



Updating Core Competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**

01 October 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has commissioned The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER), under a service contract, to carry out a data collection on ECDC's behalf to update its core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology. You are kindly invited to take part in this project by completing an online survey on a draft set of core competencies and indicating their level of importance for mid-career professionals in field epidemiology. The survey is presented in EUSurvey which is the official survey instrument of the European Commission.

A link to the survey is given below. We would be most grateful if you could complete it yourself, but also please distribute it, along with this information, to colleagues in your institutes, schools, universities, health services agencies, training bodies and professional organizations. We are commissioned to receive at least 300 responses to this survey.

We would greatly appreciate receiving your response to the survey by **Friday 22nd October 2021 at the latest**. The survey will take about 45 minutes to complete. You may access the survey at the link below, which is password protected. You will need to enter **UCCAIDE_21%** to gain access to the survey via this link: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ECDC_UCCAIDE_Survey

Rationale for this project

Achievement of competency in applied infectious disease epidemiology is fundamental to effective practice in field epidemiology. The importance of this is abundantly clear in the context of the current pandemic of COVID-19. This project involves the collection and collation of data to update core competencies previously developed by ECDC. It is intended to support training, evaluation and accreditation for mid-career professionals in the area.

Who is organising, funding, and reviewing the project?

This ECDC project is intended to assist EU member states and the Commission to have sufficient numbers of trained specialists as set out in Article 9(6) of the ECDC Founding Regulation¹. ECDC has commissioned ASPHER under a service contract, to carry out data collection on its behalf to explore the competencies and dimensions that should be included in the competency set.

¹ Regulation (EC) No. 851/2004 establishing a European centre for disease prevention and control.

Why and how have I been invited to take part?

Potential participants have been identified through ECDC National Focal Points for Training and Coordinating Competent Bodies, as well as through the ASPHER network, national public health organizations, professional bodies, institutes, and schools of public health.

How do I agree to participate in this project?

If you respond to the survey, we will take that as indicating your agreement to participate. Please be assured that the survey is anonymous; you cannot be identified from your response. We have requested country of residence, educational and professional background and experience, and opinions on a draft set of core competencies in applied infectious disease epidemiology.

How will my privacy be protected?

ECDC will process the data collected in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. For further details on data processing and protection please consult the ECDC privacy statement "*Expert consultation for updating field epidemiology competency*", which is available at the following link: https://edps.europa.eu/data-protection/our-work/subjects/regulation-20181725_en

What are the benefits of taking part in this Project?

Given the importance of up-to-date core competencies in the ever-changing environment of infectious disease epidemiology, ECDC wants to ensure rapid learning from identified experts in the field. Your contribution is key to an accurate and comprehensive product which will serve public health institutions and organizations in the European Region.

What are the risks of taking part in this Project?

We do not envisage any risks to participants in this project. If you decide to take part, you are free to withdraw at any time without question or reason.

How will the results be reported and available?

The results of this project will be published by ECDC and shared on their website.

How can I make contact with the project team?

If you have any questions about the project, you may contact us at ECDC.project@ucd.ie.

We thank you most sincerely for taking the time to read this and for completing the survey.

Yours sincerely,

The UCCAIDE Steering Group* on behalf of ECDC

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