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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The individual workshops were organised at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, Sweden. The workshops were organised in three consecutive weeks: (1) 5-6 March 2019 involving 11 EU/European Economic Area (EEA) countries, (2) 12-13 March 2019 involving 10 EU/EEA countries, and (3) 19-20 March 2019 involving nine EU/EEA countries.

The participants were experts from the national competent authorities for the planning, implementation and evaluation of pandemic preparedness plans¹ from (1) Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden; (2) Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Spain; and (3) Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom.

The participation of experts was funded by the ECDC according to the applicable financial regulation by reimbursing travel, accommodation, and per diem rate.

The topics were the same in each of the workshops and were based on the World Health Organization/ECDC Guide to the revision of national pandemic influenza preparedness plans: 'Lessons learned from the 2009 A(H1N1) pandemic'², as well as based on a review which the ECDC conducted on influenza preparedness planning in 2016³.

The topics included pandemic planning, coordination, and control; risk communication; pandemic vaccines and joint procurement; antivirals and other essential medicines; non-pharmaceutical public health measures; and approaches to test and evaluate preparedness plans and operational procedures. References to national influenza pandemic preparedness plans are published⁴.

¹ If applicable in the respective country, experts specific to influenza planning, implementation and evaluation of pandemic preparedness plans were participating.

² <https://ecdc.europa.eu/sites/portal/files/documents/Guide-to-pandemic-preparedness-revised.pdf>.

³ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329720063_European_Pandemic_Influenza_Preparedness_Planning_A_Review_of_National_Plans_July_2016.

⁴ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/seasonal-influenza/influenza-pandemic-preparedness>.