

HEALTH UNION: Identifying top 3 priority health threats

HERA, together with the Member States, identifies on an annual basis three specific high impact health threats to ensure preparedness and response, in particular by addressing possible gaps in the availability and accessibility of medical countermeasures (MCMs).

Top 3 serious cross-border threats:

1 Pathogens with high pandemic potential, notably due to:

- rapid transmission mode;
- likelihood to reach a sensitive population, for example persons with minimal pre-existing immunity;
- their high potential to cause high morbidity and mortality

This largely includes respiratory RNA viral families.

2 Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats originating from accidental or deliberate release.

For **chemical threats**, substances identified based on:

- likelihood to occur;
- potential impact on human health, resulting in death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm, regardless of their origin or their method of production.

Radiological and nuclear threats identified based on

- likelihood of their occurrence in various scenarios, e.g. resulting from an incident/accident, or their use in a deliberate release.

Biological threats, with pandemic potential identified on the basis of

- especially the threat potential due to a deliberate or accidental release.

3 Antimicrobial resistance, which pose one of the greatest risk to human health, with antibacterial resistance alone causing an annual estimate of 1.27 million deaths globally.

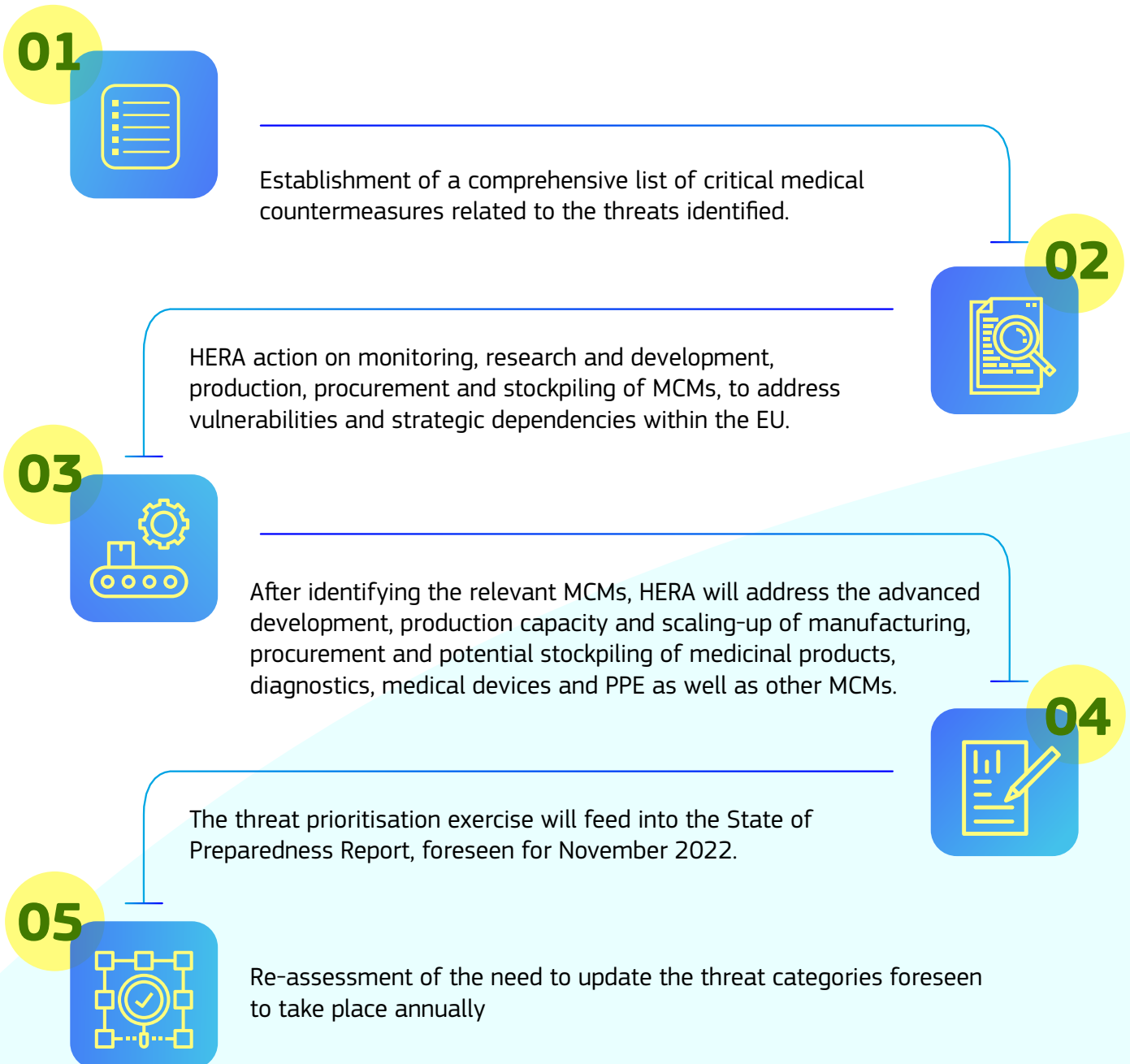


How was the list of threats built?

Throughout 2022, HERA has consulted Member States, Union and national agencies, Chief Medical Officers, international actors and experts on the threat prioritisation exercise. Preliminary results were presented to the HERA Advisory Forum and endorsed by the HERA Board on 08 July 2022.

Next steps

The identification of health threats will be followed by:



HERA is responsible to identify and prioritise future health threats, identify possible gaps in terms of availability and accessibility of relevant MCMs, guide future actions related to R&D of novel MCMs, and contribute to any other relevant action.