



## Aims of the SHARP Joint Action

The SHARP Joint Action (**S**trengthened International **H**ealth **R**egulations and **P**reparedness in the EU) was planned to:

- Strengthen the implementation of Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health (repealed by Regulation (EU) 2022/2371)
  - Support the EU level preparedness and responses to health threats and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)
- Leading to: Strengthened ability to prevent, detect and respond to biological outbreaks, chemical contamination and environmental and unknown threats to human health among SHARP partners, MS and the EU.

## SHARP partners from 30 countries (EU/EEA and non-EU)

SHARP JA started in 2019 and will finish at the end of September 2023.

The JA consists of:

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

The Joint Action is coordinated by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland.

Ten Work Packages covering core public health capacities according to the IHR (2005): coordination, communication, evaluation, sustainability, IHR core capacity analysis and strengthening, preparedness, laboratories, training and exercises, chemical threats and clinical management.



## Work done to date

### IHR core capacity strengthening and assessment

- Improving IHR implementation – gap analysis, three workshops, report IHR core capacity strengthening and assessment
- International collaboration between authorities during crisis – survey, expert meeting, report
- Review of EU-level simulation exercises and after-action reviews

### Preparedness and response planning

- Identifying core elements of an integrated multi-sectoral preparedness and response plan – report
- Lessons learned from Covid-19 – survey, interviews, focus group discussions

### Laboratory preparedness and responsiveness

- External Quality Assurance Exercises
- Diagnostic approaches - Assessment of diagnostic capabilities, NGS, AST and basic diagnostics working groups
- Laboratory biorisk management tool

### Training and exercises

- Assessment of training needs, 20 trainings on topics chosen on basis of the assessment, including simulation exercises
- Training platform: <https://education.batut.org.rs>

### Chemical safety and chemical threats

- Gap analysis, online trainings on chemical health threats
- Report on desirability and feasibility of an EU chemical network

### Case management and IPC preparedness

- Mapping of existing facilities and assessment of hospital preparedness
- Feasibility study for an expert clinical support service for high-consequence infectious diseases

[sharpja.eu](http://sharpja.eu)

## Key outcomes

Ten priority outcomes from SHARP JA have been identified, each with relevance to national, regional and global priorities on prevention, P&R:

1. Methodology, tools and recommendations for improving IHR implementation and evaluation (WP5);
2. Template agreement of intention for cross-border multisectoral collaboration between neighbouring countries (WP5);
3. Consensus to determine core elements of a multisectoral preparedness and response plan and related tools (WP6);
4. The EMERGE laboratory network on highly pathogenic bacteria and viruses (WP7);
5. Methodology to assess the cross-sectoral training needs for IHR strengthening across countries (WP8);
6. Training tools for IHR strengthening, including training material, curricula and on-line platform (WP8);
7. Recommendations to set up a European chemical laboratory network to respond to serious chemical health threats (WP9);
8. Chemical safety and chemical threats: SOPs on chemical health threats (WP9);
9. Mapping existing High Level Isolation Units likely to be dealing with rare or new high consequence infectious diseases and for an expert clinical support service for high-consequence infectious diseases (WP10);
10. Recommendations on the implementation of a syndrome based clinical protocol (WP10).

## Conclusions and next steps

Although the implementation of SHARP JA was largely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the JA has been able to contribute to the evolving health security architecture emerging from the pandemic. Sustaining SHARP priority outcomes is contributing to the priorities of P&R at all levels:

- National level: Contribute to strengthening national prevention, preparedness and response plans and capacities.
- EU level: Contribute to the implementation of the new EU Health Security framework, in particular relating to reporting and evaluation, preparedness and response planning, with a focus on cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration, EU level reference laboratories, and training;
- Global level: Provide the EU with concrete elements towards strengthening the global health security framework.

All externally available deliverables can be accessed on the SHARP JA web page ([sharpja.eu](http://sharpja.eu)) to support SHARP partners, EU/EEA and non-EU countries in their preparedness & response planning.



## Acknowledgments to the Work Package leaders

WP2: Public Health Wales (UK), WP3: National Public Health Organization (GR), WP4: Ministry of Health (FR), WP5: Public Health Agency of Sweden (SE), WP6: National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (NL), WP7: Robert Koch Institute (DE), WP8: Institute of Public Health of Serbia (RS), WP9: UK Health Security Agency (UK), WP10: National Institute for Infectious Diseases (IT)

**...and to all our partners and stakeholders!**