

Stakeholder consultation on health security in the European Union

The European Commission is developing an initiative on health security in the European Union to protect citizens' health more effectively against serious cross-border threats. Such threats arise from public health events affecting more than one Member State. In most cases, cross-border events occur within the EU but they can also originate outside the EU and affect one or more Member States.

This initiative was requested by the EU Council, in the conclusions it adopted on 13 September 2010 on Lessons learned from the A/H1N1 pandemic - Health security in the European Union. The principles for the initiative were set out in the Commission Staff Working Document of 18 November 2010 on lessons learnt from the H1N1 influenza pandemic and on health security in the European Union (http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/docs/commission_staff_lessonsh1n1_en.pdf).

The initiative is included in the Commission's Work Programme for 2011.

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union gives the EU the competence to carry out action to support, coordinate or supplement the action of Member States in the area of protection and improvement of human health. The EU has been empowered among other things to engage in "monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health".

Prevention and control of threats from infectious diseases at EU level are already addressed under the legislation adopted in 1998, which provides a basis for epidemiological surveillance and coordination of the response. This system has proved its worth for more than a decade now (e.g. in response to the outbreaks of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome - SARS and the H1N1 influenza pandemic).

However, no such legislation exists on health threats from chemical agents, biological agents other than infectious diseases, radiological and nuclear agents, and environmental events. The aim of this initiative is, therefore, to ensure that all types of

public health threats are addressed in a way similar to infectious diseases.

New developments also need to be taken into account, such as adoption of the International Health Regulations IHR (2005), establishment of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC - www.ecdc.europa.eu) and the new provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

This initiative includes preparedness planning in Member States, public health risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. The Commission coordinates health security measures in the EU through its Health Security Committee (HSC). This is an informal cooperation and coordination body concentrating on health-related threats from terrorism or any deliberate release of biological or other agents, as well as raising levels of preparedness for cross-border threats, in particular an influenza pandemic. The initiative will also put on a more formal footing the work done within the HSC (http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/hsc/index_en.htm).

Aim of the consultation

The aim is to consult stakeholders on action the European Commission should take to protect EU citizens more effectively against serious cross-border health threats, given the competence conferred by the Treaties.

The Commission is therefore seeking the views of stakeholders on how health security can be strengthened at EU level, taking into account the public health consequences of serious cross-border threats.

The consultation is undertaken by means of an online questionnaire, which is divided into sections covering preparedness (including laboratory capacity, personal data for contact tracing purposes), assessment, management (including the Health Security Committee) and communication.

Please note that the time allowed for replying to the questionnaire is

limited to 90 minutes.

We therefore recommend that you first consult a PDF version on the website of the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO):

http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/consultations/preparedness_cons_0

A glossary is at disposal for clarification of certain words used in the questionnaire.

National, regional and local authorities, health institutions, NGOs, enterprises, interest groups and individual stakeholders are invited to reply to the questionnaire.

Consultation Questionnaire

Personal details

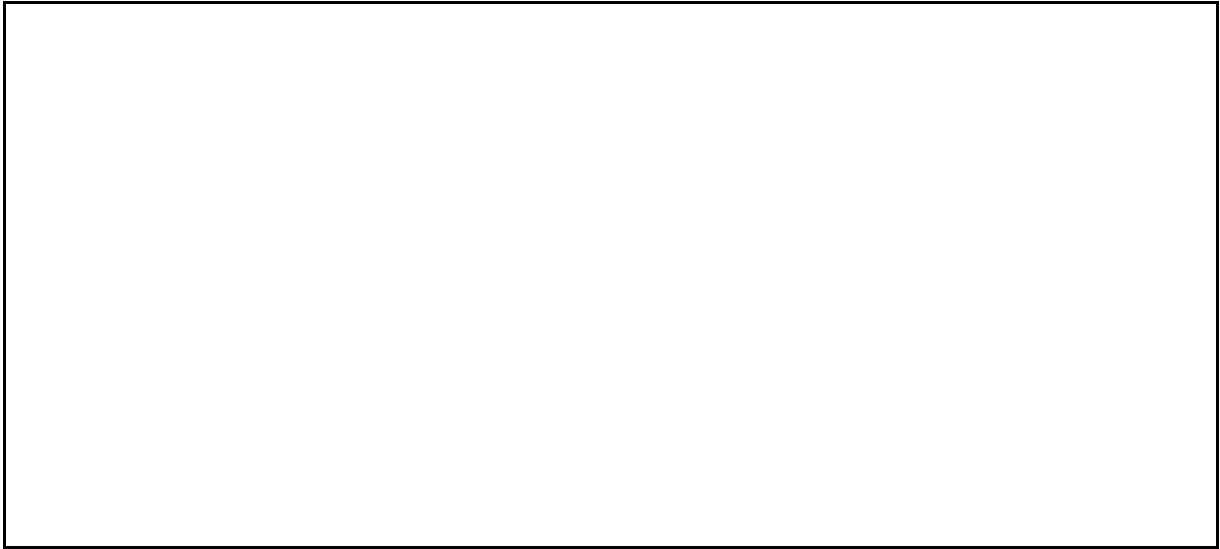
In what capacity are you replying? ^{*} (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- as an individual
- on behalf of an organisation/company
- on behalf of a national, regional or local authority

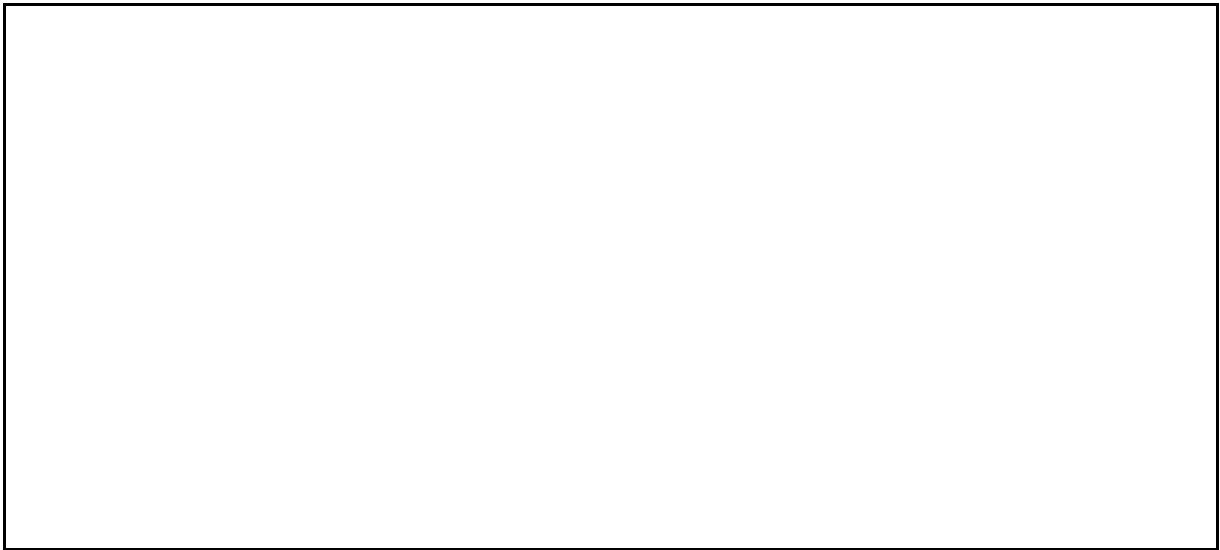
Last name ^{*} (compulsory)

First name* (compulsory)

E-mail* (compulsory)



Organisation (optional)



Register identification number (optional)

Your function in the organisation [\(optional\)](#)

A. General questions

Prevention and control of threats from infectious diseases are already addressed at EU level. Mechanisms and structures for monitoring, early warning of and combating public health consequences of these serious cross-border threats are already in place to protect the health of EU citizens. However, after the adoption of EU legislation creating these mechanisms, there is a need to take a number of new developments, such as the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005) or the establishment of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and

Control (ECDC). There is also a need to improve coordination of the structures in place.

Furthermore, other threats to public health arising from deliberate or accidental chemical, radio nuclear, radiological and environmental events are not sufficiently addressed at EU level from a public health perspective. This complicates cross-border cooperation and leads to inefficient, possibly incompatible and even contradictory approaches between Member States as regards the health protection of EU citizens. It needs to be ensured that the public health consequences of these other threats are addressed in a co-ordinated manner.

1. Do you consider that the EU should take action to include threats other than infectious diseases such as chemical, radiological, nuclear and environmental events in its health security policy? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

2. Do you consider that the handling of infectious diseases at EU level has been appropriate in view of recent events and developments in this area (e.g. SARS, H1N1 influenza pandemic, implementation of the IHR 2005)? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

3. If you answered yes, in which of the following areas?

	yes	no	no opinion
Preparedness <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk assessment <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk management <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk communication <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. If you answered no, please explain (maximum 100 words) (optional)

5. Do you consider that the national capacity for surveillance of, and response to, serious cross-border threats arising from chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and environmental events should be strengthened by EU action to support, coordinate or supplement the action by Member

States? * (compulsory)

(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

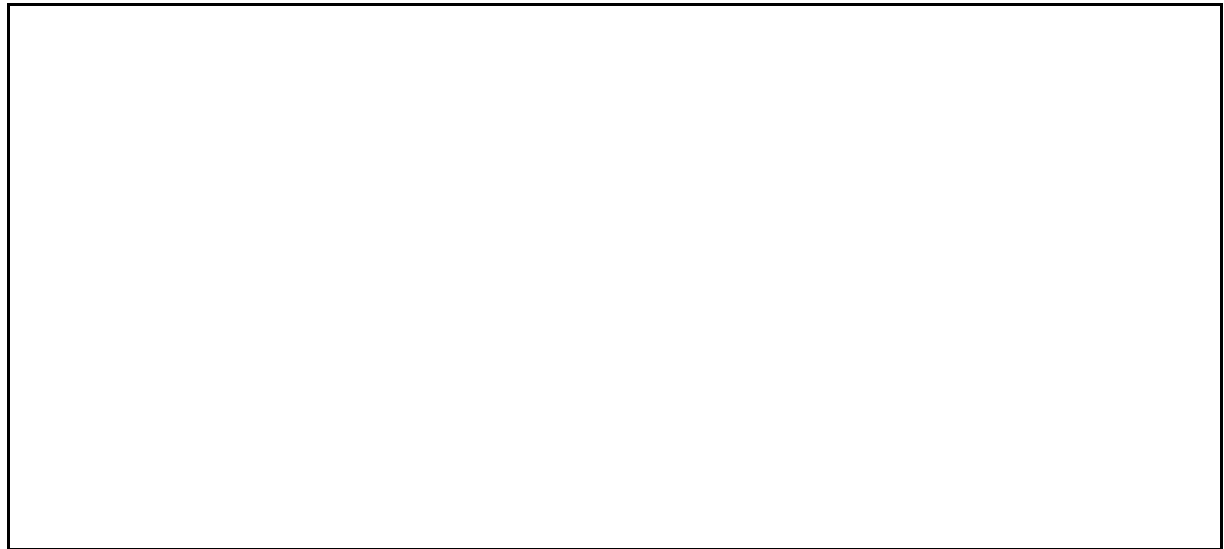
6. In you answered yes, in which of the following areas?

	yes	no	no opinion
Preparedness <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk assessment <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk management <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Risk communication <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. How should the coordination of public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats be handled at EU level in comparison with infectious diseases? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- Less stringently
- In a similar way
- More stringently
- No opinion

8. Do you have any additional comment or suggestion? (maximum 100 words) (optional)



B. Preparedness planning

Preparedness planning is about developing and strengthening capacities to respond rapidly to any kind of emergency affecting or likely to affect public health.

For infectious diseases the ECDC provides scientific and technical expertise in the development, regular review and updating of preparedness plans. There is, however, no robust EU mechanism to ensure that Member States develop a coherent approach to preparedness planning.

For chemical, radiological, nuclear, environmental or biological threats arrangements are in place to monitor, assess and coordinate the management of these threats, but public health aspects are not sufficiently covered.

The International Health Regulations (2005) require EU Member States individually to build core capacities for surveillance and response to all public health emergencies of international concern. Building on this, a common approach to preparedness planning for all serious cross-border health threats in the EU could be developed.

9. Do you see the need for the EU to encourage better national preparedness planning?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

10. Should this preparedness planning address any kind of emergency affecting public health (i.e. including chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats)?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

11. Is there a need for coordination of national preparedness plans at EU level, e.g. by providing a framework to improve interoperability of national preparedness plans?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

12. Is there a need for EU preparedness plans to deal with serious cross-border threats other than an influenza pandemic?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

13. Is there a need to set up a minimum core capacity standard on:

	yes	no	no opinion
Preparedness planning? * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business continuity planning? * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Critical infrastructures contingency planning? * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. Do you consider that Member States' health systems are sufficiently connected at EU level to allow efficient coordination for the following types of incidents, whether natural, accidental or intentional?

	yes	no	no opinion
Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins) * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered no to one or more points, what should be improved/changed? (optional)

15. Do you consider that public health consequences resulting from serious cross-border health threats of a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear, or environmental nature are sufficiently taken into account in other sectors at EU level (e.g. transport, telecommunications, energy)?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

16. Does the business continuity plan/critical infrastructure contingency plan of your company/organisation consider the public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

International Health Regulations - IHR (2005)

(Questions 17 to 19 only addressed to national, regional and local authorities)

The International Health Regulations - IHR (2005), which are mandatory for the Member States, may require national legislation to be adopted to comply with their provisions, covering measures also in sectors other than public health (e.g. environment, transport, customs, food safety, agriculture, animal health, radiation safety, chemical safety, security, protection of personal data, trade - including dangerous goods).

17. How and when do you intend to transpose or have transposed the IHR (2005) into your national law? (maximum 100 words) [\(optional\)](#)

18. Will the transposition of IHR (2005) cover sectors other than public health? [\(optional\)](#)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

If you answered yes, which sectors? [\(optional\)](#)

19. The Treaty gives power to the EU to coordinate the response to health threats of cross-border relevance, in a manner very close to what is provided for by the IHR (2005). Do you agree that the EU initiative should reflect the same provisions as the IHR (2005)?

(optional)

(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

If you answered no, what do you propose? (maximum 100 words) (optional)

Laboratory capacity

Laboratory networks at EU level ensure the availability of competent national laboratory services to analyse specific agents or pathogens in order to provide rapid and coordinated laboratory response to public health threats.

Such technical support built on laboratory capacity to deliver accurate and timely results is an integral part of the surveillance and detection systems set up through preparedness planning.

Although the infrastructure for these laboratories is in place, existing laboratory capacities and capabilities are not always sufficient. The question is how laboratory structures could be organised to serve best the needs at EU level.

20. Would it be useful to have a network at EU level of National Reference Laboratories to ensure sufficient decentralised capacities to analyse the following?

	yes	no	no opinion
Highly dangerous pathogens (e.g. viruses, bacteria) <small>compulsory</small> *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins) <small>compulsory</small> *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents <small>compulsory</small> *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents <small>compulsory</small> *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Do you consider that the EU should provide support to these networks? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

22. If you answered yes, which of the following support measures should be provided?

	yes	no	no opinion
Establishing a coordination structure (funding) <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organising transport of samples to ensure sample sharing <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Quality assurance of the laboratory <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regular meetings with specific reference laboratories in the Member States <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other measures (20 words) (optional)

23. Would it be useful to have formal EU reference laboratories (see glossary) for the following?

	yes	no	no opinion
Highly dangerous pathogens (e.g. viruses, bacteria) [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins) [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Collection, storage and disclosure of personal data with a view to contact tracing to protect the health of citizens in particularly dangerous situations

In epidemiology, **contact tracing** is the identification and diagnosis of persons who

may have come into contact with an infected person. Specific personal data are often needed to trace a contaminated person for the purposes of preventive medicine, medical diagnosis and the provision of care or treatment. However, such data are not systematically collected or stored for a sufficient time.

The problem is that the lack of collection and storage of these personal data for contact tracing purposes could endanger the public health response to threats, particularly where non-national carriers are concerned.

24. Would you be in favour of your personal data being collected, temporarily stored and shared with public health authorities in order to contact you if you are in danger of being infected or contaminated?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

C. Scientific evaluation and assessment of risks from serious cross-border health threats

When preparing their policy and activities relating to public health, decision makers rely on independent expertise with sound scientific advice on emerging risks to public health. This process includes detecting and monitoring threats, alerting on emerging threats, evaluating potential risks to public health coming from those threats, and notifying such risks to concerned entities.

As regards infectious diseases, the creation of the ECDC and its co-existence with the EU network for the surveillance and control of Communicable diseases created by Decision 2119/98/EC has led to some overlaps in risk assessment in particular the epidemiological surveillance structures in place (e.g. dedicated surveillance networks). This duplication creates an administrative burden and is contrary to the

basic principles of lawmaking (clarity, simplicity, etc.).

As regards other serious cross-border threats, risk assessment is addressed by different structures at EU level, e.g. in the area of civil protection, law enforcement and environmental protection. However, the public health aspects and consequences are not sufficiently evaluated and addressed.

25. Do you see the need for better evaluation of public health issues resulting from all serious cross-border threats? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

26. Do you think that sectors other than the health sector take public health aspects of risk assessment sufficiently into consideration as regards the following serious cross-border health threats?

	yes	no	no opinion
Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins) * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered no to one or more points, what should be improved/changed? (optional)

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27. Do you think that existing structures for risk assessment of threats of the following types are sufficient at EU level?

	yes	no	no opinion
Infectious diseases* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

28. Would it bring added value to have EU capacity to conduct risk assessment from the public health perspective for threats of the

following types?

	yes	no	no opinion
Biological agents other than infectious diseases (e.g. toxins)* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. If you answered yes, how should such EU capacity be created?

	yes	no	no opinion
Link up national assessment bodies at EU level <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Set up EU networks of national experts <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Link existing EU assessment bodies <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extend the current mandate of existing EU agencies <small>optional</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30. Do you think that a single alert tool for all health threats at EU level would be more efficient?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

31. Do you think that the existing detection and notification systems for health aspects at EU and national level should be better interconnected across the sectors in order to link the different disciplines (food safety, energy, transport)?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

(Question 32 only addressed to national, regional and local authorities)

32. Do you consider that the current International Health Regulations (2005) decision instrument for notifying public health emergencies of international concern to the WHO (see IHR 2005 Annex 2) is sufficient for notifying at EU level serious cross-border threats?

(optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

D. Management of public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats

The response to a health-related crisis includes a set of decisions and measures taken by the authorities concerned during and after the event, including immediate

relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. In principle, this range of measures to manage public health risks is provided in a comprehensive and coordinated way and deals with the whole spectrum of emergency needs including prevention, response and recovery.

For infectious diseases, a formal channel for coordination of public health measures exists: the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) Network Committee. The relationship of this structure with the EU Health Security Committee in the field of infectious diseases needs to be clarified. For example, during the H1N1 influenza pandemic, it was necessary to combine the Health Security Committee with the EWRS Network Committee to ensure that all aspects of managing the pandemic could be discussed in a coherent way.

For all other serious cross-border health threats, the coordination of risk management from a public health perspective is not sufficiently addressed at EU level. So far, these other threats have been dealt with in the context of the EU Health Security Committee, an informal body created through Council conclusions which does not have any decision-making powers. This creates an unbalanced situation in comparison with the approach to infectious diseases.

33. Do you see the need for better coordination and management of all serious cross-border health threats?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

34. Do you consider that real events in the past with public health consequences were efficiently managed at:

	yes	no	no opinion
Regional level? [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National level? [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
EU level? [*] <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

35. Do you see the need for improved coordination of national public health measures (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, control) among Member States in the event of a cross-border health threat?^{*} (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

36. Do you think that a coherent risk management mechanism for serious cross-border public health threats at EU level would bring added value?^{*} (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

37. Would you be in favour of making the following public health measures compulsory in order to prevent the propagation of serious cross-border health threats?

	yes	no	no opinion
Quarantine* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Isolation* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Travel restrictions* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Closing borders* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical examination (at point of entry)* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Compulsory vaccination status* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

(Questions 38 to 39 only addressed to national, regional and local authorities)

38. Do you find useful the following types of coordination provided so far at EU level for serious cross-border threats other than infectious diseases?

	yes	no	no opinion
Public health risk assessment provided by the ECDC and EU agencies* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public health risk management under the auspices of the Health Security Committee* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public health risk communication under the auspices of the	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Health Security Committee* compulsory			
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39. When several sectors are involved, does the Ministry of Health take the lead in crisis management during a serious cross-border health threat related to:

	yes	no
Biological agents?* compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents?* compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents?* compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events?* compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered no to one or more points, who will take the lead? (optional)

(Questions 40 to 42 only addressed to national, regional and local authorities)

The EU Health Security Committee, chaired by the European Commission, brings together all EU Member States to address health security issues.

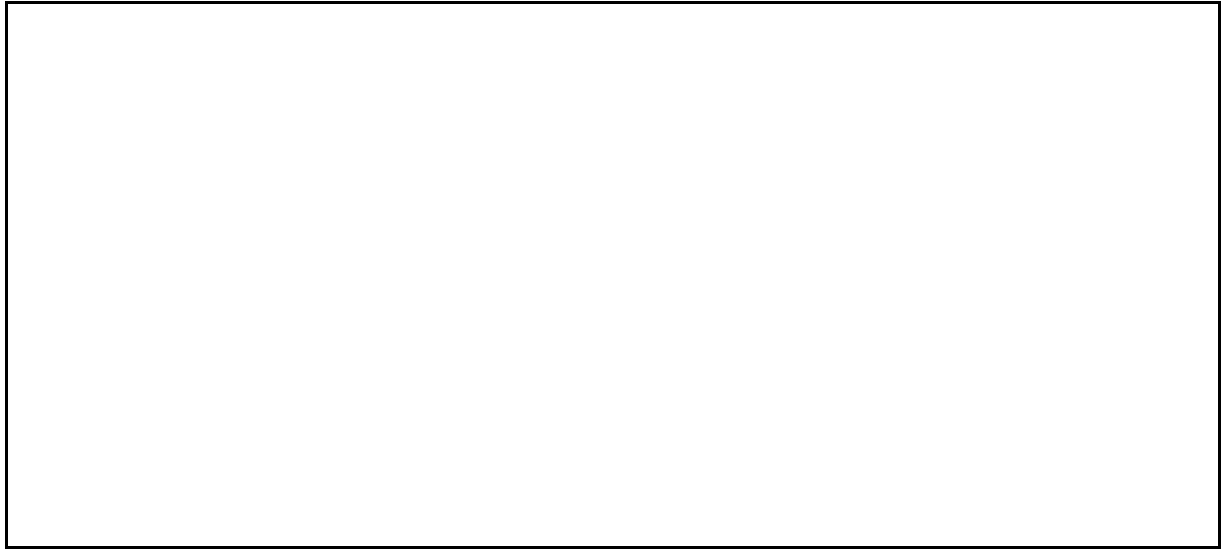
40. Do you think that the Health Security Committee, as the platform for coordinating at EU level the response to public health consequences of serious cross-border health threats, brings added value? * (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

41. If you answered yes, do you think it would be better to legally formalise the status of the Health Security Committee? (optional)
(at most 1 answer)

- yes
- no
- no opinion

42. If you answered no, what would you see as a coordinating entity at EU level? (maximum 50 words) (optional)



E. Communication

Effective public communication is a crucial component of emergency/crisis response. Timely, accurate information can help people at risk take appropriate protective measures, prevent illness and injury, reduce unnecessary care seeking, and facilitate relief and recovery efforts.

An informal channel for risk and crisis communication is in place under the EU Health Security Committee; however, a more robust setting for strengthening the coordination of such communication channels among Member States is needed to share communication strategies, key messages and guidelines.

43. How well are you informed about the public health consequences of the following serious cross-border health threats?

	well informed	not very well informed	not at all informed	no opinion
Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins)* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What could be improved/changed? (optional)

44. Do you see the need to better coordinate information and communication between Member States at EU level?* (compulsory)
(at most 1 answer)

yes

no

no opinion

45. If you answered yes, how?

	yes	no	no opinion
Make risk and crisis communication an integral part of risk management at EU level* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide more guidelines on risk and crisis communication at EU level* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support the communication efforts of Member States and other bodies dealing with health measures* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish networks and improve communication with healthcare professionals* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve communication with the media, including messages to the general public* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve consistency of communication messages between	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Member States* compulsory			
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46. What should be done at EU level to improve public confidence in the information provided?
(maximum 50 words) (optional)

(Question 47 only addressed to national, regional and local authorities)

47. When several sectors are involved, does the Ministry of Health take the lead for communication with the public on public health consequences regarding:

	yes	no
Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins)?* compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents? * compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents? * compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events? * compulsory	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you answered no, who will take the lead? (optional)

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48. When several sectors are involved in a cross-border health threat, would it bring added value to have coordination at EU level for communication with the public and healthcare professionals on public health consequences regarding:

	yes	no	no opinion
Infectious diseases and diseases caused by biological agents (e.g. toxins)?* <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chemical agents? * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Radiological and nuclear agents? * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental events? * <small>compulsory</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Thank you for taking the time to answer this questionnaire.