

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

PREPARE-EU Workshop: Translating European Expertise to Pandemic Preparedness

28th – 29th April 2026

**Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research
Braunschweig, Germany**

Tuesday, 28th April 2026

08:45 – 09:30 REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE

09:30 – 09:55 **Welcome & Opening Remarks** Berit Lange, Josef Penninger, HZI; Thomas Pietschmann, DZIF

09:55 – 11:30 Session I – Assessing and implementing countermeasures for pandemics Chair: Carolina Klett-Tammen

10:00 – 10:20 **PCR-4-ALL: Impact and feasibility of a novel mass PCR testing method as a pandemic fighting strategy** Xavier Casadevall i Solvas, KU Leuven

10:20 – 10:40 **From Virus Entry to Antiviral Targets: The COMBINE Project** Christian Sieben, HZI

10:40 – 11:00 **Project Triple-A-COAT** Ines Thiers, KU Leuven

11:00 – 11:30 **Virus detection - needs and (new) challenges in implementing the first line of medical countermeasures** Christian Drosten, Charité

11:30 – 11:45 COFFEE BREAK

11:45 – 13:15 Session II – Laboratories, Diagnostics & digital tools for Europe - next generation surveillance Chair: Vanessa Melhorn

11:50 – 12:10 **LEAPS and DURABLE** Catherine Decouttere, KU Leuven

12:10 – 12:40 **Towards accessible diagnostics everywhere: Rapid and reliable testing for infectious diseases in underserved regions** Dragana Spasic, KU Leuven

12:40 – 13:00 **Project B-Path** Chiara Sepulcri, San Raffaele Scientific Institute

13:00 – 13:15 **Population health and implementation outcomes of COVID-19 self-testing** Lukas Brümmer, Heidelberg University Hospital

13:15 – 14:55 LUNCH & POSTER SESSION

In parallel: Interactive demonstration of various digital tools (PIA, SORMAS, Lisa Hermans et al.)

14:55 – 15:40 Session III – Zoonotic infections, entry and spill over risk estimation

Chair: Berit Lange

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| 15:00 – 15:20 | PANDASIA and upstream zoonotic prevention | Hans Jørgen Overgaard,
Norwegian University of Life
Sciences |
| 15:20 – 15:40 | Understanding viral emergencies from bats. A European perspective. | Paola De Benedictis, Istituto
Zooprofilattico Sperimentale
delle Venezie |

**15:40 –
15:55** **COFFEE BREAK**

15:55 – 17:45 Session IV – Data Spaces, Modelling & AI – from prediction to policy decision

Chair: N.N.

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| 16:00 – 16:20 | Collaboratory - Laboratory for Collaboration | Julia Fitzner, WHO Hub for
Pandemic and Epidemic
Intelligence |
| 16:20 – 16:40 | Project ESCAPE | Niel Hens, Hasselt University,
University of Antwerp |
| 16:40 – 17:00 | Pandemic Preparedness: Turning Tools into Practice | Kaspar Wyss, Swiss Tropical and
Public Health Institute (Swiss
TPH) |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Project SUNRISE | Berit Lange / Olga Hovardovska,
HZI |
| 17:30 – 17:45 | CoVerage – Online platform for genome-based surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 | Alice McHardy, HZI |

**17:45 –
19:15** **DINNER**

Wednesday, 29th April 2026

08:30 – 12:05	Session V - Research and coordination frameworks for a connected European preparedness Network Chair: Dragana Spasic / Xevi Casadevall	
08:35 – 08:55	Overview of the Access-To-Medicines Research Centre pandemic preparedness projects	Nico Vandaele, KU Leuven
08:55 – 09:15	UniHealth's progress, future plans regarding preparedness and point of care diagnostics	Electra Gizeli, Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas
09:15 – 09:35	Helmholtz Pandemic Resilience Strategy	Berit Lange, HZI
09:35 – 09:55	Translating Basic Research into European Preparedness	Stefan H.E. Kaufmann, Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin
09:55 – 10:05	COFFEE BREAK	
10:05 – 10:20	RKI's contributions to Pandemic Preparedness	Ute Rexroth, Robert Koch Institute (RKI)
10:20 – 10:35	The BMFTR's involvement in pandemic preparedness	Julia Jasper-Eberlein, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR)
10:35 – 10:55	Monitoring and Surveillance Unit (MuSE): A continuous situation report on burden, quality and utilization to increase the resilience of healthcare	Simone Scheithauer, Universitätsmedizin Göttingen, Georg-August-Universität
10:55 – 11:15	NUM-SNID	Janne Vehreschild, Goethe University Frankfurt
11:15 – 11:45	The role of the German regulatory agencies and the DZIF PDU in pandemic preparedness	Nils Lilienthal, (Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM), and Nadine Kirsch-Stefan, Federal Institute for Vaccines and Biomedicines (PEI)
11:45 – 12:05	ZEPAI	Joachim Bug, ZEPAI - Center for Pandemic Vaccines and Therapeutics
12:05– 13:00	LUNCH & POSTER SESSION	

13:00 – 14:45		
Session VI – New European pandemic preparedness infrastructures		
Chair: Olga Hovardovska		
13:05 – 13:25	Role of European Vaccines Hub (EVH) in European Pandemic Preparedness	Shashank Pinnapireddy, European Vaccines Hub
13:25 – 13:45	BE READY partnership: creating a R&D prepared ecosystem	Natalia Martin, ANRS Maladies infectieuses émergentes/Inserm
13:45 – 14:05	tba	Maximilian Görlitz, European Commission - HERA
14:05 – 14:25	New EU approaches for health emergency preparedness and response	Thomas Hofmann, ECDC - Unit Emergency Preparedness and Response
14:25 – 14:35 COFFEE BREAK		
14:35 – 15:35		
Policy Roundtable - A Roadmap for a connected European Preparedness Network – Panel Discussion		
Moderator: Berit Lange		
15:35 – 15:50	Closing Remarks and Award of Poster Prize (sponsored by Förderverein des HZI e.V.)	

There will be group picture taken – time slot still to be accounced.