

European Center for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC)  
Scientific Consultation Group (SCG)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting 2-3 December, 2008

A Scientific Consultation Group (SCG) was set up by the ECDC with a first meeting in February 2007  
[http://ecdc.europa.eu/documents/pdf/PH%20\\_Networking.pdf](http://ecdc.europa.eu/documents/pdf/PH%20_Networking.pdf)

The Purpose of the SCG being

- Long-term framework to advance public health in Europe through networking and cooperation between associations, federations, societies, and organizations.
- Ensure comprehensiveness, coherence and complementarities of public health action in Europe.
- Complement current initiatives and strengthen European public health at large.

In addition to the report with link above the network strategy is described in European Journal of Public Health, Vol. 18, No. 5, 441–447\_ 2008: Commentary: A network strategy to advance public health in Europe by Semenza JC, Apfel F, Rose T, Giesecke J.

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The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the SCG took place 2-3 Dec, 2008 with the specific aim to provide input to the ECDC by defining its scientific directions in order to improve ECDC's service to EU member states. Invited were pan-European organizations with an interest in infectious diseases who offer an exchange platform to professionals. Thirty-six organizations accepted the invitation, among them EBSA, EFI, EHMA, EPHA, ESCMID, ESCV, FEMS.

Topics covered by presentations were:

- Collaboration in research of infectious diseases
- Long-term perspective on priority setting in research of Infectious Diseases
- Development of Guidelines and Standards

A fourth break-out session was challenged to provide Recommendations for further actions and European support to guideline development in member states. There was a lively discussion on how to set priorities. 'Burden of disease' in Europe is not known well enough. Epidemiological investigations should be given renewed focus as they underpin inventions. Drivers for prioritization mentioned were likelihood of occurrence of infectious disease outbreaks, seriousness of event and where it might occur. Development of guidelines dealt with guidelines for public health and clinical practice respectively.