



## **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

### **for a European Expert Network of Laboratories for early detection and surveillance of (re)emerging viral diseases (“EVD-LabNet”)**

In the past decade, epidemics caused by emerging viruses have demonstrated that Europe is vulnerable for the introduction of pathogens through travel and trade, sometimes followed by local transmission, and changes in spatial and temporal pattern of endemic pathogens. A prerequisite for identification, surveillance, assessment and communication of current and emerging infectious disease threats to Public Health, is the availability of a reliable capability and sufficient capacity of diagnostic and reference laboratory service. To facilitate this, ECDC is supporting the coordinating task of Erasmus MC as its contractor to establish and operate an expert laboratory network which includes the organisation of EQA and training of laboratories involved in these activities. This network will provide access to expert laboratory support to the ECDC and network members regarding (re)emerging viral diseases. The network, called “EVD-LabNet continues the earlier collaboration “ENIVD”. EVD-LabNet will create and maintain a (pro)-active and flexible network of European expert laboratories that are involved in patient diagnostics, and that support Public Health activities in liaison with research activities of (re)emerging vector-borne viral diseases. These include viruses that are rare, imported and (re)emerging in EU/EEA countries. To this effect the expert network will provide the ECDC, other European networks and EVD-LabNet members of:

- a) access to essential background information on target viruses with a focus on scientific expertise of the viruses, their make-up, pathogenesis, physicochemical properties, and patient and population-oriented detection and ruling out of infection.
- b) access to (reference) diagnostics within the network.
- c) access to state-of-the-art European diagnostic portfolio and diagnostic capacity and capability.
- d) workshops based on needs within the network.
- e) yearly meetings to strengthen the coherence of the network and to provide a platform for knowledge exchange.
- f) active connection to other European emerging infectious disease preparedness and response networks.

The network is currently coordinated by Erasmus MC. It is governed by a Management Team composed of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Aix Marseille Université which is advised by a Scientific Advisory Board consisting of representatives from Bernhard-Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Hamburg, Germany; University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland; Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden; Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain; National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia, Bulgaria; University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana, Slovenia;

University of Padova, Padova, Italy; Robert Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany and Public Health England, Salisbury, United Kingdom.

EVD-LabNet welcomes the participation of other laboratories willing to join the initiative and welcomes their comments and suggestions. By signing this MOU the signatory laboratories commit to support EVD-LabNet activities on a regular basis and as such are willing to become a member of the network. The signatory hereby in particular commits to:

1. provide the required information for an EVD-LabNet directory and its website, which contains organisation details and information on diagnostic capability and capacity , and give permission to make information available to the public and to the network members through a members-only web interphase.
2. Upon invitation members will consider participation in the yearly EVD-LabNet meeting, in relevant EQA's and training/courses that are organised by the network and will actively update the EVD-LabNet coordinator of changes relevant for the directory, and provide any input requested within their core expertise.
3. report intra-network collaborations and support activities on diagnostics within the network on a yearly basis or any other time as required by decision of the Management Team.
4. Act timely upon ad hoc requests for technical and/or scientific advice. All contributions of network members will be acknowledged in documents published by the network.

To support the participation of members to above activities EVD-LabNet has available, within network budget limits, resources which will become available to the network members based on their relative contribution to the activities.

Commitment to participate in the EVD-LabNet as described in this MOU shall be effective as of the date of execution and until any networking, EQA and training activities of the laboratory network are financially supported by ECDC, unless the Parties agree upon mutual consent to extent or otherwise modify the term of this MOU.

This MOU is signed by:

Representative	Institution	Country
	Signature	Date