



COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

between

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

(ECDC)

and

**The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European
Region (ASPHER)**

Preamble

Whereas the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is the official European Union (EU) agency with a mission to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases and to achieve this shall (a) search for, collect, collate, evaluate and disseminate relevant scientific and technical data on infectious diseases; (b) provide scientific opinions and scientific and technical assistance including training; (c) provide timely information to the European Commission, the Member States, Community agencies and international organisations active within the field of public health; (d) coordinate the European networking of bodies operating in the fields within the Centre's mission, including networks arising from public health activities supported by the European Commission and operating the dedicated surveillance networks; and (e) exchange information, expertise and best practices, and facilitate the development and implementation of joint actions within the field of its mission.

Whereas the ECDC Management Board in June 2015, approved a new ECDC Public Health Training Strategy, with three strategic objectives:

1. To strengthen and maintain the workforce in the Member States and at the Community level through relevant training of key national experts, in order to ensure adequate performance of functions for communicable disease preparedness, prevention, detection, assessment and control nationally and cross-border.
2. To strengthen and maintain a network of European and global training partners, supporting capacities to provide training to the workforce in the EU at local, subnational, national and Community levels.
3. To support the cascading of training within the Member States by providing a common virtual training infrastructure with access to training material, e-learning and platforms for communities of practice.

Whereas the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER) is the key independent European organisation dedicated to strengthening the role of public health by improving education and training of public health professionals for both practice and research. ASPHER is a membership organisation of institutions, spread across the EU and wider across the WHO European Region, which are collectively concerned with the education and training, and professionalism, of those entering and working within the public health workforce. It promotes activities which foster exchange of information and best practices amongst its members in an effort to achieve high standards of public health education and training across Europe. Founded in 1966, ASPHER has over 110 institutional members in 43 European countries, with more than 5000 academics employed in its member institutions. ASPHER is a non-profit organisation, established under the Belgian law as international non-governmental organisation (reg. n° 0548.742.658) with a head office in Brussels (registered address: Av de l'Armée 10, B1040 Brussels, Belgium).

Whereas ASPHER General Assembly in October 2015 approved the ASPHER 2020 agenda, which this agreement are in line to support the implementation of.

Whereas the mission, goals and aims of both organisations present relevant synergies and areas for collaboration.

Whereas there has been a number of collaborations between ECDC and ASPHER in the recent years in the area of competency development, training needs assessment, contribution of faculty to the design, development and delivery of training activities.

Section I: Aim of the Collaboration Agreement

Through strengthening the collaboration between ECDC and ASPHER, the two organisations aim to be more effective in delivering training to the communicable disease prevention and control workforce as well as to facilitate the connections between academia and the public health institutes, translating the collaboration at the EU level to the national level in particular in the area of serious cross border threats to health.

As both ECDC and ASPHER have an interest to strengthen public health capacity and competencies, it is natural that both organisations could build on each other's activities to maximise results, avoid overlaps and ensure synergies and sustainable impact. ECDC and ASPHER will continue and expand their collaboration in the areas of continuous professional development, competency development, network strengthening, public health training strategy, training needs assessment, workforce development, issues related to accreditation, training methodologies and delivery formats, and any other areas of interest.

Section II: Technical areas covered by the Collaboration Agreement

The present Collaboration Agreement covers technical areas related to communicable disease prevention and control, including but not limited to: a) generic public health functions such as public health policy, public health science, epidemiological surveillance and response, microbiology, preparedness, communication, training and capacity building and b) specific diseases: vaccine preventable diseases; STIs/HIV, hepatitis and other blood-borne infections; food-borne infections; emerging and vector-borne infections; tuberculosis; influenza and other respiratory infections; healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance.

Specific activities will include but not be limited to: capacity building events for continuous professional development, exchange of resources and competencies, interactions for developing the network, joint studies and projects, joint authorship of articles and joint workshops.

Section III: Modalities of cooperation

Both ECDC and ASPHER will designate liaison persons to ensure a smooth implementation of this Collaboration Agreement.

Based on the respective annual and multiannual work plans of the two organisations, the liaison persons will meet every year to identify joint and/or synergetic activities for the upcoming 1-3 years. These will be submitted for internal approval to ASPHER and ECDC senior management. The liaison persons will continuously monitor the joint activities and keep their senior managements informed. For the joint activities, each organisation will bear its own costs. The intellectual property of products resulting from the collaboration will be agreed upon in advance for each specific activity.

There will be a commitment to principles of developing and sharing training materials.

Participation of ASPHER experts, country representatives and other ASPHER representatives in meetings and tasks performed as a result of this cooperation agreement will follow the internal rules of ECDC for such participation (e.g. rules on selection of experts; re-imburement of expenses of participants in meetings). Before any external communication about joint activities ASPHER and ECDC will coordinate the content of the communication and the method of communication.

Section IV: Collaboration on a network of schools of public health

ECDC and ASPHER aim to establish a network of Schools of Public Health that deliver training in the area of communicable disease prevention and control. The purpose of such network is to provide an academic partnership to ECDC and its National Focal Points for Public Health Training (NFP-T) in order to support national workforce development operations and strategies.

Section V: Core competence development

The two organisations commit to exchange experiences and invite each other to meetings and exercises on core competence development related to the area of communicable disease prevention and control.

Section VI: Limitations to the cooperation

Both parties acknowledge that the cooperation is purely voluntary and that both parties, in the context of this cooperation, have to act in compliance with the legal framework applicable to them. At no time shall any of the two organisations represent each other or behave in any way that would give such an impression.

Section VII: Conflict of interest

ASPHER acknowledges and will ensure that any experts, country representatives and other stakeholders participating in joint activities on behalf of ASPHER will act in line with the principles in ECDC's independency policy and comply with any obligations binding on them under this policy.

ASPHER shall not use funding that they receive from industry for activities that are performed jointly with ECDC.

ASPHER also understands that it may be excluded from participation in ECDC's procurement and grant procedures for reasons of conflict of interest in cases where ASPHER, resulting from the cooperation with ECDC on projects carried out under this agreement, would have gained access to information that would not be available to other potential tenderers/applicants or would have otherwise gained a competitive advantage as a result of this cooperation. The existence of such conflicts will need to be assessed on a case by case basis. ASPHER shall identify any such conflicts proactively and shall abstain from submitting an application whenever such a conflict exists. A declaration of absence of conflict of interest will need to be signed whenever ASPHER applies for a contract or grant advertised by ECDC.

Section VII: Date of Entry into Force, Termination, Review, Renewal and Amendments

- a) The Collaboration Agreement shall commence on the last date of signature below. Unless the agreement is renewed as provided in the following paragraph, it shall terminate on the fifth anniversary of the agreement.
- b) This Collaboration Agreement is subject to review and renewal on the basis of the recommendations of the Parties after a period of five years from the date of the last signature of this agreement.
- c) This agreement may only be amended in writing by mutual consent of the Parties.

Agreed and accepted:

Robert Otok

Director of Association of Schools for Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)

Date



Jacqueline Müller-Nordhorn

President of Association of Schools for Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)

Date



Andrea Ammon

Acting Director of The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Date

2016 -03- 21

Karl Ekdahl

Head of Unit Public Health Capacity and Communication, The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Date

