

# Article – Health threats: boosting EU readiness and crisis management



The programme will cover the **2021-2027 period**, but all measures relating to the post crisis recovery are set to be applied in the first years.

## **Tackling cross-border health threats**

The programme aims to strengthen prevention, preparedness, surveillance and response in crisis times and improve coordination of emergency capacity. It aims to build reserves of medicines and medical supplies, healthcare staff and experts and provide technical assistance.

RescEU, which is part of the [EU Civil Protection Mechanism](#), will continue to provide rapid reaction and focus on direct crisis response capacities, while EU4Health would include strategic medical stockpiles for longer-term use and a reserve of medical staff who could be mobilised in case of a crisis.

## **Making medicines and medical supplies available and affordable**

The EU wants to support efforts to monitor shortages of medicines, medical devices and other healthcare products relevant in a crisis and limit the dependency on imports of medicines and active pharmaceutical ingredients from non-EU countries. It also aims to boost innovation and more environmentally friendly production.

## **Strengthen health systems and healthcare workforce**

National health systems should become more efficient and resilient by:

boosting investment in disease prevention programmes; supporting the exchange of best practices; global cooperation; and improving access to health care