



Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority

Medical countermeasures, guaranteeing an arsenal in times of need and boosting innovation

HERA's mission

HERA was created to strengthen Europe's ability to ensure the provision of medical countermeasures in case of a pandemic or other large-scale health threats. This implies identifying possible threats, assessing existing countermeasures, establishing stocks or supporting the development of new countermeasures, as well as making sure that, if needed, we will have the capacity to produce them quickly and at mass.

- Better EU health security coordination in the area of medical countermeasures (MCMs) before and during crises
- Bringing together the EU member states, industry and relevant stakeholders
- Development, production, procurement, stockpiling and equitable distribution of medical countermeasures
- Reinforcing the global health emergency response architecture

What are medical countermeasures?

Medical countermeasures (MCMs) diagnose, prevent, protect from or treat conditions during a public health emergency. Examples of MCMs are vaccines, antibiotics, medical equipment, chemical antidotes, therapeutics, diagnostic tests or personal protective equipment such as gloves or masks.

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Stockpiling and EU procurement to ensure provision of countermeasures, such as medicines, vaccines, masks and gloves

HERA's key actions

1 Identify needs and promote wider use of joint EU-level procurement to ensure access to medical countermeasures.

2 Assess existing stockpiling capacity and develop a stockpiling strategy.

3 Provide operational recommendations to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism on medical countermeasures, their stockpiling and deployment.

4 Establishment of EUR 1.2 billion strategic stockpiling of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) medical countermeasures and other critical medical items through rescEU.



Mapping and forecasting medical countermeasures

HERA has started working on the development of an Advanced Technology for Health INtelligence and Action IT System (ATHINA), to strengthen the link between health threat detection and the availability of relevant

medical countermeasures. While ATHINA is being developed, the analytic functions will be provided as a service both on MCMs and public health threats.

ATHINA's key actions



INVESTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATIVE MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES

How is HERA promoting advanced research and innovation to develop effective, safe and affordable medical countermeasures?

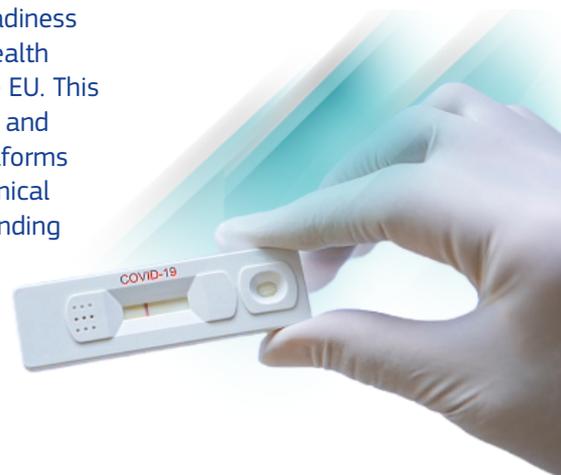
HERA's key actions

1 Develop a common strategic EU research and innovation agenda for pandemic preparedness to help guide both EU and national funding building on the work of the collaborative project BE READY, a consortium of 20 organisations and public institutions from 16 different EU countries funded under Horizon Europe, which aims to define a Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda for pandemic preparedness and response.

2 Support targeted research and speed up development of MCMs through Horizon Europe and EU4Health.

3 Further develop the Advanced Technology for Health Intelligence and Action IT System (ATHINA) to detect potential health threats, offer early assessments and response options, and monitor and address vulnerabilities in the supply of MCMs to ensure preparedness and effective response to public health emergencies.

4 Work jointly with other Commission services and the European Medicines Agency to create a framework for coordinating and funding clinical trials to improve trial readiness for future public health emergencies in the EU. This includes long-term and large-scale EU platforms for multi-centre clinical trials and corresponding data platforms.



What is HERA Invest?

HERA Invest is the first European health investment fund promoting advanced research and development of medical countermeasures and related technologies, with €100 million dedicated to support innovative SMEs in the late phases of clinical trials, to better prepare and respond to cross-border health threats.

How does HERA Invest work?

With the EIB as implementing partner, HERA Invest supports innovative companies (particularly SMEs) in late clinical trials, namely companies developing medical countermeasures which tackle one of the following health threats:

- Pathogens with pandemic or epidemic potential
- Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats originating from accidental or deliberate release
- Antimicrobial resistance



What are the objectives of HERA Invest?

- Promote R&D by European companies to ensure open strategic autonomy
- Reduce market failures
- Leverage public funding to incentivise private investment
- Foster the development of new medical countermeasures to protect against health threats

