

Consultation paper

Stakeholder consultation on health security in the European Union

Glossary

Business Continuity Planning (BCP)	BCP refers to the management processes and integrated plans that maintain the continuity of an organisation's critical processes - those processes which enable a business to deliver key services or products - in the case of a disruptive event. Business continuity encompasses all aspects of an organisation that play a role in sustaining critical processes, namely: people, premises, suppliers, technologies, data, etc.
Contact tracing	Identification and diagnosis of persons who have been exposed to a source of contagious agents, and who are potentially in danger of developing or have developed a disease with serious public health consequences.
Crisis management	Management of any critical situation that causes a disruption to the balance between the demand for and supply of medical services. Crisis management involves the plans, structures and arrangements established to bring together the normal endeavours of government, voluntary and private agencies in a comprehensive and coordinated way to deal with the whole spectrum of emergency needs including prevention, response and recovery.
Crisis communication	Communicating in a situation that somehow challenges the public's sense of appropriateness, traditional values, safety, health, security or the integrity of the government.
Crisis preparedness plan	<p>A written document or map for public health crisis management published by the responsible authority. The organisation, responsibilities and measures are defined - with details on how, when and whom - both before and after an event with public health consequences occurs. It aims to provide a policy for preparedness and response to both internal and external disaster situations that may affect the population and the community.</p> <p>Preparedness is the knowledge and capacities developed by government, organisations and communities to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of a likely, imminent or current crisis.</p>
Critical infrastructures	Critical infrastructures are those physical and information technology facilities, networks, services and assets which, if disrupted or destroyed, would have a serious impact on the health, safety, security or economic well-being of citizens or the effective functioning of governments in EU countries.
Cross-sectoral action	Interdisciplinary, collaborative activity that is carried on with the help and/or involvement of several sectors at the same time.

EU	European Union
Health measure ^{*1}	Procedures applied to prevent the spread of disease or contamination; a health measure does not include law enforcement or security measures.
Health security	Activities required, both proactive and reactive, to minimise vulnerability to acute public health events that endanger the collective health of populations living across geographical regions and international boundaries.
IHR (2005)	International Health Regulations - IHR (2005): the WHO international regime providing global rules to enhance national, regional and global public health security. This legally-binding agreement significantly contributes to global public health security by providing a new framework for coordinating the management of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern, and improves the capacity of all countries to detect, assess, notify and respond to public health threats (www.who.int/ihr/en/).
IHR (2005) Annex 2	The annex 2 of the IHR (2005) is a decision instrument for the assessment and notification of events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern. It is available under: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2008/9789241580410_eng.pdf .
Interoperability	Property referring to the ability of diverse sectors, disciplines or organisations to work together.
Isolation ^{*1}	Separation of ill or contaminated persons or affected baggage, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels from others in such a manner as to prevent the spread of infection or contamination.
Minimum standard	A level of quality that all health plans and providers are required to meet in order to offer services to clients/customers.
Point of entry ^{*1}	A passage for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels as well as agencies and areas providing services to them on entry or exit.
Quarantine ^{†1}	Restriction of activities and/or separation from others of suspect persons who are not ill or of suspect baggage, containers, conveyances or goods in such a manner as to prevent the possible spread of infection or contamination.
Real events in the past	Some examples: Influenza A(H1N1) pandemic in 2009, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), milk contaminated with melamine, food contaminated with dioxin, Alexander Litvinenko poisoned with polonium-210, stainless steel contaminated with cobalt-60.

^{*1} WHO definition according to the International Health Regulations (2005).

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<p>Reference laboratory (RL)</p> <p>1. National Reference Laboratories (NRL)</p>	<p>Nationally-funded institutes/organisations designated by the competent authorities to offer technical and scientific support in specific fields. Their designation and the organisation of their missions may vary from one country to another in the EU (certain countries have permanently designated one or more NRLs, other competent authorities have chosen to select NRLs from their currently operating 'contractors'). As a common denominator their role and tasks include: (1) being directly involved in research programmes and (2) providing technical support to public bodies as regards the implementation of national and EU legislation by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ implementing a quality system in the laboratory; ○ improving measurement systems (instruments, laboratories, networks); ○ ensuring the traceability of the measurements at national level, by providing reference materials to networks or certifying them, organising proficiency testing schemes, etc.; ○ participating in EU quality assurance/quality control programmes; ○ exchanging information by holding training sessions, workshops and conferences.
<p>2. EU-Reference Laboratories (EU-RLs)</p>	<p>EU-RLs guarantee that analytical methods are performed in the state of the art and that the quality of the results is answering to standards agreed at EU level. Therefore, particular responsibilities of the EU-RLs are to train National Reference Laboratories staff on analytical reference methods, and to organise proficiency testing (quality assurance).</p> <p>EU Reference Laboratories with scientific and technical expertise in the areas of animal health, public health and zootechnics designated in different EU Decisions, Directives and Regulations. Within the framework of Council Decision No 90/424/EEC of 26 June 1990 on expenditure in the veterinary field, these laboratories may receive EU financial aid for fulfilling tasks and functions specified in legislation.</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Sum of public health decisions and measures taken during and after a disaster, including immediate relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.</p>
<p>Risk assessment</p>	<p>A scientifically based process consisting of the following steps: (i) threat detection and identification, (ii) threat characterisation, (iii) exposure assessment, and (iv) risk characterisation.</p>
<p>Risk communication</p>	<p>The exchange and dissemination of appropriate information about risks to enable decision makers, stakeholders and the public to make appropriate decisions.</p>
<p>Risk management</p>	<p>A process, distinct from risk assessment, of weighing policy alternatives, in consultation with interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for health protection of consumers, and if needed selecting appropriate prevention and control options.</p>

Serious cross-border public health threat	An event of biological, chemical, radiological and nuclear or environmental origin with potentially severe consequences for public health which affects or could affect more than one Member State in such a way that the morbidity or mortality in humans is acute and rapidly growing in scale or is unusual for the given place and/or time.
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