

2ND 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. Our goal 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](#). More information at <https://help-prin.it/>.

LEGISLATIVE, POLICY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

National level (Italy)

G7 Health Ministers’ Meeting in Ancora, Italy. The G7 Meeting on Health was hosted in Italy on 10-11 October 2024. Health ministers reiterated their commitment to contributing to the ongoing discussions to conclude the negotiations for the Pandemic Agreement while maintaining full respect for the sovereignty of individual States. A general political consensus was reached on ensuring financial investments to prevent antimicrobial resistance. Healthy ageing and integrated care for dependent older people were also at the core of the discussion. On the same occasion, the Italian Government announced a new human resource plan to ensure the National Health Service's capacity to guarantee the right to healthcare for the whole population. You can find the G7 Health Ministers’ Communiqué [here](#).

Violence against healthcare workers. The Italian Government has approved [Decree n. 137/2024](#) on urgent measures to combat violence against healthcare and social care professionals working for the National Health Service. The Decree includes higher penalties in case of damages to the healthcare infrastructure: up to five years in prison and a fine of 10,000 euros. The Decree foresees arrest in flagrante delicto in case of personal injury to healthcare and social care workers. Data [shows](#) that attacks against health professionals in Italy have increased by 38% in the last five years.

European level

ECDC Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment. The first European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Public Health Emergency Preparedness Assessment (PHEPA) took place in July 2024 in [Belgium](#). PHEPA is the result of the implementation of Article 8 of the [Serious Cross Border Threats to Health Regulation](#) regarding the assessment of prevention, preparedness and response planning, and supplemented with the related Delegated Regulation. Belgium is the first country to undergo this assessment process and has contributed to piloting the PHEPA methodology and procedures.

EMA's grant to the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) initiative. On 30 July 2024, The European Medicines Agency (EMA) awarded a grant to the [African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation \(AMRH\)](#) initiative of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) to support a pilot to test procedures for the joint continental evaluation of medicines in Africa. AUDA-NEPAD has been working on harmonisation activities for a decade, paving the way for creating the African Medicines Agency (AMA). The launch of the continental pilot is one of these activities that aims to validate procedures and processes ahead of the establishment of the AMA.

International level

Negotiations of the pandemic treaty. In a special press conference in Geneva on 11 November, the [Intergovernmental Negotiating Body](#) for a pandemic treaty announced that negotiations will not conclude this year and will continue in 2025. They are expected to be completed by the next World Health Assembly in May. Key topics that still need to be addressed are prevention and the pathogen access and benefit-sharing system. Steven Solomon, Principal Legal Officer at the WHO, said that it was not the agency's role to advise on the result of the US presidential elections when asked about whether Trump's win impacted the negotiations.

World Health Summit in Berlin. The [World Health Summit](#) took place on 13-15 October 2024 in Berlin, Germany. The World Health Summit is held annually and brings together stakeholders from politics, science, the private sector, and civil society from around the world to set the agenda for a healthier future by inspiring innovative solutions for better health and well-being for all. This year's theme was 'Building Trust for a Healthier World'. Topics [discussed](#) included pandemic preparedness, artificial intelligence in healthcare, climate change's health impacts and pharmaceutical intellectual property rights.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

The [Journal of Global Health Law](#) (JGHL) is a new journal dedicated solely to global health law. It also examines its interactions with other fields, such as domestic legal systems. Take a look!

EVENTS



HEALTH EMERGENCIES AND LEGAL PREPAREDNESS: A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE. On 14 October 2024, the event '[Health Emergencies and Legal Preparedness: A Comparative Perspective](#)' occurred at the University of Bologna. Experts presented legal preparedness for health emergencies in different geographical contexts, such as Australia, China, Canada, the United States, the African Union and the EU. Experts who attended the event were: Prof. Federico Casolari, (University of Bologna); Prof. Giacomo Di Federico (University of Bologna); Prof. Emanuele Sommario (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies); Prof. Marco Rizzi (University of Western Australia); Ms Deng Xiwen (China University of Political Science and Law); Dr Candice Ruck (University of British Columbia); Prof. Aleceste Santuari (University of Bologna); Prof. William Sage (Texas A&M University); and Prof. Ben Twinomugisha (Makerere University). You can find more information [here](#).