On 15 February, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published the first European Union Laboratory Capability Monitoring System (EULabCap) report.

The EULabCap is a tool for assessing and monitoring the laboratory capacities and capabilities in the European Union/European Economic Area to underpin public health surveillance and assessment of risk posed by infectious disease. Furthermore, it gives an indication on the progression towards agreed upon practice standards and public health targets. This assessment aims at helping policymakers identify possible areas for action and evaluate the impact of capacity strengthening activities and health system reforms.

The tool combines 60 indicators (grouped in 12 targets each comprising five indicators) on three public health dimensions:

- primary diagnostic testing,
- national microbiology reference laboratory (NRL) services,
- laboratory-based surveillance and epidemic response support.

Read more about EULabCap on the ECDC website.

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