



Preparing for threats; Strengthening health security

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Overview

- ✓ Backdrop of COVID-19 crisis
- ✓ Health Security
 - challenges
 - changes at EU level
 - 'all-hazards' preparedness
- ✓ HSE Threats Preparedness/ Health Security Programme
 - role
 - framework
 - working in partnership
 - cross-border preparedness
 - training and exercising
- ✓ Future preparedness





Changing risk landscape for health security

- Global crisis
- Serious Cross Border Threats to Health
- Recovery
- Learning

Boland, Máirín;Morrissey, Mary C.;O'Connor, Eoghan;Dever, Niamh;O'Mahony, Clodhna;Romanovski, Shem;O'Riordan, Mar

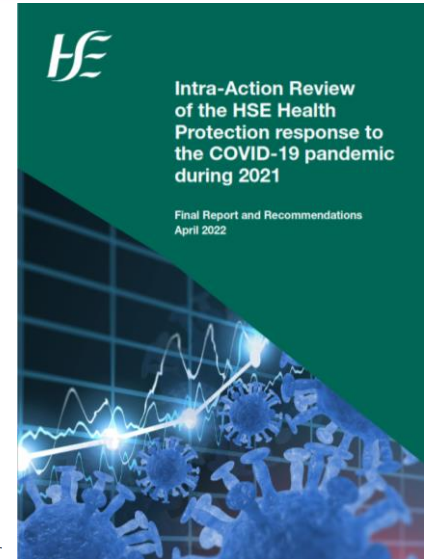
Health Service Executive

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10147/632023>

<https://www.lenus.ie/handle/10147/632023>

O'Connor E, O'Riordan , Morrissey M, Dever N, O'Mahony CI, Romanowski S, Boland M. A methodological approach to intra-action reviews - application and adaptation of existing global guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic response in Ireland, 2021. [Euro Surveill.](#) 2023;28(13):



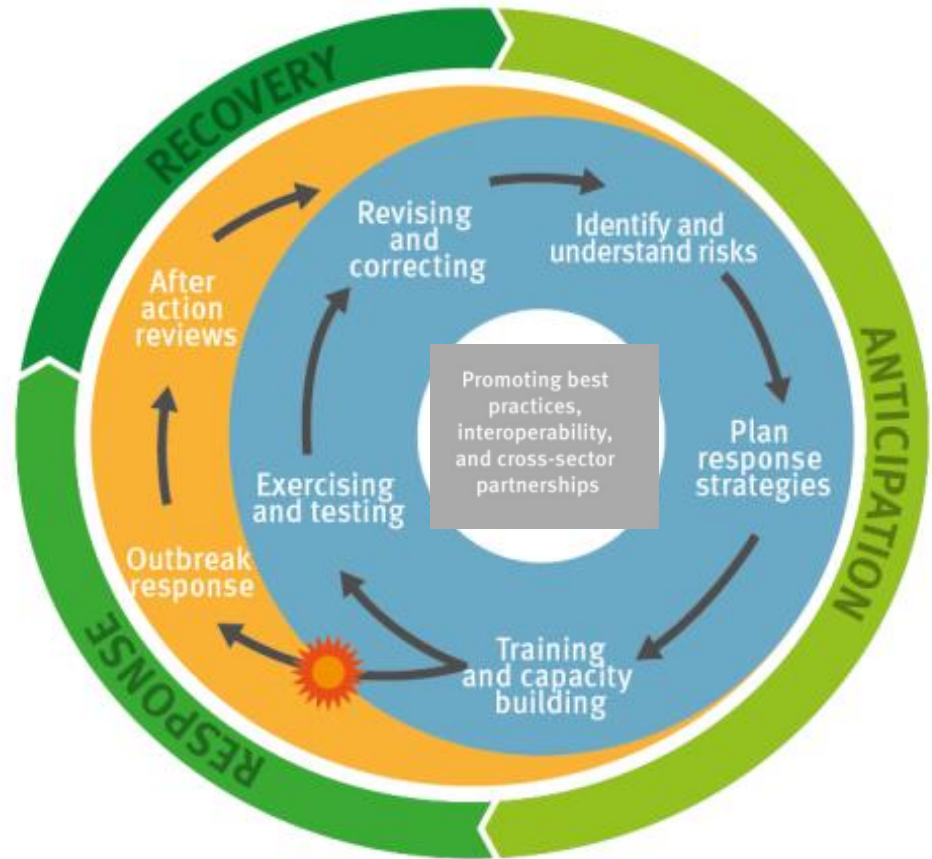


Health security

- “Activities required, both proactive and reactive, to minimize the danger and impact of acute public health events that endanger people’s health across geographical regions and international boundaries’ (WHO)
- Prevention, preparedness, and response planning- essential elements for effective monitoring, early warning of and combatting serious cross-border threats to health*.
- **Preparedness is integral to EU health security framework*.**

[*Preparedness and response planning \(ec.europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/preparedness-and-response-planning/)

Figure 1. The preparedness cycle



Source: ECDC

HS Threats Preparedness/ Health Security Programme

Infectious Diseases

- Public Health preparedness for new and emerging serious infectious diseases

Emergency preparedness and response:

- serious cross-border threats to health, points of entry (Port Health)
- delivering on Ireland's legislative requirements in preparedness
- supporting a move to a robust all-hazards approach in line with IHR and EU Regulation on Serious Cross-Border Threats to Health (EU Regulation 2022/2371).

Environment and Health

- supporting Ireland's health protection response to the climate emergency

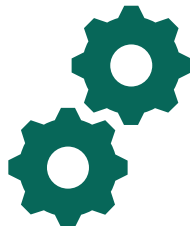




Health Security Framework: Threat Emergency Preparedness Programme



All Hazards



Interoperability



Intersectoral networks
e.g. One Health



Co-ordination and
communication



National – Regional
Links



European & Global
Orientation



IHR Monitoring and
Evaluation Framework



Continuous Quality
Improvement



Intersectoral collaboration

Zoonoses

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza; pandemic planning

Re-emerging Diseases

Poliomyelitis; Diphtheria

High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCIDs)

Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers e.g. Ebola, Lassa Fever

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, or Nuclear (CBRNE) Threat

Chemical, biological, nuclear event, radiation incident, environmental threat, unknown

Global Climate Crisis

Mitigating the health impacts of climate change

Point of entry health security

Preparedness and capacity building at Ireland's ports and airports



**All-island One
Health tabletop
HPAI June '23**

**Multi-disciplinary
tabletop VHF Nov '22**

**Learning exchange
RescEU and Oslo
CBRNE High Level
Isolation Unit April '23**



Cross-border preparedness

EU: ECDC NFP preparedness/response

Intra/After-action reviews, lessons learned, assessments, initiatives & developments

EU collaborations/ structures

SHARP*; Healthy Gateways**; EU HERA- threat prioritisation, medical countermeasures; European Observatory–Health Security

EC Serious Cross Border Threats to Health legislation (22/2371)

Preparedness reporting, preparedness plans, training, EU training packages EPIC11

Training and exercising

All-island; UKHSA collaborations; ECDC; International (eg Nuclear Energy Agency Exercise), WHO (exercise JADE)

IHR proposals; Pandemic agreement

Review of working group proposals, reporting in to Dept of Health

*SHARP: Strengthening IHR preparedness www.sharp.ja

**Healthy Gateways: Preparedness and action at points of entry <https://www.healthygateways.eu/>

EPIC11

The EPIC11 Programme



Main objective: A training programme for health specialists to support the development and implementation of health emergency preparedness plans across the EU with the purpose to enhance preparedness capabilities to better respond to future health emergencies of EU concern.

Legal basis/mandate: EU Regulation 2022/2371 on serious cross-border threats to health, Article 11 (Training of healthcare staff and public health staff)



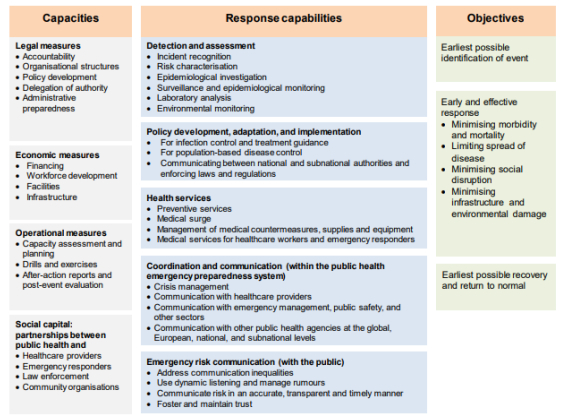
SHARP
Strengthened International HeAlth
Regulations & Preparedness in the EU



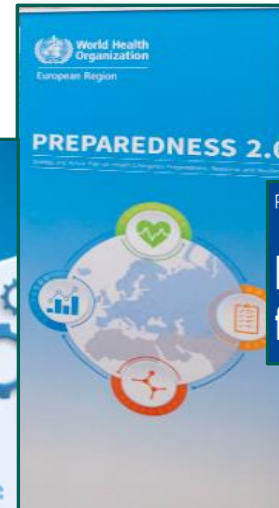


Health security: measuring capacities and capabilities

Figure 2. ECDC logic model for public health emergency preparedness in EU Member States [10, 11]



Stoto MA, Nelson C et al. A Public Health Preparedness Logic Model: **Assessing Preparedness for Cross-border Threats in the European Region**. Health Secur. 2017 Sep/Oct;15(5):473-482.



Press release | 25 December 2022 | Brussels

European Health Union: a new EU Health security framework is in motion



Health security priorities

- Governance and leadership
- Capacity building and planning
- All-hazard surveillance
- Managing the 'dual track' - essential services plus emergency response
- Points of entry preparedness
- All-island approach
- Training and exercising
- EU coordination: prevention, preparedness & response



The imperative for strengthening health security



<https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/communication150621.pdf>

* WHO. A Healthier Humanity- the investment case 2019-23. who.int

**The costs of improving health emergency preparedness: A systematic review and analysis of multi-country studies. Clarke et al. WHO Lancet Clinical Medicine 2022

- Expectations around preparedness, capability and capacity building for health security are growing in Europe
- The health security agenda continues to evolve and requires a cross-government approach, strong research and policy support.
- The cost of inaction and insufficient preparedness far outstrips the cost of effective, systematic and co-ordinated investment in preparedness and planning*
- WHO 2022: "Simply put, **investments in preparedness** – facilitated by sizeable, consistent, and predictable public sector-led spending – are essential to improving and protecting people's health, community well-being, and economies." **



Thank you

Go raibh maith agaibh

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