From European Preparedness to Global Resilience: The Strategic Role of European Research Infrastructures

5th November 2026, Brussels

Nhow Brussels Bloom Hotel

Creative Room 2

08:45-10:30 | Session 1 – Research infrastructures as key actors of post-Covid-19 pandemic preparedness and response (PPR).	
08:45-09:00	**Welcome and presentation of the day's narrative.** Prof. Bruno Coutard, DG EVA-AISBL; Dr. Audrey Richard, Deputy director, ERINHA.
09:00 -09:30	**Opening lecture (20min presentation + 10min Q&A): PPR RIs as actors of societal impact.** Evelyn Depoortere, M.D., DG RTD "Combatting diseases" Unit
09:30-10:30	**European research infrastructure success stories (60 min)** A showcase of pandemic preparedness and response solutions and concrete actions contributing towards improving public health by EVA, ERINHA and ELIXIR. EVA (20 min): Prof. Xavier de Lamballerie, Aix-Marseille Université, France- EVA: a strategic tool for the scientific and public health management of emerging infectious diseases. ERINHA (20 min): Prof. Ali Mirazimi, Karolinska Institute/FOHM, Sweden– Medical countermeasures against RG3 and RG4 pathogens. ELIXIR (20 min): Dr. Katharina Heil, ELIXIR Hub- A Data Infrastructure for Pathogen Surveillance.
10:30-11:00	**Coffee break and poster session**, Meeting lounge
11:00-12:30 | Session 2 - United we stand: European PPR research infrastructures acting in synergy	
11:00-11:30	**Keynote speaker (20 min presentation + 10 min Q&A)** Dr. Hervé Raoul, European Pandemic Preparedness Partnership Be Ready-Coordinator An overview of the current EU preparedness landscape and the progress achieved since the COVID-19 pandemic. The session will highlight how Europe is now prepared for future health threats by showcasing the key networks, projects and initiatives that have been established to strengthen preparedness, response and resilience.

11:30-12:30	**Streamlining operations across RIs in Europe and beyond (60 min)** Showcasing project results illustrating RI synergies towards improved pandemic preparedness and response . EVORA (20 min): Interoperability and synergies between EU RIs – Dr. Christine Prat, Director of operations, EVA-AISBL. INTERCEPTOR (20 min): Connecting pandemic preparedness RI capacities beyond Europe: model for a global RI interoperability – Dr. Jacqueline Weyer, NICD - South Africa. ISIDORe (20 min): RIs services for pandemic preparedness – Dr. Audrey Richard, ISIDORe Coordinator, ERINHA.
12:30-14:00	**Lunch / Networking**, Meeting lounge
14:00-15:30 | Session 3 - RIs at the science-policy interface; supporting evidence-based preparedness in a changing global health landscape	
14:00-14:30	**Keynote speaker: Dr. Mark Eccleston-Turner, Reader in Global Health Law, King's College London, UK- 20 min + 10 min Q&A** An introduction to the current global policy landscape, exploring how WHO frameworks and international policies influence pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPR), research, and the role of RIs. The session will provide both a historical perspective (e.g. the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework) and a forward-looking view (e.g. the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) System under the WHO Pandemic Agreement).
14:30-15:30	**Round table- "Where do we stand: Positioning of EU RIs in the global health policy landscape"** **Moderator**: Dr. Amber Scholz, Leibniz Institute DSMZ, Germany **Panel participants**: Dr. Mark Eccleston-Turner, Reader in Global Health Law, King's College London, UK ; Dr. Gabriele Leoni, Scientific Officer, Digital Health Unit, DG-JRC; Dr. Eneida Hatcher, Director of the Center for Pathogen Bioinformatics, SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, Switzerland; Diana Stepanyan, Director of External Strategy and Relations, ERINHA.
15:30-16:00	**Coffee break and poster session**, Meeting lounge
16:00-17:00 | Session 4 - Where do we go from here? Future ambition of EU RIs	
16:00-16:20	**Keynote speaker (20 mins): Future of European RIs, ambitions and expected impact.**, Agnes Robin, Head of the RI Policy Sector, Open Sciences and RIs Unit, DG RTD European RIs are moving beyond their traditional role as research platforms and are increasingly positioning themselves as permanent preparedness infrastructures capable of responding rapidly to emerging threats.

16:20 -16:55	**Round table- From preparedness to resilience, sustainability, strategies, global ambitions, science diplomacy and cooperation.** **Moderator**: Diana Stepanyan, ERINHA **Panel participants**: Agnes Robin, Head of the RI Policy Sector, DG RTD; Joao Madeira M.D., Policy Officer, DG HERA; Dr. Hervé Raoul, Coordinator, Be Ready; Willo Brock, EU Representative, CEPI; Prof. Bruno Coutard, DG EVA-AISBL; Dr. Audrey Richard, Deputy director, ERINHA.
16:55-17:00	**Wrap-up and conclusions**

Social event: 18:30, Restaurant OO! NH Bloom