**Strong laboratory leaders - a key asset for global disease control**

**News story**

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**Laboratories play an essential role in the detection, diagnosis, prevention and control of diseases. To strengthen this role, ECDC and five partner organisations have developed the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) to support and sustain national laboratory systems under a One Health approach.**

Reliable laboratory services continue to be limited in many low- and middle-income countries. Although there have been examples of effective laboratory responses to outbreaks, a well-documented number of such events have shown how a lack of robust laboratory systems can impede disease control and prevention efforts. To strengthen laboratory systems and address gaps in laboratory leadership competency across sectors, the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) was established. ECDC collaborated with five partners to develop the GLLP:

* Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)
* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
* Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
* World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
* World Health Organization (WHO)

The GLLP targets professionals working in human and animal health laboratories, as well as laboratories with public health functions such as environmental, agricultural, food, chemical and aquatic laboratories.

The development of the GLLP represents the first global effort involving input and support from multiple organisations and institutions to create a core set of competencies for laboratory leaders working in support of health systems and a related flexible and adaptable learning package.