

75th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe Virtual Side Event

Strengthening health security planning through evidence and risk-based approaches

Overview

The national health security planning landscape is complex and often fragmented, lacking clear alignment between different planning processes and dedicated budgets. To increase efficiency and capitalize on investments made in preparedness and response planning, an integrated One Health approach is necessary which involves all relevant sectors, stakeholders and different levels in the planning process. Furthermore, political commitment and dedicated funding are fundamental for health security planning. An evidence- and risk-based planning process for health security ideally includes both an all-hazards and a hazard focused approach.

Balancing both approaches is often challenging but it is nevertheless considered the most efficient method to ensure that Member States are prepared to respond to a variety of hazards. This is aligned with the Second European Programme of Work (EPW2), and Preparedness 2.0, WHO/Europe's regional **strategy and action plan for health emergency preparedness, response and resilience**. The objectives of this side-event are to:

- present the current WHO European Region health security planning context and framework;
- share examples of good practice and priorities related to national health security planning;
- launch Member States consultation on the draft policy brief on health security planning.

This event is part of a series of side events to be held in the weeks preceding the 75th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC75), engaging delegates, partners and health experts on developments, initiatives, tools and new reports relevant to health across the WHO European Region.

The event is being organized for Member State representatives, non-State actors, partners, academia and WHO collaborating centres. Participation in the event is by invitation only.

Programme

Facilitators: Tanja Schmidt, Michala Hegermann-Lindenchrone and Fred Copper

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

10:30 – 10:35

Opening remarks

Tanja Schmidt, Health Security Division, WHO Regional Office for Europe

10:35 – 10:50

European Context for Health Security Planning: Keynote speeches

Dr Ihor Perehinets, Director Health Security, WHO Regional Office for Europe and Antonio Parenti, Director of Public health, cancer and health security, DG Sante, European Commission

10:50 – 11:00

Strengthening longer term health security priorities and capacity building through National Action Plan for Health Security

Dr Sebastien Francais, Unit Head, Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit, Luxembourg

Dr. Sébastien Français is Head of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit at the Luxembourg Health Directorate. He has extensive international experience in coordinating crisis preparedness and response, representing Luxembourg within the EU, WHO, NATO, and the ECDC. Previously seconded to the European Commission, he contributed to the implementation of the EU regulation on cross-border health threats and supported crisis management during the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. His career spans clinical medicine, sports medicine, and public health, with strong expertise in vaccination strategies, medical countermeasures, and global health security.

11:00 – 11:10

Preparing for the next pandemic & ensuring synergies with national action planning for health security

Dr Stepan Atoyan, Director of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Armenia

Dr Stepan Atoyan is the Director General of the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention under the Ministry of Health of Armenia. A medical doctor specializing in infectious diseases, he also holds a Master of Public Health and a PhD in Medicine. Dr. Atoyan has extensive experience as a practical (clinical) doctor and public health professional, with a career spanning both frontline medical practice and health system leadership. He previously served as Director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases, and his expertise includes infectious disease control, clinical medicine, and public health policy and management

11:10 – 11:20

Preparing for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) events and reflections on nuances in hazard specific planning

Angela Paraschiv, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health, Republic of Moldova

Angela Paraschiv is State Secretary at the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Moldova and Associate Professor at the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy. She has over 20 years of experience in public health and epidemiology, specializing in communicable disease surveillance and healthcare-associated infections. She graduated from the Faculty of Preventive Medicine at the Nicolae Testemițanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy. She further advanced her studies through doctoral and postdoctoral programs and holds the title of Doctor Habilitated in Medical Sciences. She completed a Master's program in International Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University. She is the author and co-author of numerous scientific papers and has made a significant contribution to the development of national strategies in public health and infection control.

11:20 – 11:30

Linking health security plans at national level and alignment with national frameworks

Evan Malczyk, Deputy Head of the Center for Health Security, Ministry of Health, France

Evan Malczyk is Deputy Director of the Center for Health Security at the French Directorate General for Health, a position he has held since June 2025. He was previously the Health Security, Environmental Health and International affairs Advisor to the Minister of Health. Between 2019 and 2022, Evan Malczyk was Deputy Director in charge of clinical and medical-technical departments at Nice University Hospital, a role he combined with his position as Crisis Director from March 2020.

11:30 – 11:55

Priorities in health security planning

Facilitated by Michala Hegermann-Lindenchrone and Frederik Copper, Health Security Division, WHO Regional Office for Europe

This agenda item will consist of an interactive Zoom poll on WHO/EURO health security planning policy brief, Member State interventions, and launch of peer exchange webinar series.

11:55 – 12:00

Closing remarks

Marc-Alain Widdowson, Health Security Division, WHO Regional Office for Europe

Speakers



Dr Ihor Perehinets

Director Health Security,
WHO Regional Office for
Europe



Antonio Parenti

Director of Public health, cancer
and health security, DG Sante,
European Commission



Dr Sebastien Francais

Unit Head, Emergency
Preparedness and Response Unit,
Luxembourg Health Directorate,
Luxembourg



Dr Stepan Atoyan

Director of the National
Center for Disease Control
and Prevention, Armenia



Angela Paraschiv

Secretary of State, Ministry of
Health, Republic of Moldova



Evan MALCZYK,

Deputy Head of the Center for
Health Security, Ministry of Health,
France

Practical information

Zoom connection details

<https://who.zoom.us/meeting/register/-oLkFhFLTvuoUBVdSDdPmg>

Languages

This session will be in English and Russian.