

SHARP

Strengthened International **He**alth
Regulations & **P**reparedness in the EU



SHARP Joint Action: **To strengthen preparedness in the EU against serious cross-border threats to health and support the implementation of IHR**

“How SHARP are your health security arrangements
against cross-border health threats?”

Workshop – May 5, 2023

Anna Katz



Finnish institute for
health and welfare

sharpja.eu



SHARP Joint Action (JA)



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union

– Strengthened International HeAlth Regulations and Preparedness in the EU

Aims of the JA:

- To strengthen implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health and
- To support the EU level preparedness and responses to health threats and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Strengthened ability to prevent, detect and respond to biological outbreaks, chemical contamination and environmental and unknown threats to human health (SHARP partners, MS and the EU)

- 26 associated partners
- 35 affiliated entities
- 10 collaborating partners

3-year Joint Action

April 2019 – March 2022

+ 1,5 y non-cost extension due to covid-19

-> ad Sept 2023

- 21 Associated EU MS partners
- 5 Collaborating partner countries
- 4 Associated partner countries



PREVENT

National legislation, policy and financing
IHR coordination, communication and advocacy

Antimicrobial resistance → JA AMR

Zoonotic disease

Food safety

Biosafety and biosecurity → JA TERROR

Immunization → JA Vaccination

DETECT

National laboratory system
Surveillance
Reporting
Human resources

RESPOND

Emergency preparedness
Emergency response operations
Linking public health and security authorities
Medical countermeasures and personnel deployment
Risk communication

IHR RELATED HAZARDS AND POINTS OF ENTRY

Points of entry → JA Healthy Gateways

Chemical events

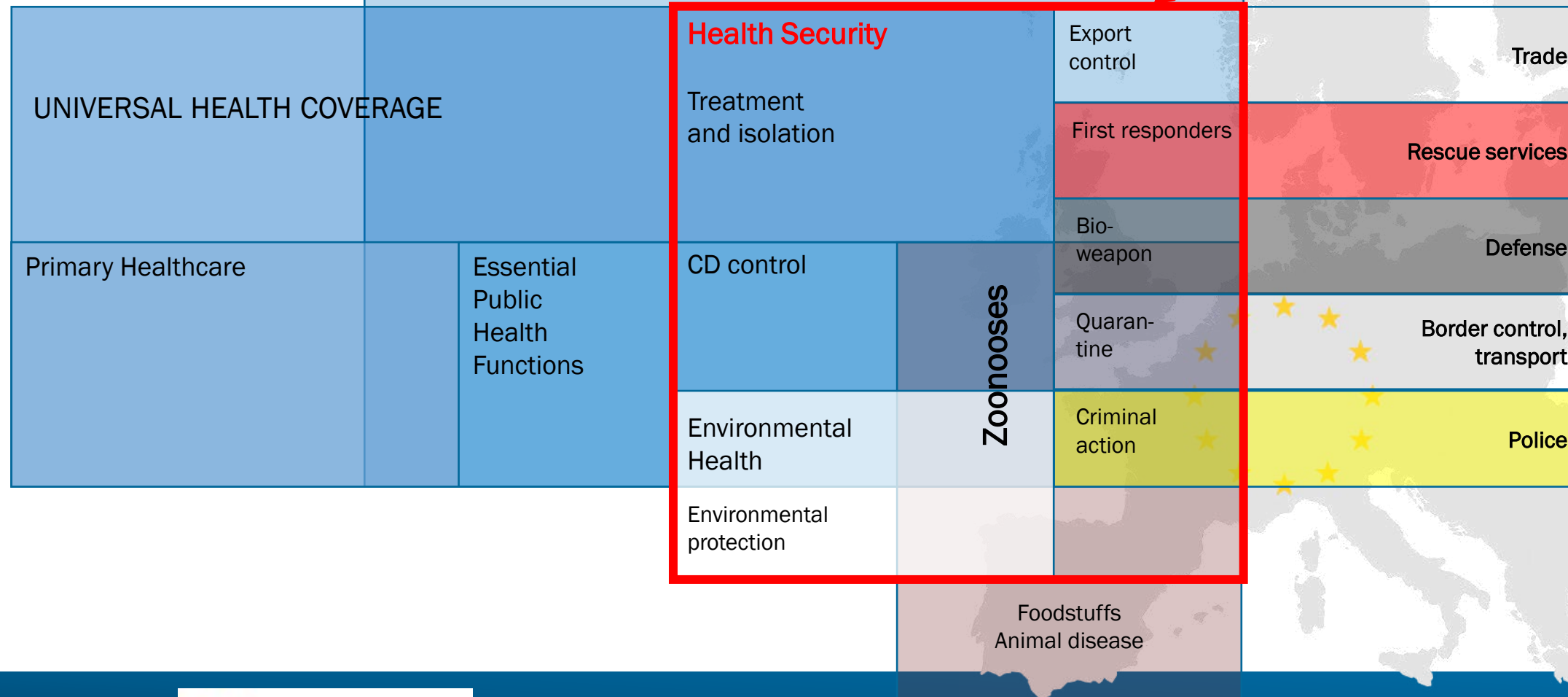
Radiation emergencies → Not applicable

WP	WP title		Lead	Co-lead
WP1	Coordination	★	THL, Finland	RKI, Germany and INMI, Italy
WP2	Communication and dissemination	★	Public Health Wales, UK	THL, Finland
WP3	Evaluation of the action	★	NPHO/EODY, Greece	-
WP4	Integration in national policies and sustainability		MOH-FR, France	RIVM, The Netherlands
WP5	IHR core capacity strengthening and assessment	★	FOHM, Sweden	HD, Norway
WP6	Preparedness and Response planning	★	RIVM, The Netherlands	ISCIII, Spain
WP7	Laboratory preparedness and responsiveness		RKI, Germany	INMI, Italy
WP8	Training and local exercises, exchange of working practices	★	IPHS, Serbia	RKI, Germany
WP9	Chemical safety and chemical threats		UKHSA, UK	NIJZ, Slovenia
WP10	Case management and infection prevention and control preparedness	★	INMI, Italy	-

Foreign affairs –
HEALTH DIPLOMACY AND
HEALTH COOPERATION
Sustainable Development Goals



Core Public Health
Capacities of IHR &
Health Security



SHARP

Strengthened International **He**alth
Regulations & **P**reparedness in the EU

Work Package 5:
**To improve core capacity in EU
Member States as required by
IHR and Decision 1082/2013 EU**

Ingebjørg Skrindo/Norwegian Directory of
Health/WP 5.2

sharpja.eu



**17TH WORLD CONGRESS
ON PUBLIC HEALTH**
2023 May 2-6 ROME ITALY





- **Objective:** Support countries in building capacity required to fulfill the requirements of IHR and EU Decision 1082
- **Achieved primarily by way of:**
 - Task 5.1 Workshops aimed to support IHR implementation for focus countries that have undergone a Joint External Evaluation or not
 - **Task 5.2 Workshop on international collaboration between authorities during crisis:**
 - Strengthen preparedness and the implementation of IHR and the new EU regulations
 - Improving cross-sectoral (medical and civil protection) preparedness and response capacity in Member States
 - Strengthening information exchange, cross-sectoral response and mechanisms for rapid mobilization of health personnel and medical countermeasures across borders
 - Task 5.3 Feasibility Study on After-Action Reviews and SimEx



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union

REGULATION (EU) 2022/2371 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 23 November 2022 on serious cross-border threats to health and repealing Decision No 1082/2013/EU

“The national prevention, preparedness and response plans of Member States sharing a border with at least one other Member State should therefore include plans to improve the preparedness for, prevention of and response to health crises in border areas in neighbouring regions, including through cross-border training for healthcare staff and coordination exercises for the medical transfer of patients.”





WP 5.2 Conclusion



- We propose an **agreement of intention** for cross-border collaboration between authorities in neighboring countries to assist each other in the event of large-scale emergencies
- The main obstacles need to be defined and solved
- The agreement should be further developed and maintained by a co-operative body

SHARP

Strengthened International **He**alth
Regulations & **P**reparedness in the EU

Supporting European Union Member States and Joint Action partner countries in developing operational inter-sectoral preparedness and response plans for serious cross-border health threats with an integrated all hazards approach

Sandra Kamga

Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

Work package 6: Preparedness and Response planning

sharpja.eu



Identifying the sectors involved in European public health emergency preparedness and response: *A systematic review*

An exploration of the European SARS-CoV-2 testing landscape: *A mix-ed method study*

Which sectors should be involved in public health emergency preparedness, response and recovery: *A RAND modified consensus procedure*

The citizen's role during PHEPR: *A multi-country focus group study*



The European citizen's
perception of its role in the
COVID-19 preparedness,
response and recovery?

*A multi-country focus group
study*





The citizen as an
information receiver

The relationship
between the citizen
and decision-makers

The citizen's
perceived role

The citizen as an
information receiver

The relationship
between the citizen
and decision-makers

The citizen's perceived role

- Difficulties thinking about how to prepare for, or recover, from a PHE
- Social responsibility to adhere to measures, avoid infecting others, being proactive and working hard
- Creating a sense of solidarity
- Boosting the economy during recovery



What do you think should be think
should be the citizen's role?





WP 8: Training and local exercises, exchange of working practices



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF SERBIA
"Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut"

ROBERT KOCH INSTITUT



Milena Vasic, IPHS

Specific objective

Strengthening IHR implementation for serious cross-border health threats in the JA partner countries through cross-sectoral basic and advanced trainings.

Tasks

- ✓ Assessment of the cross-sectoral training needs in JA partner countries related to preparedness and IHR implementation
- ✓ Development of curricula for basic and advanced face-to-face and on-line training
- ✓ Training implementation
- ✓ Secondments, study tours or internships to supranational organizations or other countries

MS27 Basic and advanced trainings conducted (*two basic and three advanced workshops plus several laboratory workshops organised*)

- 4 IHR (2005) Basic Online Trainings
- 2 chemical workshops – WP9
- 2 table-top exercises
- 2 IAR/AAR workshops
- Introduction to Simulation Exercises
- Laboratory workshops – WP7
- Public Health Disaster Recovery Planning
- Outbreak Investigation/Public Health Surveillance



SHARP



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union

15th EPH Conference

Strengthening health systems: improving
population health and being prepared for
the unexpected



Berlin, Germany

9 - 12 November 2022



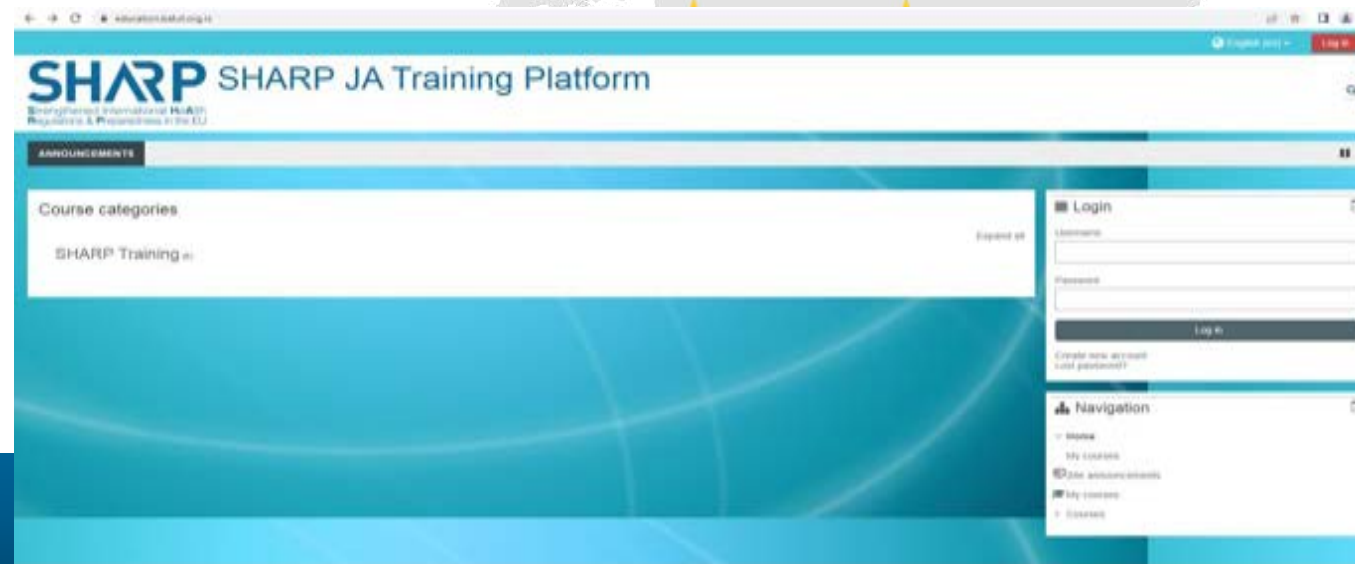
24.-25. новембар 2022.
Crowne Plaza, Београд

54th Days of Preventive Medicine
International Congress

27-30. September 2022.
Nis, Serbia



17TH WORLD CONGRESS
ON PUBLIC HEALTH
2023 May 2-6 ROME ITALY



sharpja.eu

SHARP

Strengthened International **He**Alth
Regulations & **P**reparedness in the EU

WP 10: Case Management and Infection prevention and Control Preparedness



WP 10: Case Management and Infection prevention and Control Preparedness

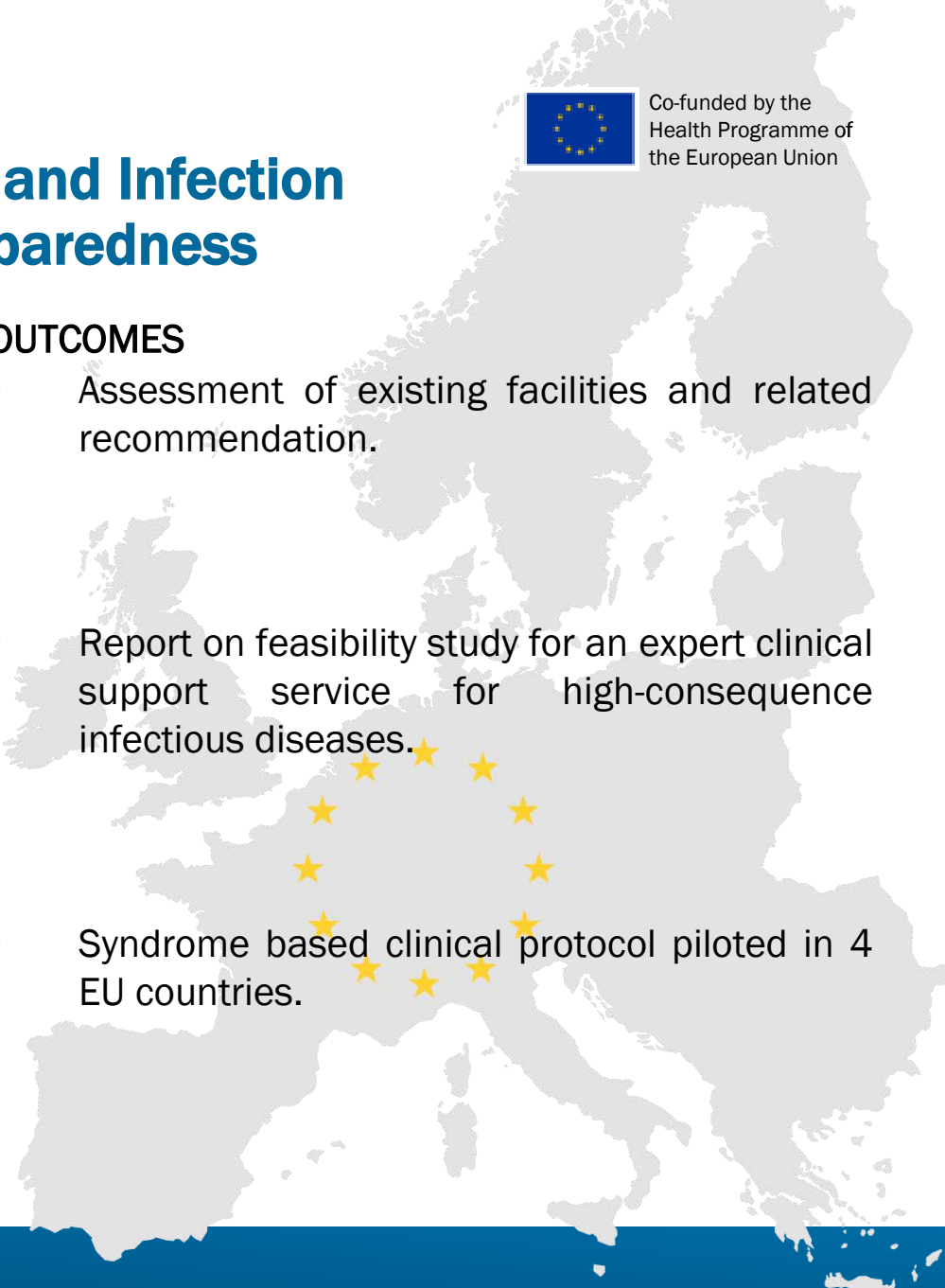
• OBJECTIVE

- To improve the hospital preparedness on clinical and biorisk management to possible trans-border health threats.
- To improve the timely and appropriate clinical management using a standardize clinical approach to HCID.
- Evaluation of feasibility of new tools for supporting the timely clinical management of HCID.



OUTCOMES

- Assessment of existing facilities and related recommendation.
- Report on feasibility study for an expert clinical support service for high-consequence infectious diseases.
- Syndrome based clinical protocol piloted in 4 EU countries.



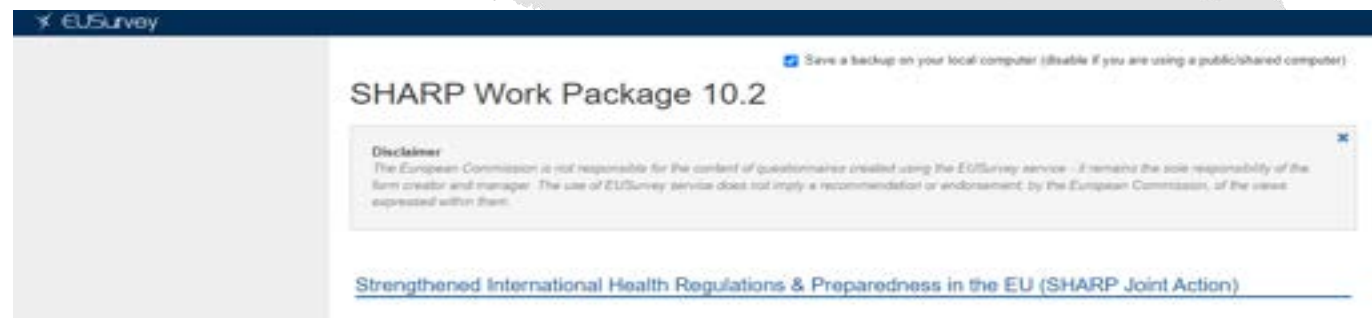
Mapping of existing facilities and Assessment of country hospital preparedness and capacity for HCID, including high isolation clinical centers

ACTIVITIES

- Mapping of facilities through a online survey
- Different tools is being used to assess the facilities, these include the use of classical self-administered questionnaire.



Contribute to the harmonization and networking of management of HCID patients through an updated map of clinical centres and the development of a self-assessment tool for the facilities



Application of a “syndrome based” approach for clinical management of imported emerging diseases threats

- to promote an early clinical identification of HIDs, autochthonous or imported abroad from European cross border countries or from tropical countries. The implementation will be carried out through different phases:
 - identification of the list of diseases,
 - case definition of each epidemic prone disease with acceptable ratio between sensitivity and specificity;
 - systematic identifications of major disease drivers of, and threats associated with the occurrence of the diseases;



Development of a framework protocol for a syndrome based approach at EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT patient management to be used as a tool for implementation of the approach at EU Level

High consequence infectious diseases in Europe – the need for an expert clinical support service

- Since the 2013-2016 outbreak of Ebola virus disease in West Africa, other outbreaks of high consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs) have also demonstrated the utility of clinical consultations and information sharing among international experts involved in the care of these patients.
- Work package (WP) 10 task 3 constitutes a feasibility study for an expert clinical support service for HCIDs, including an expert consultation platform for case management and infection prevention and control.
- Based on published literature, information from legal experts, and a joint workshop with WP 5 (International collaboration between authorities during crises,) we identified some technical, financial and legal challenges related to different interpretation of GDPR among EU and EEA member states.
- Legal challenges may be resolved by further development of European Health Union legislation, and the implementation of the European Health Data Space.



Conclusion: There is a need for a formal network of European clinicians with expertise in HCIDs, a need for a digital platform meeting defined technical and legal criteria, and a need for long-term funding. One solution could be to establish a new European Reference Network (ERN) for HCIDs.

SHARP

Strengthened International **He**Alth
Regulations & **P**reparedness in the EU

How project's progress monitoring by
evaluation methodology and procedures can
continuously improve the effectiveness and
efficiency of collaborative joint action

WP3 –Evaluation of the action

Eleonora Hadjipaschali

National Public Health Organization, Greece



SHARP EVALUATION



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union

- Evaluation plan/strategy
- Methods
- Tools
- Monitoring
- Outcomes
- Tasks
- Procedures
- Questionnaires

Internal Evaluation

To perform a systematic and objective assessment of the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, as well as sustainability of the project in the context of its objectives

On going through the project

External Evaluation

Ensure the objectiveness in the evaluation process

Two cycles M1-24, M48-54

- Midterm Report : Assessment of progress and completion, challenges, recommendations, proposals
- Deployment of pre and post evaluation surveys according to Evaluation Plan extracting quantitative and qualitative data for WPs activities
- In-depth interviews with all WP leaders and key stakeholders, to provide proposals supporting the sustainability plan of the JA
- Final Evaluation Report: Evaluation of Impact in accordance with Outcome/impact indicators specified in WPs specific objective



Challenges - Findings

- The COVID-19 pandemic had an inevitable impact in the JA as a whole
- Challenges in IHR 2005 and European Directive 1082/2013 implementation
- Changes in workshops, tasks, outcomes and materials content was required due to different priorities
- Limited staff availability as people involved in SHARP JA is also heavily involved in their national health response teams (IHR/Public Health trained professionals)
 - Excellent networking opportunities and practise exchange
 - Need to implement material and knowledge gained in National level
 - Need support on technical/scientific level
 - More usage of website, social media as a mean of communication and source of information
- It is also evident that actions and events have resumed successfully in the time following Covid-19 active period, indicating coherence, productive management, and good collaboration amongst partners



Eleonora Hadjipaschali
Leader WP3

e.chatzipaschali@eody.gov.gr

- <https://www.eody.gov.gr>
- <https://www.sharpja.eu>



Twitter @sharpja_eu



<https://www.facebook.com/SHARPJointAction>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sharp-joint-action/>



SHARP

Strengthened International **He**alth
Regulations & **P**reparedness in the EU

Understanding of the health policy landscape
to meet the challenges of achieving effective
visibility, awareness and impact amongst
multiple stakeholders

Work package 2: Communication and Dissemination

Giri Shankar, Leah Morantz, Karen Dancey

Public Health Wales

sharpja.eu

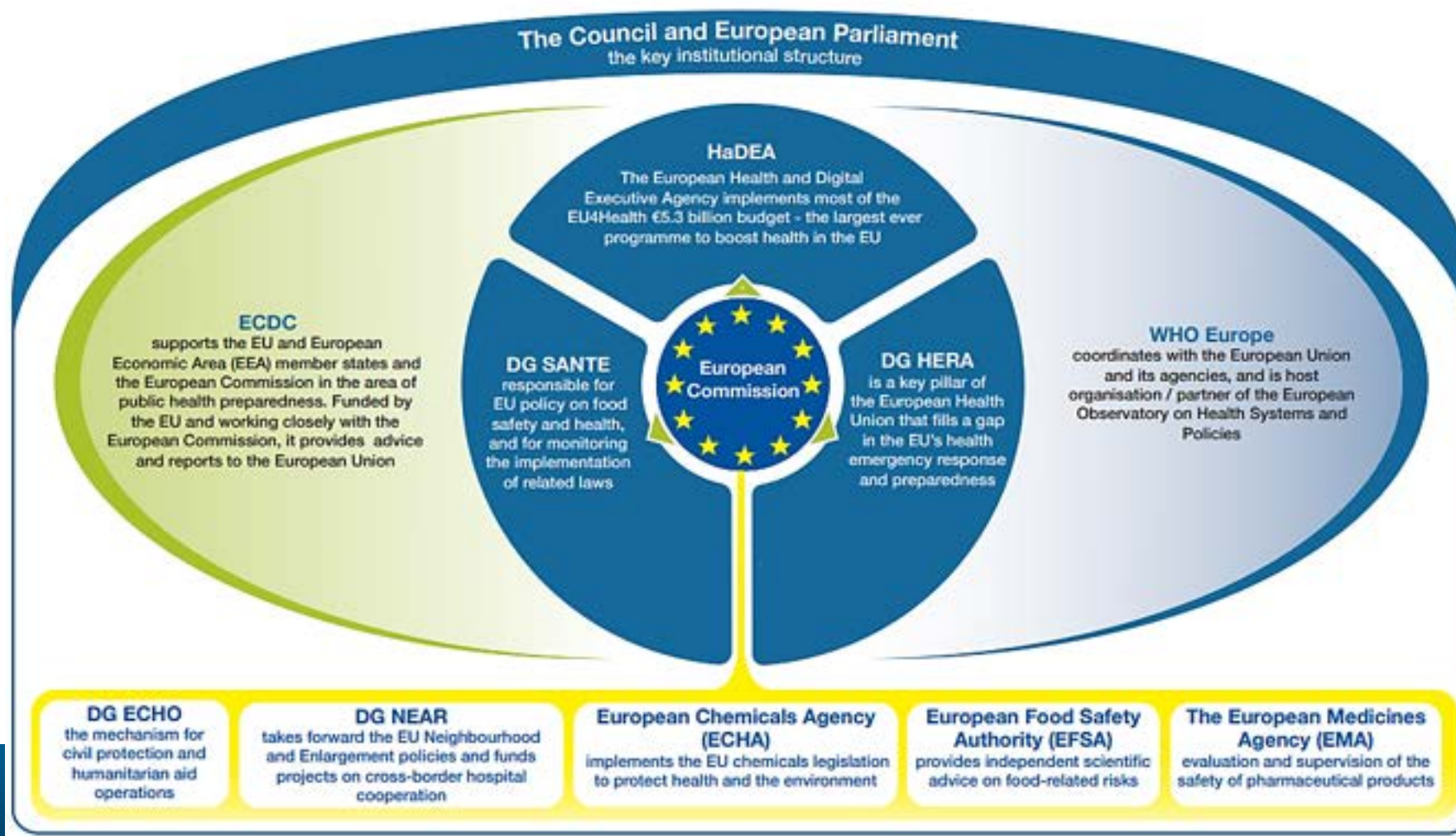


A young woman with brown hair in a bun, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt, looks directly at the camera with a stressed expression, her hands pressed against her temples. The background is a dark, chalkboard-like surface with various white chalk-drawn icons: a folder, two envelopes, a document with horizontal lines, a document with a checklist, a globe, a bar chart, and a document with a small image. A blue thought bubble is positioned above her head, containing the text "Too much information".

Too much
information

European-level health policy and infrastructure

EU countries hold primary responsibility for organising and delivering health services and medical care. EU health policy therefore serves to complement national policies, to ensure health protection in all EU policies and to work towards a stronger Health Union.



What we've done to strengthen communications effectiveness

Strategy focusing on:

- Website content SEO and a *subscribe/comment* function to engage organic traffic
- A campaign approach to promote each deliverable to its relevant audience using digital channels - news posts; direct email; social posts;
 - HPP Agora network posts potentially reaching >9000 participants
- Creating a list of 100+ external organisations with potential interest in SHARP
- Optimised social media by following all key organisations at
 - Global/regional policy level
 - National policy and coordination level
 - Operational levelsubscribing to their newsletters to remain informed
- Social-media listening and Google Alerts to monitor for external opportunities to raise awareness of SHARP Joint Action
- Facilitating journal publications



SHARP

IMPACT of a proactive, strategic communications approach



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union

- In 2022 SHARP presented at 5 external organisation events
- Newsletter subscribers grew by 133% - engaging with other sectors
- Website New Users rose Apr 1, 2022–Mar 31, 2023 to 1,337, with 83% of users returning
- Recruitment to SHARP workshops, trainings, etc., exceeded targets, attracting participants from a range of sectors/external organisations
- Journal publications achieved exceptional engagement
- A blueprint for effective programme communications for future Joint Actions will be published later in the year, detailing these best practices.
- [Subscribe to SHARP JA newsletter](#)



Finally, short introductions to:

- Laboratory preparedness and responsiveness (WP7)
 - Chemical safety and chemical threats (WP9)
 - Integration in national policies and sustainability (WP4)
- > How to sustain the work and outcomes of SHARP Joint Action?

WP7 – Laboratory preparedness and responsiveness

Lead: RKI, Germany; Co-lead: INMI, Italy

7.1 External Quality Assurance Exercises (EQAE)

- Three EQAEs conducted (2020, 2021, 2022)
- WP7 partner meetings (Dec 2020, Nov 2021, Sept 2022)

7.2 Diagnostic approaches

- Assessment of diagnostic capabilities performed
- Continuous SARS-CoV-2 whole-genome sequencing, Working Groups on Next Generation Sequencing (NGS), Basic diagnostics and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST)
- Training in laboratories – booklet updated at the internal website
- Workshop AST of highly pathogenic bacteria, Workshop on Detection of pathogens of risk group 4 without BSL-4 laboratory facilities. Technical meeting on NGS (May 2023)

7.3 Laboratory biorisk management

- Development of a tool with recommendations for enhancing laboratory biorisk management



WP9 – Chemical safety and chemical threats

Lead: UKHSA, UK; Co-lead: NIJZ, Slovenia

- **9.1 Fact-finding report (Gap analysis, based on questionnaire results)**
 - [D9.1 Fact-finding report \(PDF 1,000 KB\)](#)
- Report on desirability and feasibility of an EU chemical network
- Designed and developed training materials
- Delivered 2 advanced workshops on chemical health threats (2022)
- Produced training report
- Reports: SOPs, Mechanisms for Cross-border chemical health threat preparedness



WP4: Integration in national policies and sustainability

Lead: MoH-France; Co-lead: RIVM

Some preliminary findings

- AAR and simulation exercises should be conducted routinely to evaluate and to keep response mechanisms updated
- Exercises should be reported, and recommendations included into state of preparedness -reports
- EU-level SimEx and AAR require follow-up systems in place
- Preparedness plans should include recommendations on involving of different sectors in different phases of the response
- It is important to maintain EMERGE laboratory network (highly dangerous and emerging pathogens) to ensure flexible collaboration during crisis
- Continuous training is needed in implementation of IHR, preparedness and response
- European chemical laboratory response network is needed to be prepared for chemical incidents



Other priority outcomes (1/2)

- Possible recommendations from the reports:
 - Improving IHR implementation, added value of external evaluation processes and facilitating strengthening of selected core capacities in the EU and neighbouring countries (WP5)
 - On the use of exercises and AAR as part of monitoring for IHR core capacities (WP5)
- Recommendations based on the study of the:
 - COVID-19 decision-making process concerning testing strategies (WP6)
 - Lessons learned on multisectoral collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic (WP6)
 - Best practices based on experiences with e-learning and tabletop exercises (WP6)

Other priority outcomes (2/2)

- Laboratory
 - Possible recommendations from report on assessment of modern molecular diagnostic methods, including AST (WP7)
- Training
 - Procedure to assess the cross-sectoral training needs across countries (WP8)
 - Experiences with training provided in WP8, including the training packages and on-line platform (WP8)
 - Recommended curricula developed for basic and advanced face-to-face and on-line training (WP8)
- Chemical safety and threats
 - Recommendations on chemical events surveillance in relation to Public Health preparedness (WP9)
 - Lessons learned from previous events, including workshop materials and chemical incident exercise scenarios (WP9)
 - Developed SOPs, based on findings from the workshops and the best practices, gaps and bottlenecks identified previously (WP9)

Deliverables

Here you will find externally available deliverables from SHARP Joint Action.

- [D2.1 Leaflet – a four page overview of the SHARP Joint Action \(PDF 324 KB\)](#)
- [D3.4 Midterm external evaluation report \(PDF 638 KB\)](#)
- [D5.4 Review of EU-level Simulation Exercises and After Action Reviews \(PDF 1.32 MB\)](#)
- [D6.1 Multisectoral collaboration during public health emergencies: an integrative review \(PDF 1,023 KB\)](#)
- [D8.1 Report on training needs \(PDF 2,000 KB\)](#)
- [D9.1 Fact-finding report \(PDF 1,000 KB\)](#)

SHARP



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union

SHARP JA Final Conference in Helsinki, Finland, at 19 - 20 June 2023



Finnish institute for
health and welfare



SHARP

Thank you!



Co-funded by the
Health Programme of
the European Union



More questions?

- Contact the SHARP coordination team at THL: sharp@thl.fi
- Visit the website: <https://sharpja.eu/>
- Keep informed: **SHARP Joint Action @SHARP_EU**

