Infectious diseases are (re-) emerging in Europe. Tropical infectious diseases such as chikungunya and dengue fever have recently been transmitted in Europe in part due to global air traffic and climate change [1,2]. This calls for a proactive public health response to (re-) emerging infectious disease threats both in Europe and globally as well as careful monitoring of infectious disease drivers. Such drivers are globalisation and environmental change, social and demographic change and public health system factors [3]. In order to address this need, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has developed the European Environment and Epidemiology (E3) Network [4].

The long term goal of the E3 Network is to gain a better understanding of drivers of disease and the environmental and socio-economic determinants of public health threats. Such an understanding will strengthen the capacity for formulating public health intervention strategies, and increase the effectiveness of prevention and control measures and general policies within the European Union [5].

The E3 Network provides access to climatic/environmental geospatial data for epidemiologic analysis that are currently collected and analysed by a variety of European agencies, public health institutes, as well as research organisations. The E3 Network will serve as a platform for collaborative dataset compilation, advanced analyses, data processing, and reporting and monitoring of data for risk assessments. It can also be used to enhance the rapid detection of emerging public health threats driven by environmental factors through prediction tools and forecasting models. To facilitate this objective, it will promote the exchange and sharing of the outputs of this collaborative effort through the E3 Geoportal service (https://e3geoportal.ecdc.europa.eu/).

References