



European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) activities on:

# **HIV/AIDS, STI, hepatitis**

Mika Salminen, Section Head, Scientific Advice Unit  
Senior Expert HIV/Aids, STI and Hepatitis  
European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

# What is ECDC?

An independent agency, named the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control ...

— ECDC Founding Regulation (851/2004)

## A European Union Agency which:

- is a member of the European Union (EU) family;
- covers EU 27, EEA/EFTA countries;
- reaches out to other countries beyond the EU 27 through Neighbourhood Policy and DG RELEX;
- supports and promotes global health security (role in International Health Regulations); and
- is financed through the EU budget.



# What is the role of ECDC?

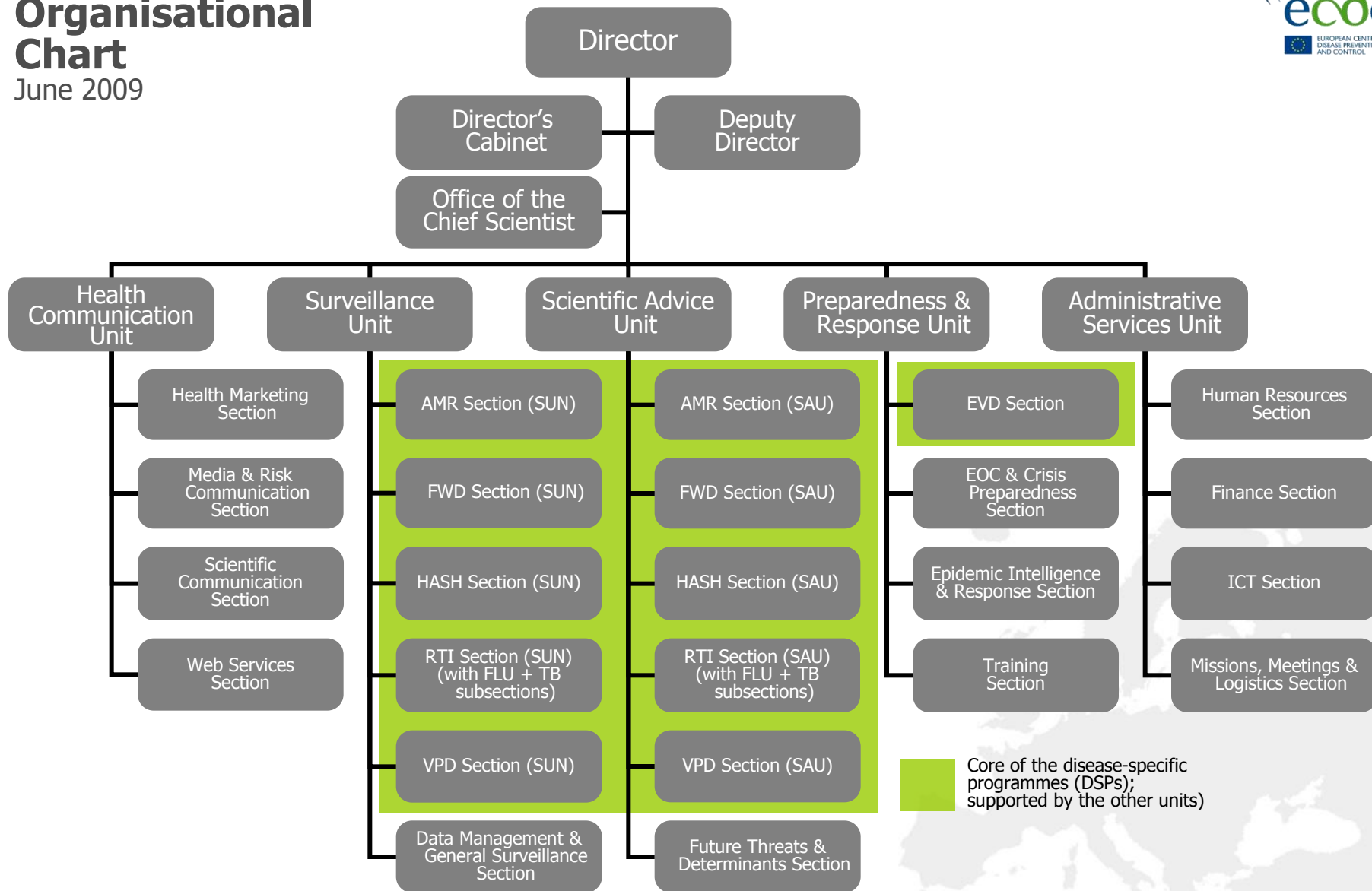
Identify, assess and communicate current and emerging health threats to human health from communicable diseases.  
— ECDC Founding Regulation (851/2004), Article 3

- EU-level disease surveillance and epidemic intelligence
- Scientific opinions and studies
- Early Warning System and response
- Technical assistance and training
- Communication to scientific community
- Communication to the public



# ECDC Organisational Chart

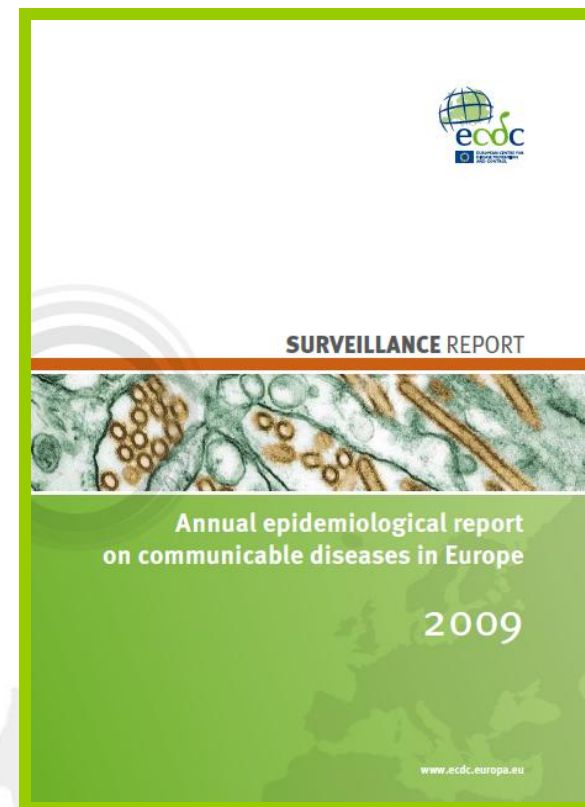
June 2009



# Major threats related to communicable diseases in the EU

Major threats covered by the Annual Epidemiological Report 2008 include:

- antimicrobial resistance
- healthcare-associated infections
- HIV infection
- pneumococcal infections
- influenza
- tuberculosis





# ECDC's strategic partners contribute to health security

Com-  
mission

Council

European  
Parliament

EU  
agencies

Member  
States



WHO

NGOs

Research  
community

Other  
countries

Industry

CDCs

# Programme on HIV/AIDS, STI, hepatitis

# HASH programme



## List of diseases covered by the programme:

HIV/AIDS; Sexually transmitted infections (STI): Infections with *Chlamydia trachomatis* (including lymphogranuloma venereum - LGV), gonorrhoea, syphilis, congenital syphilis; Blood-borne viruses: hepatitis B, hepatitis C.

## Strategic priorities fall under 4 major ECDC strategy areas

- Enhancing the knowledge of the health, economic, and social impact of CDs in the EU
- Improving the scientific understanding of CD determinants
- Improving the range of the evidence base for methods and technologies for CD prevention and control
- Contribute to the strengthening of programmes for communicable disease prevention and control at EU level



# HIV and AIDS surveillance

- HIV/AIDS surveillance through the TESSy system
- Coordination of European-wide surveillance in 53 countries in a joint database for HIV/AIDS surveillance in collaboration with WHO/Europe
- Annual meeting with contact points: 11–12 Dec 2009
  - Data collection
  - Topics for discussion: surveillance objectives, HIV incidence, migrants and heterosexual transmission
- Report to be launched on 1 December



# Surveillance STI and hepatitis 2008

## STI

Prepare the transition of STI surveillance:

- Develop protocol for STI surveillance
- Evaluation and assessment of ESSTI activities
- Prepare the transition plan

## Hepatitis B and C

Prepare enhanced surveillance for hepatitis B & C:

- Expert meeting in June 2008 – consultation
- Technical report on past and current activities
- Survey on surveillance and prevention in Member States:  
July–October 2008

# ECDC's focus on determinants 2008



## Behavioural surveillance

- To harmonise indicators on behaviour related to HIV and STI and to provide methodological options
- Commissioned to University of Lausanne (April 2008)
- Survey on eight sub-populations including the general population in Member States: July–October 2008
- Expert meeting in February 2009
- Final meeting in September 2009

## Review HIV in migrants

- Epidemiological review
- Access to HIV treatment
- Report to Commission in December 2008, published Q1 2009

## HIV testing

- An estimated 30% of HIV-infected people in the EU are unaware of being infected.
- Knowledge on practices and barriers to HIV testing and counselling in the EU is lacking.
- ECDC to provide evidence-based advice for improving access, offer, uptake and effectiveness of HIV testing and counselling in the EU.



HIV test

# Key prevention strategies

## Monitoring and evaluation

- HIV testing: surveys in Member States, surveys (patients, activists and providers); in-depth interviews at policy level in five Member States by December 2008
- Meeting to launch the process on guidance in June 2009
- Public health benefit of partner notification for STI and HIV – call awarded
- Monitoring of the Dublin Declaration – call awarded

## Modelling

- Develop new user-friendly models for national HIV estimates – call for tender was not awarded

## Guidance

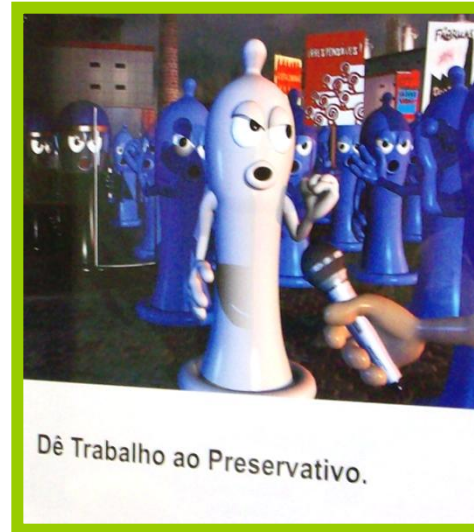
- Chlamydia control (Q1 2009)
- HIV testing – 2009/2010



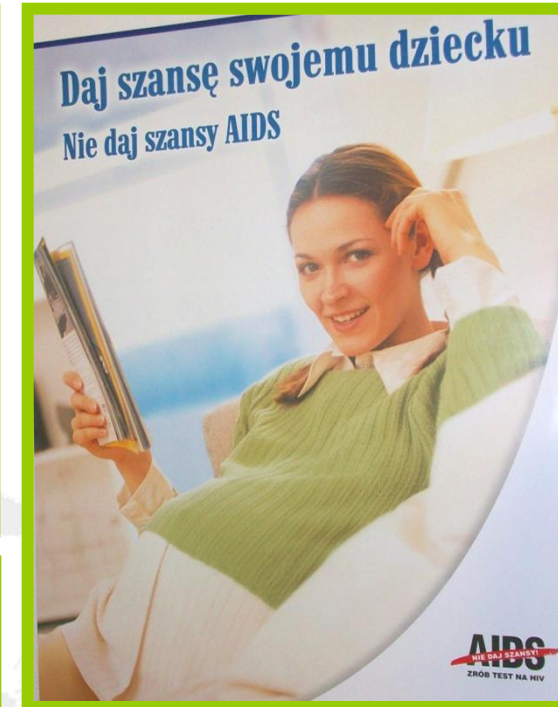
# Work in Member States: Country visits HIV/STI

## Objectives

- Status review of HIV and STI surveillance, prevention and control.
- Involvement of authorities, leading agencies and civil society in HIV/STI prevention as essential players.
- Joint activity between the national authorities and ECDC – self assessment.
- Identification of further support needed from ECDC.
- Final product: action list for improvement.
- Five accomplished: Estonia – Romania – Bulgaria – Poland – Portugal.



Campaign materials





# EU-level collaboration

## **Work with Member States:** Country visits

- Three country visits in 2009
- Follow-up country visits in Romania, Estonia
- We would appreciate an invitation.

## **EU level collaboration**

- Commission – Think Tank meetings
- WHO/Europe – bilateral meetings
- UNAIDS – special envoy, MERG, estimates, MoU
- Civil Society – visit at ECDC, MoU
- EU agencies: EMCDDA, MoU
- World AIDS Day, Hepatitis Day – participate in events
- Meet stakeholders, etc.

# Enhancing the knowledge of the health, economic, and social impact of CDs in the EU



## Forecasting and modelling of HIV/AIDS epidemic:

- Support Member States to produce national HIV prevalence estimates by developing models and providing training; (medium)
- Estimate the undiagnosed fraction of HIV infection; (medium)
- Estimate life expectancy and burden of disease (long term)



# Improving the scientific understanding of CD

## **Behavioural surveillance related to HIV and STI:**

- Provide support for countries that wish to do a self-assessment and implement behavioural surveillance; (medium); toolkit and pilot studies; (short term)
- Support Member States to implement behavioural surveillance related to HIV and STI in epidemiologically relevant sub-populations; (long term)

## **Address increased risks in vulnerable, marginalized, and socially disadvantaged population groups**

- Estimate the effect of social disadvantage and marginalisation on disease burden (HIV and hepatitis); (long term)

# Improve the range of the evidence base for methods and technologies for CD prevention and control



## Prevention and guidance:

- Assess and evaluate national prevention and control programmes for HIV/AIDS; (long term); Improve the evidence base for prevention; (long term); Assess the quality of prevention interventions; (long term) ; Assess health communication and education; (long term)
- Increase and monitor the uptake of HIV testing to reduce the number of undiagnosed individuals; (medium)
- Prevention of infection in IDU and prisoners (Hepatitis, HIV); (medium), Assess the cost-effectiveness of prevention and control of hepatitis (vaccination HBV, screening HCV); provide guidance; (long term)
- to monitor the new EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS; (short term)

# Improve the range of the evidence base for methods and technologies for CD prevention and control



## **Monitoring and Evaluation programme:**

- Improve M&E capacity in the EU Member States; (long term);  
Initiate evaluation studies; (long term); Improve comparability across MS and share best practices; (short term)
- Country visits - EU collaboration and partnership; (medium to long term)
- Evaluate the uptake of ECDC guidances and monitor the outcome effects; (medium)

## **Monitor political commitment for HIV and AIDS:**

- Increase EU submission rates regarding UNGASS monitoring; (short term)
- Harmonize Dublin Declaration monitoring to UNGASS; (short term)
- Develop a framework to monitor the new EU Action Plan on HIV/AIDS; (short term)

# Contribute to the strengthening of programmes for communicable disease prevention and control



## Coordinate HIV and AIDS surveillance

- Joint surveillance with WHO Europe: case-based reporting to monitor nature, size and trends of the epidemic; (continuous)
- Improve reporting of prevalence data to estimate the burden of disease in certain risk populations; (medium)
- Improve the monitoring of HIV/AIDS related mortality and determine the quality of life and life expectancy; (long term)
- Coordinate support laboratory activities

Improve the estimation of recently acquired HIV infections – improve the insight in transmission of recent infections and to improve prevention strategies; (medium)

Improve the monitoring of HIV resistance – establish sentinel site lab network; (medium)

Promote improved diagnostic and surveillance testing methodology (medium)

## Coordinate STI surveillance

## Coordinate hepatitis surveillance



Programme on HIV/AIDS, STI, hepatitis

**Thank you!**