



Online Consultation: The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the European partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (BE READY NOW)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Online Consultation: The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the European partnership on Pandemic Preparedness (BE READY NOW)

Pandemic preparedness is crucial for protecting health at both individual and global levels in an increasingly interconnected world. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed significant gaps in our ability to detect, prevent, and respond to emerging infectious diseases. Fragmented research efforts hindered effective international collaboration, resulting in delays in developing essential diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. A coordinated and well-resourced approach is necessary to address these challenges and ensure a rapid and effective response to future health crises. As part of the Horizon Europe funding program for Partnerships in Health (HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-12-01), the **European Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness (BE READY NOW)** aims to create a unified research and innovation ecosystem in the field of pandemic preparedness, enhancing Europe's ability to respond swiftly and efficiently to emerging threats.

To realise this vision, the **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** defines the thematic priorities and strategic objectives of BE READY NOW. A first version of the SRIA (<https://beready4pandemics.eu/sria>) has been developed by the partners of the CSA BE READY (Building a European strategic Research and Innovation Area in Direct Synergy with EU and International Initiatives for Pandemic Preparedness), funded through Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement No. 101057795).

This consultation on the SRIA of BE READY NOW aims to collect the feedback of the broader research community, diverse stakeholders, and policymakers. The final version will be adopted by the partners at the

launch of the Partnership expected in late 2025.

The survey will be open until **December 15th, 8pm CEST**.

Part 1 - Background questions

* 1. Are you responding on behalf of your organisation or in your own capacity?

- On behalf of my organisation
- As an individual responder

2. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide its name:

Vaccines Europe (VE) on behalf of EFPIA (European Foundation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Association) and VE

* 3. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, under which category does it belong?

- Ministry
- Public agency or organisation
- Funding agency
- University/ Research institute
- Industry
- SME
- Hospital/ University hospital
- NGO/association/foundation
- International or European organisation/ initiative
- Other

* 4. Country of the person/organisation that is submitting feedback:

- Africa
- America
- Asia
- Europa
- Oceania

Country of the person/organisation that is submitting feedback:

- Albania
- Andorra
- Armenia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus

- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Macedonia
- Malta
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Vatican City

Part 2 - Feedback on the SRIA

Do you agree with the following statements?

- * The three overarching principles identified (Understand and prepare; Prevent and anticipate; Respond and control) are sound, and in line with the vision of the future Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness to establish a European research and innovation ecosystem that is optimally prepared for future health crises caused by infectious diseases, that can respond to them swiftly and efficiently, and that is fully integrated in the wider European institutional Health framework

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

Additional comments/suggestions

500 character(s) maximum

The three overarching principles are sound but need to be looked at in an end-to-end manner, recognising that siloed approaches create gaps and can cause delays in times of emergency. Appropriate mechanisms should be defined to ensure rapid transition between preparedness and prevention, and response modes including regulatory and manufacturing considerations.

- * The five priorities proposed (1. Accelerate knowledge in a coordinated and integrative manner; 2. Boost health innovation and early development of innovation; 3. Train, educate and communicate; 4. Strengthen research ecosystem readiness; 5. Conduct research activities at the time of a crisis) provide a comprehensive overview of the R&I that is needed to increase the European pandemic preparedness

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

Additional comments/suggestions

500 character(s) maximum

While we appreciate the effort, it is currently unclear whether this initiative will simplify and defragment the ecosystem which should be a dedicated objective. Mapping of roles & responsibilities and interfaces with other activities will be crucial.

- * The actions listed under Priority 1 (Accelerate knowledge in a coordinated and integrative manner) properly address the priority

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

- * The actions listed under Priority 2 (Boost health innovation and early development of innovation) properly address the priority

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

In your opinion, what is missing or insufficiently addressed?

500 character(s) maximum

In the context of medical countermeasures development, regulatory readiness should be assessed in addition to tech readiness levels to ensure these solutions can be further developed and deployed as necessary.

* The actions listed under Priority 3 (Train, educate and communicate) properly address the priority

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

* The actions listed under Priority 4 (Strengthen research ecosystem readiness) properly address the priority

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

In your opinion, what is missing or insufficiently addressed?

500 character(s) maximum

In order to avoid redundancies, co-creation – rather than posthoc consultations - with key stakeholders, including industry, non-profit, and global organisations will be critical, both in interpandemic and crisis times, and should be built into the governance of the partnership. This is particularly true if the partnership plans to create a space for public-private collaboration, as it would then be essential to align on objectives and respective wins.

* The actions listed under Priority 5 (Conduct research activities at the time of a crisis) properly address the priority

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

In your opinion, what is missing or insufficiently addressed?

500 character(s) maximum

R&I efforts in times of crisis should not only be refocused, but also further accelerated. Emphasis should be put on translatability to quickly assess probability of success and establish clinical proof of concept. Efforts must include communication and coordination to ensure rapid information sharing and alignment.

* Overall, the SRIA provides sufficient focus on interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

If not, please specify how the SRIA could better promote efficient collaboration between different scientific disciplines

500 character(s) maximum

Transversal activities should include the definition of fast reaction pathways for insufficient preparedness or unforeseen pathogens, preparation of legal frameworks with public & private organisations, harmonisation and coordination of funding frameworks. When appropriate this should be linked to other initiatives such as ZEPAI or the European Vaccine Development Hub.

Part 3 - Mapping work around the SRIA (optional)

Do you agree with the following statements?

The SRIA for pandemic preparedness provides a good overview of the pandemic preparedness landscape (including other European partnerships and international initiatives)

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

Additional comments/suggestions

500 character(s) maximum

European pandemic preparedness should be strongly integrated with international initiatives, complementing research gaps and building on existing knowledge. Global cooperation is important, also in research. Partnerships with international R&D organisations such as NIH and BARDA in the United States or SCARDA in Japan will be crucial to leverage synergies. In terms of networks, please consider including Vaccines Europe as a representative of the vaccine industry in Europe.

The SRIA for pandemic preparedness provides a relevant list of potential research initiatives in line with the defined strategic priorities (cf Appendix 2)

- Yes
- Partially
- No
- Undecided

Additional comments/suggestions

500 character(s) maximum

R&I in the field of technology, manufacturing and regulatory science should be further explored. One example is research to increase the shelf-life, at higher temperatures, of vaccines to allow broad global access.

The SRIA for pandemic preparedness provides an adequate synthetic overview of needs, obstacles and weaknesses in pandemic preparedness in Europe (cf Appendix 4)

- Yes
- Partially

- No
- Undecided

Additional comments/suggestions

500 character(s) maximum

While mentioned under the EU context described in Appendix 5, it will be important to assess how the implementation of new legislative frameworks (e.g., GPL, environmental legislation) supports the partnership objectives.

Any other comments on the SRIA for pandemic preparedness

2000 character(s) maximum

- EFPIA and Vaccines Europe (VE) welcome the development of an integrated strategic agenda identifying R&I gaps and priorities for pandemic preparedness and response at European level.
- While we appreciate the effort, it is currently unclear whether this initiative will simplify and defragment the ecosystem which should be a dedicated objective. Mapping of roles & responsibilities and interfaces with other activities will be crucial.
- To avoid redundancies, co-creation with key stakeholders, including industry, non-profit, and global organisations will be critical, both in interpandemic and crisis times, and should be built into the governance of the partnership. This is particularly true if the partnership plans to create a space for public-private collaboration, as it would then be essential to align on objectives and respective wins.
- In the context of medical countermeasures development, regulatory readiness should be assessed in addition to technology readiness levels to ensure these solutions can be further developed and deployed as necessary.
- Transversal activities should include the definition of fast reaction pathways for insufficient preparedness or unforeseen pathogens, preparation of legal frameworks with public & private organisations, harmonisation and coordination of funding frameworks.
- In case of crisis, in addition to refocusing activities, acceleration efforts should include communication and coordination to ensure rapid information sharing and alignment.
- It will be important to assess how the implementation of new legislative frameworks support the partnership objectives.
- While the general directions are well defined, the lack of granularity doesn't currently allow to gauge the potential impact.
- EFPIA/VE supports the implementation of the European partnership on pandemic preparedness and welcomes the opportunity to shape future iterations of the SRIA collaboratively.
- Please consider adding Vaccines Europe as network.

Useful links

[Learn more about BE READY \(https://beready4pandemics.eu/\)](https://beready4pandemics.eu/)

Background Documents

[SRIA BE READY.pdf](#)

Contact

info@beready4pandemics.eu