interventions** (vaccination, prevention and prophylaxis) for priority diseases identified by the MS.

✓ To explore the **feasibility and added public health value of using electronic health records and mobile health (m-health) applications**, such as individual participatory syndromic surveillance or "symptoms checker" apps integrated in the health care system,

✓ To assess the **feasibility of integration of other existing sources of infectious disease surveillance data**, such as: community screening and self-testing programmes, travel medicine clinics at points of entry (PoE), migrant health screening of migrants and refugees at ground crossings and One Health surveillance (human and animal health surveillance data)

Expected outcomes

- to support capacity building by developing an integrated surveillance system training package, exchange of experience and drawing up of recommendations, which will inform the development of national pilot projects.

- National capacity building and linkage of routine surveillance and electronic health data will allow scaling up integrated and real time surveillance.

- Ultimately, this action will support Union and national surveillance systems to ensure a rapid response to cross-border health threats.

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