

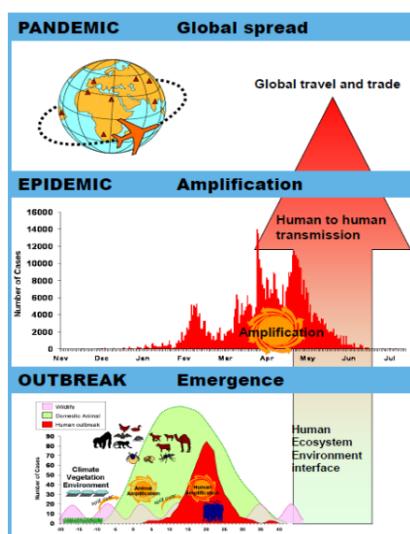


Building capacity in the EU for the next pandemic

Pandemics have had a major impact on the health and security of human populations for millennia. Diseases such as plague, cholera, smallpox and influenza have led to millions of deaths over the centuries. With the convergence of risk factors driving disease emergence, amplification and dissemination of pandemic prone pathogens, emerging diseases pose a greater threat to mankind now than ever before. In response to this threat, the EU is funding research on building pandemic management capacity in Member States. This research will also support the EU and Member States in implementation of EU Decision 1082 which provides new legislation to streamline and strengthen EU capacities to respond effectively to serious cross border threats to health.

Objective of PANDEM Project

PANDEM – Pandemic Risk and Emergency Management – is a H2020 project identifying innovative concepts to build capacity for pandemic management in the EU. By analysing current threats, assessing tools, systems and practice at national, EU and global level, the project is identifying gaps, improvement needs, research and innovations required. Three core areas are being addressed – communications, surveillance and governance. Specific attention is being given to enhancing capacity for cross border risk assessment, response and recovery.

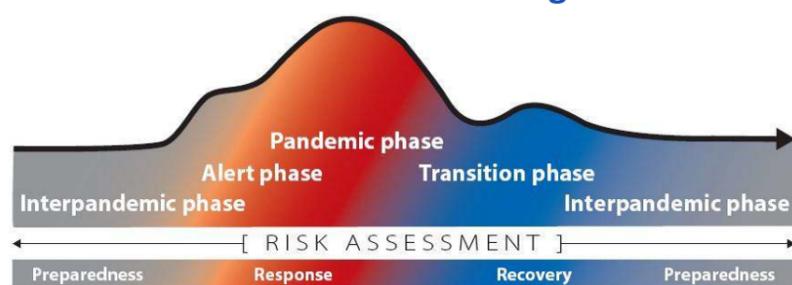


Source: Ryan M., Fomenty P. World Health Organisation.

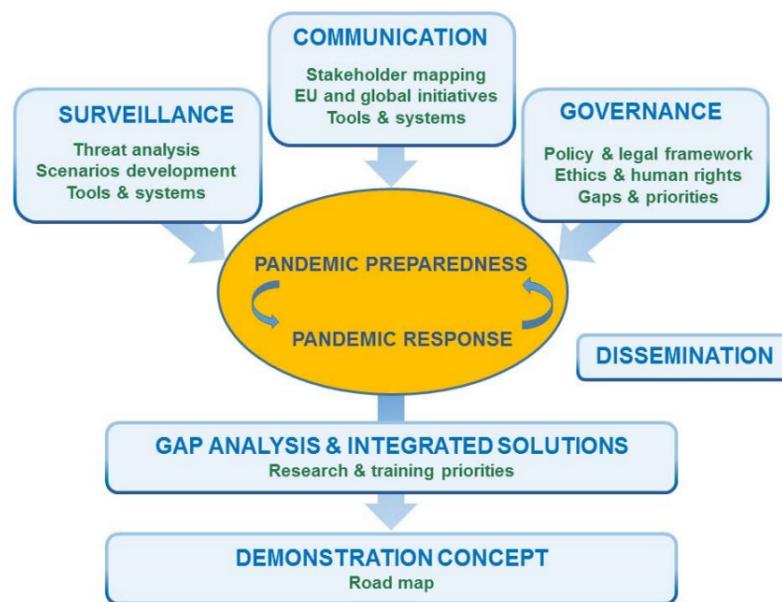
Consortium Partners

- National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)
- World Health Organization/Regional Office for Europe (WHO/EURO)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
- Université catholique de Louvain (UCL)
- IGS Strategic Communications (IGS)
- Public Health Agency of Sweden (FoHM)
- Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI)

Phases of Pandemic Risk Management



Source: Pandemic Influenza Risk Management, WHO interim guidance, 2013



PANDEM Work Approach

PANDEM is reviewing and assessing the communications, surveillance and governance needs of Member States and the EU to support effective pandemic preparedness and response. Training priorities will be identified and potential innovations including virtual reality simulation games will be explored to build capacity of users in the health, emergency management and security sectors.

Communications Work Package

Key communications challenge – to deliver the right message to the right users at the right time. Focus on communications between governing bodies and professionals, and communications with civil society.

Objectives

- Review of good practice from past epidemics and pandemics
- Identification of gaps and improvement needs
- Identification of research priorities and innovations required

Methodology

- Systematic literature review, with specific analysis of tools, skills, staff and infrastructure, and systems
- In-depth interviews with outbreak communications experts
- Case studies
- Expert workshop in Brussels

This project has been funded under the Horizon 2020 Secure Societies Programme (H2020-DRS-2014/2015) under the topic: Crisis management 4: Feasibility study for strengthening capacity-building for health and security protection in case of large-scale pandemics – Phase I Demo. (Grant Number: 652868).