

1ST NEWSLETTER HELP PROJECT (2024)

PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

The project PRIN 2022 ‘**Health Emergencies and Legal Preparedness: Global, Regional and National Approaches** (HELP)’ - MUR: 2022MYEW4J - examines how Legal Preparedness can enhance policies and activities to prevent and address public health crises. The ultimate goal of our work is to increase awareness of the concept of Legal Preparedness and sensitise the relevant stakeholders tasked with the prevention and response to public health emergencies to the advantages of such an approach. This study is financed by the European Union – NextGeneration EU. The project (is carried out by the [Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies](#) and the [University of Bologna](#). You can find more information at our website: <https://help-prin.it/>.

LEGISLATIVE, POLICY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

National level (Italy)

Italy and the WHO ‘global green pass’. Italy will not join the World Health Organization (WHO)’s global green pass. The Global Green Pass is a document for sharing data on vaccination certification at the international level. It arises from an [agreement between the WHO and the EU](#). The idea is to develop the model used for the COVID-19 digital certification to establish a global system that will help protect citizens across the world from ongoing and future health threats, including pandemics.

Guidelines regarding territorial healthcare. AGENAS, the Italian National Agency for Regional Health Services, has published the ‘[Guidelines for the implementation of the organizational model of the Community Houses Hubs](#)’ envisaged by the PNRR (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza) and outlined in Ministerial Decree 77/2022 ‘Regulation containing the definition of models and standards for the development of territorial healthcare’. They aim to define a new organizational model for the territorial healthcare network, establishing uniform standards throughout the national territory.

European level

ECDC recommendations. In March 2024, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published the technical report ‘[Public health and social measures for health emergencies and pandemics in the EU/EEA: recommendations for strengthening preparedness planning](#)’. Public health and social measures (PHSMs) refer to non-pharmaceutical measures implemented in community settings to abate the spread of infectious disease. This document outlines key strategic and operational considerations to inform pandemic preparedness planning around the design and implementation of PHSMs in community settings in the EU and European Economic Area (EEA).

EU and African Union. The EU and the African Union (AU) convened a [high-level dialogue](#) in February 2024 to expand their mutual cooperation for global health. This is in line with the EU’s new Global Health Strategy. Five Team Europe initiatives underpin the EU’s cooperation with African partners on health. The focus is on sustainable strengthening of the African architecture for health security and pandemic

preparedness with the 'One Health' approach; enhancing Africa-based public health capacity, including through digital health; local production of health products; and improving sexual and reproductive health.

International level

Pandemic treaty & International Health Regulations (IHR). On 1 June 2024, the World Health Assembly [agreed](#) a package of critical amendments and made concrete commitments to completing negotiations on a global pandemic treaty within a year, at the latest, and possibly in 2024. The pandemic treaty aims to improve prevention, preparedness, and response to future pandemics at a global level. The main goals are to ensure sustained and long-term political commitment; define clear processes and tasks; and ensure long-term public- and private-sector support at all levels.

Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies. The International Commission of Jurists & the Global Health Law Consortium have published the '[Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Public Health Emergencies](#)'. The Principles provide a critical framework for governments, civil society and other stakeholders to prioritize human rights considerations in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to public health emergencies, and in the recovery of health systems in the aftermath of public health emergencies.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Stefania Negri, Sandro Bonfigli, Emanuele Cesta, and Giacomo Di Federico, '**Strengthening legal preparedness and response within the global health emergency framework: the role of the GHSA Legal Preparedness Action Package**' in Journal of Global Health Law, Vol. 1, No.1, May 2024, pp. 88-105. https://www.elgaronline.com/view/journals/jghl/1/1/article-p88.xml?tab_body=pdf.

EVENTS

HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND LEGAL PREPAREDNESS IN THE EU: TAKING STOCK OF THE POST-PANDEMIC REFORMS. On 24 June 2024, the event 'Health Emergencies and Legal Preparedness in the EU: Taking Stock of the Post- Pandemic Reforms' will take place at the University of Bologna (Room 1, Piazza Scaravilli). During the event, experts will provide an institutional and academic perspective on the recent EU reforms in the area of health. The meeting can also be followed online through the following Teams link that you can find in the attachment here: <https://help-prin.it/eventi/>.

PICTURES



The project had its kick-off meeting on 13 October 2023 with a one-day session with researchers from Sant'Anna and the University of Bologna.

In the picture, some of the members of the research teams.