



24.1.2008

HEALTH SECURITY COMMITTEE

Strategic Work Plan 2008-2010

Top line objective

To create a network of Member States representatives to develop risk and threat assessment, emergency preparedness and crisis management in close cooperation with relevant international organisations such as WHO and GHSA.

Indicator

- Effective coordination of national measures
- Interoperability of national preparedness plans
- Effective communication among decision makers
- Technical discussion in appropriate sections
- Initiatives and actions imply EU added value

I. DETECTION, INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

Objective

Ensuring timely detection, alerting and distribution of information to relevant stakeholders with appropriate knowledge of communication tools, procedures and rules in place

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. Improve RAS BICHAT, EWRS and RAS CHEM communication tools based on user needs	Clear protocols for use of systems and agreement of use in what situation	Test in appropriate exercises	Ongoing	COM ECDC
2. Provide monthly update of progress made in improving communication and of all suspected incidents	Develop a template, regularly update on incidents within EU made available and integrate in RAS BICHAT	Monthly review published to MS	Ongoing	UK to develop the template, all MS to participate, COM to integrate in RAS BICHAT
3. Enhance cooperation between GPHIN, PROMED and MediSys to improve alerting	Early alert system in place through memorandum of understanding between the systems	Monthly and <i>ad hoc</i> reports to MS	Ongoing	COM ECDC All MS
4. MS to identify "national reference laboratories" for biologicals, chemicals and radioactive devices, and share capabilities and capacities of "reference laboratories"	Identify by MS specialist capability and capacity of laboratories. Ad hoc meetings to address chemical and radioactive threats; Agreed mechanism for mutual cooperation and support; Agreed leadership and management principles to maintain laboratory networks	Questionnaire Reports on capability Call for proposals (PHEA); Share EU capabilities; establish regular communication between reference laboratories for chemicals and radio-nuclear substances	2008	PHEA FR COM ECDC MS

II. THREAT AND RISK ASSESSMENT

Objective

Develop threat assessment by Member States in Health Security Committee on Chemical, Biological and Radio-nuclear agents

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. Share threat and risk assessment between MS and identify priorities for work	Priorities identified	Incorporation of priority threats into specific preparedness business planning	Ongoing	UK DE support all MS contribute; include security services and DG JLS
2. Secure IT communication and secure access to premises addressed and reviewed, protocols drafted	Security protocols agreed	Named delegates and deputy in place, security IT protocols drafted	2009	COM

III. ADVICE

Objective

Integrate scientific advice in the management of emergencies, through the consultation of groups of experts and committees on risk assessment and examination of the scientific and technical basis for options for response.

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. Update on assessment of highest threat pathogens (<i>matrix</i>), development of catalogue of possible scientifically validated public health measures, taking into account pandemic influenza preparedness planning	Agree the list of agents in HSC and catalogue developed by ECDC and discussed in HSC sections	ECDC to report to HSC	2009	ECDC COM

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
2. Development of scientifically validated public health measures for non-biological health threats based on a threat assessment	Catalogue available on chemicals (DE, UK) and radio-nuclear substances (FR)	Establishment of <i>ad hoc</i> working groups: one on chemicals and one on radio-nuclear substances, to report to HSC	2009	Joint capacity of DE and FR For chemicals: joint capacity of DE and UK
3. Assessment of toxic industrial chemicals and radioactive device threats	Develop protocols on rapid threat and risk analysis	<i>Ad hoc</i> working groups to design a rapid threat and risk analysis of chemical (DE, UK) and radio-nuclear substances (FR)	2009	Joint capacity of DE and FR For chemicals: joint capacity of DE and UK
4. Develop national capacity to use modelling appropriately in public health decision making	Report on future modelling requirements of MS in areas of high priority threats	Establish <i>ad hoc</i> working group of modellers to report to HSC on assessment of the outputs of the EU funded projects on modelling; suitability for MS, identification of future needs and gaps	2009	COM (JRC) ECDC

IV. MANAGING A CRISIS (LIAISE AND CONTROL)

Objective

Command and control centres in the Member States need to have good liaison systems with other Member States, the Commission, the Community agencies as well as international organisations and third countries, to ensure mutual information on measures envisaged and coordination of such measures.

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. Revise technical guidance document on generic preparedness with particular attention on a checklist on good preparedness practice	Revised technical guidance document with checklists and interoperability issues	Section on generic preparedness to report to HSC	2009	COM
2. Develop protocols for communications in crisis situations	MS agree and comply with the standards	Development of protocols	2008	COM
3. Understand communication capabilities used in crisis rooms	Protocols for communication published	Tested through communications exercises held regularly	Table top April 2008 Command post Oct. 2008	COM
4. Update contact points responsible for crisis rooms and on call duty officers	Web based contact points established	Web-based systems checked quarterly; report to HSC	Ongoing	COM MS
5. Workshop on best practice in operating crisis rooms, including technical and operational aspects	Report from the workshop	Summery Report from a pilot WS with BG, and observers from COM and MS Workshop	2008	UK

V. PREPAREDNESS

Objective

To ensure that each Member State achieves a capacity to respond to health threats and that material planning is coherent with cross-sectoral planning in other Member States.

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. Drafting technical guidance documents	HSC sections to review guidance documents and limited identified high priority threats	CBRN section to develop a structure for EU guidance and interoperability (1 Chemical, 1 Biological, 1 Radio-nuclear guidance document)	First draft 2009	DK
2. Law enforcement-public health interaction	Recommendation for best practices on interaction between law enforcement and public health	"Bridging security and health" workshops held.	ongoing	COM, UK, BE, ES
3. Procedures for contact tracing/passenger name records	Documents according to the legal basis chosen	HSC to be updated and discuss Establish ad hoc working group	2008	COM

VI. INTER-SECTORAL AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Objective

To facilitate and support coordination and cooperation at international level and help to contribute to the implementation of international activities at EU-level

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. High level cooperation at EU and international level	Identify and establish contact points to relevant international bodies	MS and COM to participate to relevant international meetings and report to HSC	ongoing	MS through meetings
2. Implications of IHR for multi-sector working explored	Report on strategic options for coherent implementation by MS of public health measures in IHR framework	Workshop to establish needs and limitations of EC systems for smooth operation of IHR notifications at relevant events	2008	COM

VII. EVALUATION AND TESTING OF PLANS

Objective

The processes required to deal with the established plans, allowing mutual sharing, evaluation, training, distribution, and testing.

Output

Priority activity	Delivery	Process	Timescale	Lead party
1. Share results of analysis of national preparedness plans and review interoperability with particular attention to influenza, using results from available reports and surveys	Understood differences in operational response and identified potential interoperability blocks	Set up <i>ad hoc</i> working group to identify interoperability issues	2009	COM ECDC
2. Plans exercised at EU level, specific scenarios to be tested, communication exercises	Lessons identified shared and acted upon	Participate to exercise and report to HSC	2009	COM
3. Carry out survey on "Generic Preparedness"	Report	Survey	2009	ECDC COM
4. Identify core elements of influenza preparedness, analyse how these core elements can be maintained and monitored in future	Recommendation on a list of core elements	Influenza section to develop list of core elements and indicators	2009	ECDC COM
5. Carry out workshops addressing policy inconsistencies in the area of influenza preparedness	Workshops	Reports from the workshops	2009	COM Assisted by MS