

Health crisis prevention, preparedness and response: the EU framework

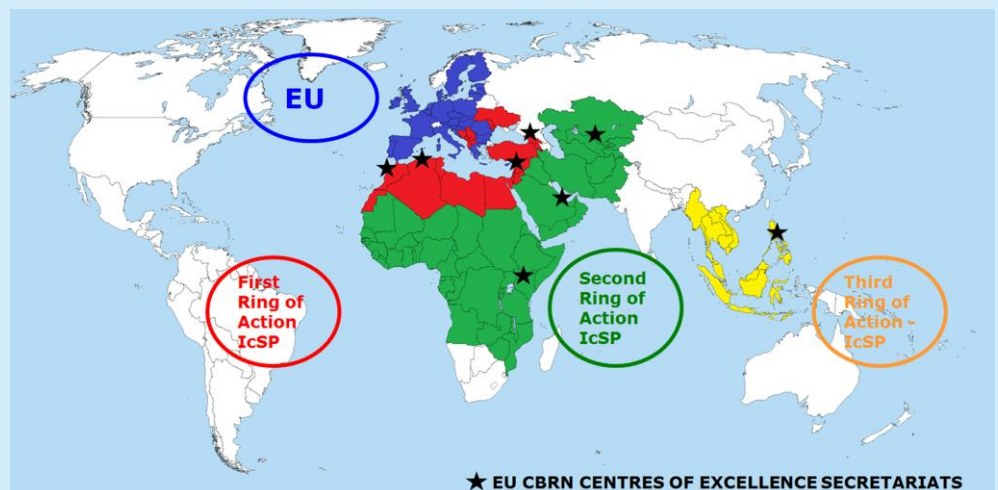
The EU CBRN risk mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative

The long-term component of the European Commission's Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) supports prevention, preparedness and response efforts in cases of major chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) crises.

It builds on the network of experts developed as part of the Centres of Excellence (CoE) initiative of the European Commission.

Under the coordination of its regional secretariats, the CoE initiative brings together EU and local experts within eight regions of the world to discuss issues of common concern related to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) issues.

Recently the EU has stepped up its efforts to strengthen the prevention of a major health crisis in various parts of the world. At the same time it contributed to the urgent response need to fight the Ebola outbreak. This work is done together with experts from the EU Member States and WHO. The total amount allocated to health prevention, preparedness and response efforts under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is €36M. The following is an overview of the main programmes.



First ring of action: Protection against epidemics in EU Neighbourhood

MediPIET is creating a programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training, resulting in a network of field epidemiologists covering the EU Neighbourhood - **€6.8M**.

MediLabSecure is establishing networks of reference laboratories of human and animal virology and medical entomology in the EU Neighbourhood, to support the priority diagnostic needs - **€3.6M**.

The EU also works with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** for strengthening health security at ports, airports and ground crossings in the EU Neighbourhood - **€1.5M**.

The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)

The **long-term component** aims to assist in addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats:

- Threats to law and order, to the security and safety of individuals, to critical infrastructures and to public health
- Mitigation of and preparedness against risks, whether of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials or agents.

EU Mobile Labs: addressing Ebola in Western Africa

- ✓ EU Mobile Labs come fully equipped with staff.
- ✓ They operate **7/7, 12** hours a day.
- ✓ **4** hours to perform a diagnosis.
- ✓ Up to **80** diagnoses per day.
- ✓ **1** Ebola cases out of **6** detected during the first 6 months.

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Furthermore, a project with WHO on '**Strengthening Health laboratories to minimize biological risks**' will reinforce laboratory capacities to detect bacterial diseases, create reference labs and improve biosafety standards in the EU Neighbourhood - **€3.5M**.

Second ring of action: Reducing epidemic risks from Africa to Central Asia

Three **EU Mobile Laboratory units (EMLab)** for the diagnosis of high-risk pathogens were deployed in three of the most affected countries (Guinea, Nigeria, and Liberia) from the onset of the Ebola crisis, in March 2014 - **€4.5M**.



A **new, more robust and self-sustaining Mobile Lab (EUWAMLAB)** will be deployed to Western Africa by the European Commission in early 2015 to reinforce the diagnostic capacities against high-risk pathogens and train local specialists - **€3M**.

Under the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence initiative, a **programme for the prevention of pandemics** and improved **regional coordination** is also under preparation with partner countries in order to build systemic capacities in Western Africa. It will include the setup of cross-border expert teams - **€3.5M**.

In **Central Asia**, laboratory specialists and health workers have been trained on **biosafety and biosecurity**. Training centres and an animal breeding facility have been upgraded according to international standards - **€7M**.

Third ring of action: Preparedness to epidemic outbreaks in farther regions

In **South East Asia**, various EU initiatives aim at building local capacities to assess, mitigate and **manage risks** related to the deliberate use of biological hazards - **€2.5M**.