EU-HIP Workshop: Towards Interoperability with HERA's IT Platform

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Abstract. Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) is currently developing the Advanced Technology for Health Intelligence and Action (ATHINA) IT system. For the system to be fully operational in its purpose, national IT systems need to be interoperable with it. The project EU-HIP (EU interoperability with HERA's IT platform) supports participating counties to achieve this goal. The aim of this workshop is to share information about the work of EU-HIP and contributions to co-creation of ATHINA. Participants will have the opportunity to obtain an overview of relevant stakeholders and discuss conditions which have to be met by countries to be interoperable with the upcoming system.

Keywords. Interoperability, HERA, ATHINA, Emergency Preparedness

1. Introduction

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) is a directorate-general of the European Commission with the responsibility to ensure that the EU Member States are ready to act in the face of cross-border health threats. Its mandate covers both the strengthening of preparedness in advance of future emergencies and the implementation of a swift and efficient response once a crisis hits.[1] To pursue those tasks, HERA is currently developing the Advanced Technology for Health Intelligence and Action (ATHINA) IT system. ATHINA will integrate information coming from IT systems of Member States with data related to stockpiling of medical countermeasures (e.g. vaccines, critical medicines and personal protective equipment) as well as three

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priority cross-border health threats identified by HERA: antimicrobial resistance (AMR), pathogens with high pandemic potential (PHPP) and Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.[2,3] ATHINA will be operational only if Member States have strong national IT systems in place which are interoperable with the ATHINA platform. The EU-HIP project (EU interoperability with HERA's IT platform) supports participating countries to develop, implement, enhance and improve national IT systems to achieve interoperability with ATHINA.[4]

2. Aim

The aim of this workshop is to hold an information sharing workshop where participants will gain insight into the work of the EU-HIP project as well as the upcoming ATHINA platform. Participants will be asked to reflect on relevant stakeholders in the setting of their organization and country, and on conditions which have to be met by different IT systems to achieve interoperability with HERA's IT platform. The workshop will be built around the common framework and the stakeholder mapping instruments developed by the EU-HIP consortium. Participants will use it to identify the needs in the countries present.

3. Rationale

EU-HIP is a project of EU-wide importance, and all Member States of EU/EEA will have to put efforts into adopting existing and developing new IT systems to be interoperable with ATHINA. Since the consortium of this project represents institutes from 15 countries (plus 2 countries in Affiliated role), it is crucial to inform relevant stakeholders in Member States outside the consortium about the common framework developed within the scope of the project.

4. Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected within this workshop:
- Transfer of knowledge about the EU-HIP project and the upcoming ATHINA platform developed by HERA (immediate outcome)
- Overview of relevant stakeholders and conditions to achieve interoperability from the standpoint of participants (immediate outcome)
- Transfer of the input given by participants into the work of the EU-HIP project (mid-term outcome)
- Community of experts working towards interoperability with ATHINA on national level (long-term outcome)

5. Programme

The workshop will have a duration of 60 minutes with the following programme:

1) Introduction (5 min, all participants)
2) Presentation of EU-HIP and ATHINA (20 min, workshop chairs)
3) Stakeholder analysis and building of a Common Framework (20 min, all participants, moderated by workshop chairs)
4) Presentation of findings and wrap-up (15 min, workshop chairs)

6. Brief CVs

Emanuel Brađašević, MD - Researcher and Work-package lead for communication and dissemination at EU-HIP, working at the Croatian Institute of Public Health.

Line A. Saele, MSc – Business Architect in EU-HIP, Enterprise Architect working for the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norway.

Persephone Doupi, PhD – Senior Medical Officer, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, EU-HIP WP4 Sustainability co-lead, Vice President of EFMI.

Pikka Jokelainen, DVM, PhD – Coordinator of EU-HIP. Head of Function, leading the Secretariat for Infectious Diseases Preparedness and One Health at Statens Serum Institut, Denmark.

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