
Overview of recent regional activities and initiatives, reporting on airport designation vis-à-vis the status of contingency plans in SPAR and coordination between aviation and public health authorities

Country Health Emergency Preparedness and IHR Programme
Health Emergencies Programme,
WHO Regional Offices for Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean

Cologne, 25- 26 April 2024



European Region

Introduction to designated PoE under the IHR(2005), reporting on designated airports and public health emergency contingency plans in SPAR

Designation of points of entry (POE) under the IHR (2005)

- **3 types of POE:** airport, port, ground crossing
- Airports and ports (article 20): “States Parties **shall** designate the airports and ports that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1”
- Ground crossings (article 21): “Where justified for public health reasons, a State Party **may** designate ground crossings that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1”

Criteria for designation:

- 1) Population density in and around the POE
- 2) Epidemiological situation in around the POE
- 3) Volume and frequency of international traffic
- 4) Multimodal transportation
- 5) Public health risks in the place of origin and transit of international traffic
- 6) Existing capacities and facilities to manage public health risks at the POE
- 7) Joint designation of POE with neighboring country

Core capacity requirements at designation PoE

At all times (routine)

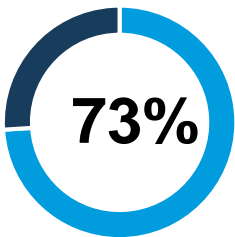
- Medical services and adequate staff to allow the assessment and care of ill travellers
- Trained staff and programmes for vector control
- Equipment and personnel for transport of ill travellers
- A safe environment for travellers at all point of entry facilities
- Trained personnel for inspection of conveyances

In response to a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)

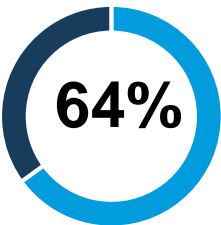
- **Develop a Public Health Emergency Contingency plan**
- Transfer travellers with infection/contamination.
- Provide assessments & care for affected travellers or animals
- Apply entry/exist control for departing & arriving passengers
- Interview suspect or affected persons
- Apply recommended measures to disinfect and decontaminate, baggage, cargo, etc
- Perform assessments and quarantine of suspect or affected travellers

State Party self-assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) WHO EURO 2023

All capacities
EURO average 2023



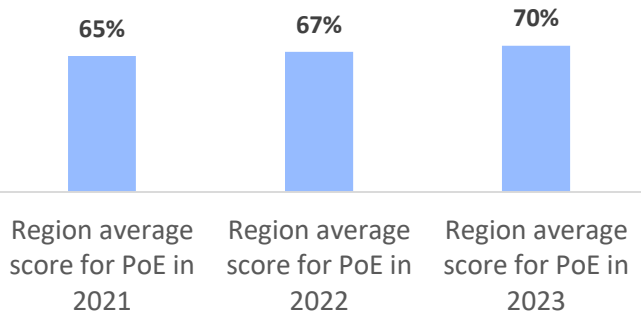
All capacities
Global average 2023



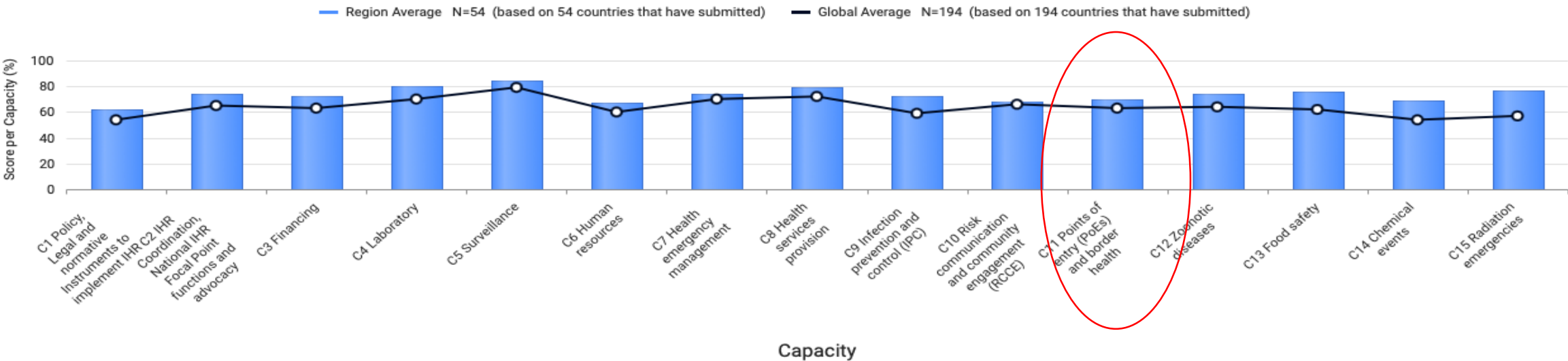
Main challenges reported



Region(EURO) average score for PoE from 2021-2023



IHR Score per capacity EURO 2023 (Updated on 18-03-2024)



WHO EURO SPAR 2023 - Points of Entry and Border Health

234 

Number of designated airports reported

225 

Designated ground crossings reported

230 

Designated Ports in the WHO EURO Region.

571

PoEs reported to have a public health emergency contingency plan

500 

PoEs reported to have a programme for vector surveillance and control

40 

States Parties reported authorized ports to issue ship sanitation certificates (SSC)

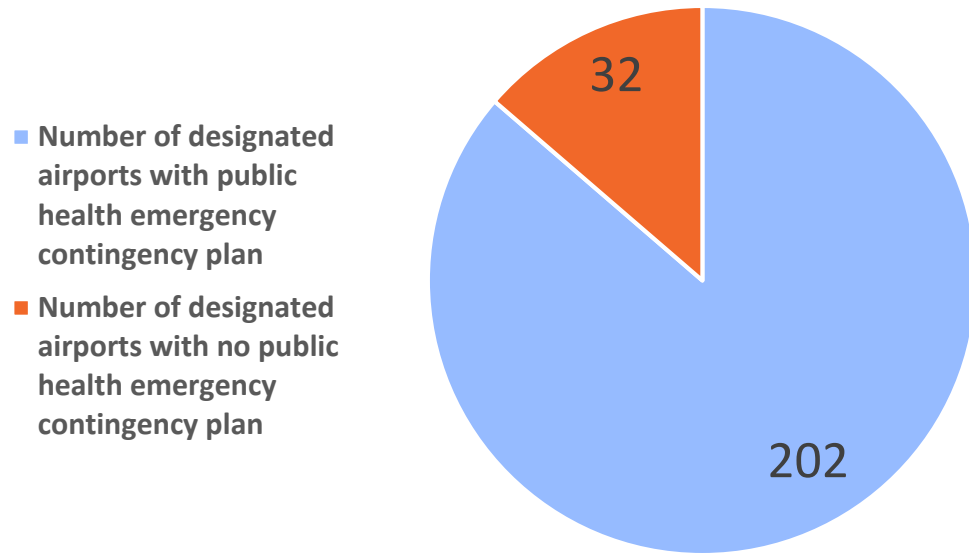


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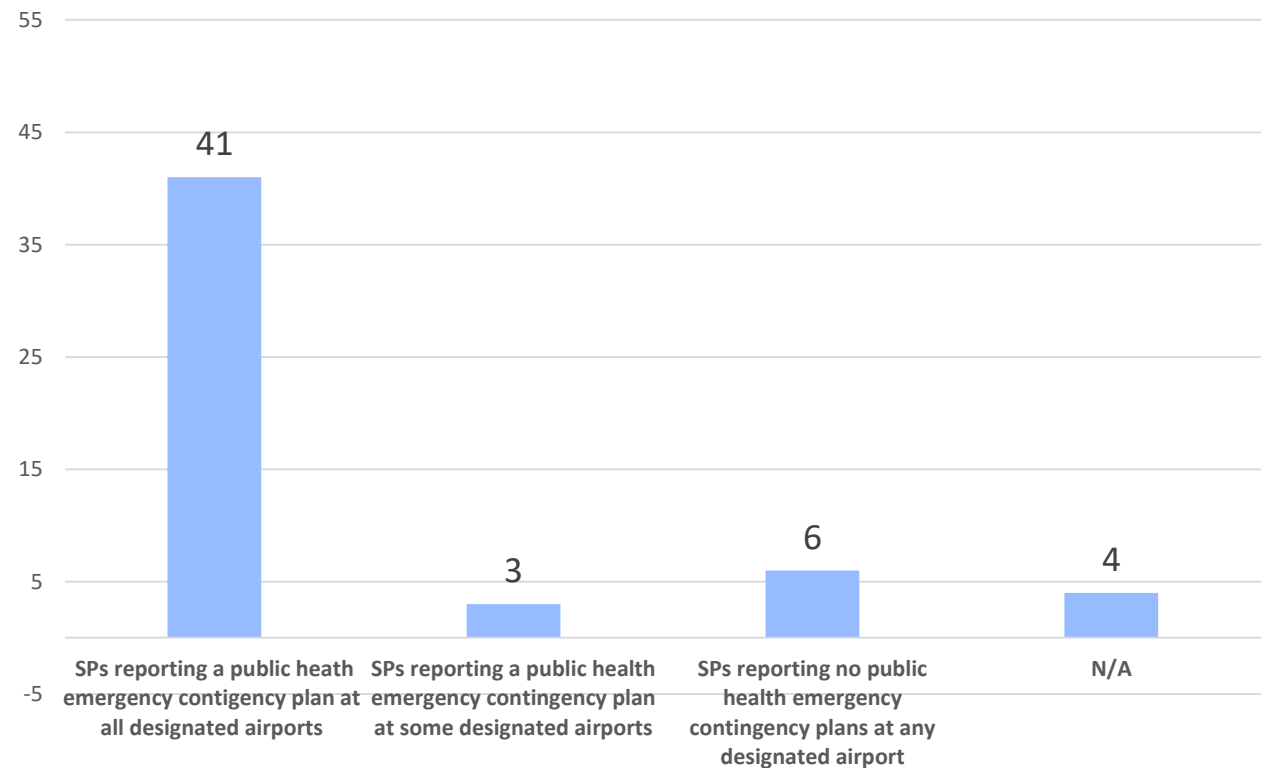
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240040120>

Status of public health emergency contingency plans at designated airports reported in SPAR 2023

Status of public health emergency contingency plans at designated airports in the WHO European regions



States Parties reporting a public health emergency contingency plan at designated airports (n=54)



Overview of regional activities and initiatives

WHO Operational Support on Border Health

2.1.1 All- Hazard emergency preparedness capacities in countries assess and reported

2.1.2 Capacities for emergency preparedness strengthened in all countries

Key support actions

- States Parties Annual Reporting (SPAR) Process
- Simulation Exercises on PoE
- Intra/After Action Reviews reviewing PoE/international travel measures response
- Joint External Evaluations
- Support to Action Planning for improvement of PoE capacity based on IHRMEF results and linked to NAPHS
- PoE Contingency Plan Development and implementation during health emergencies
- Provide access to a specialized network of PoE expertise including in the aviation, shipping and cruise cruises a land-crossings sector.
- IHR Art. 43: Monitoring, analysis and reporting of international travel measures in response to emergencies (EIS, Dashboards)
- Regional/sub-regional consultations on coordinated decisions making including operational framework development
- Tailored support based on country requests



European Region

Support to Member States for assessing and strengthening core capacity requirements for designated airports



Subregional and national trainings on use of the WHO assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports

Assessments of public health capacities at airports

IHR MEF activities relating to PoE such as SPAR, JEE, IAR/AAR

Development of a public health emergency contingency plans

Tailored support based on country requests

Simulation exercises at airports

Examples of Border health support activities in the WHO European Region in 2023

- **Sub-regional & national trainings on use of the WHO Assessment tool for core capacity requirements at designated airports:** Kazakhstan, June 2023: 45 pax. from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were trained on using this tool for assessing public health capacities at airports.
- **National IHR Focal Point Trainings, including modules relevant for airports - Türkiye,** November 2023: Introductory training on IHR and IHR NFP function and experience-exchange for all IHR NFPs.
- **Joint Assessment and Detection of Event (JADE) Functional Exercises, including modules relevant for airports:** Denmark, November 2023: Annual regional functional simulation exercise involving a disease outbreak and its consequences requiring multisectoral coordination for all 55 WHO EURO IHR State Parties
- **Support for public health capacity assessments at airports (Serbia, June, 2023.** Supported the assessment of public health capacities at the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport)



Support to decision-making and monitoring of Public Health and Social Measures in response to health emergencies

- Comprehensive database of PHSM response to COVID-19, including including international travel measures implemented at airports by **EURO Member States (33k entries, 5k on travel and trade measures)**
- International travel measures implemented at airports shared with NFPs via **WHO restricted platform for public health emergencies** (*Event Information Site, EIS*)
- Ongoing: Development of WHO guidance on monitoring of PHSM, including international travel measures implemented at airports, in response to health emergencies.
- Ongoing: Development of global PHSM Policy monitoring platform, including data collection of PHSM measures implemented at airports.
- Ongoing: The PHSM Bibliographic Library, first in the series of three interconnected tools of the PHSM Knowledge Hub. A dynamic database of global, multidisciplinary PHSM research which is continuously curated and updated by automated feeds and experts.



Country support on decision-making for implementation of international travel measures at airports



Operational framework for international travel-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19



WHO public health checklist for controlling the spread of COVID-19 at ground crossings



WHO public health checklist for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in aviation

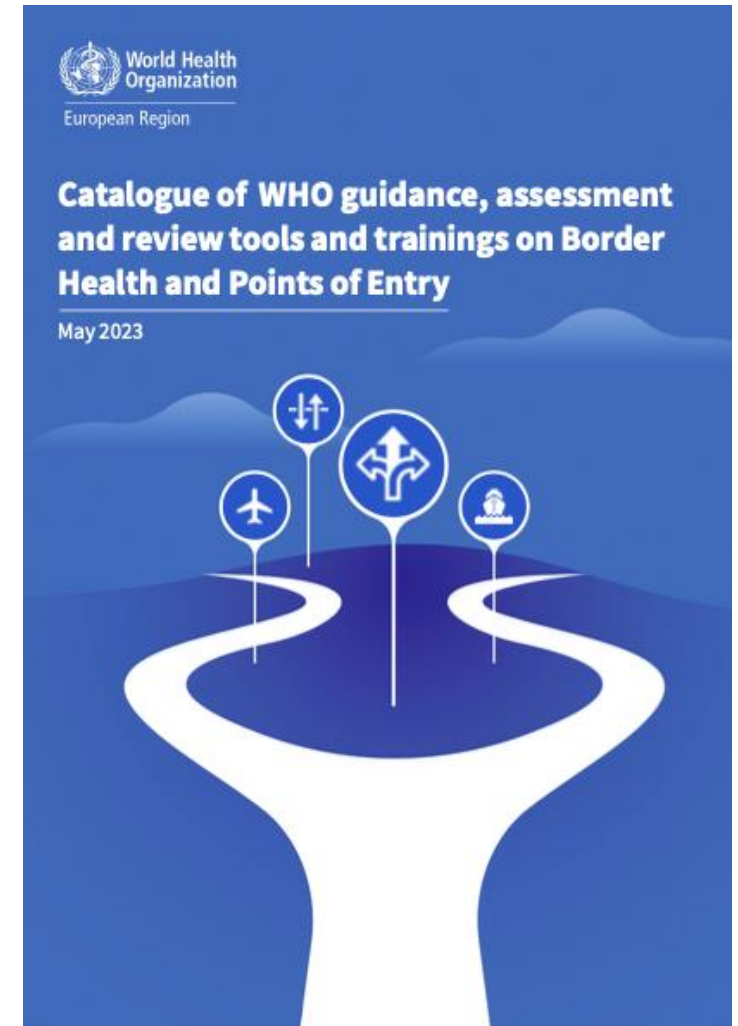


WHO public health checklist for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in ships, sea ports and inland ports

- Publication of the Operational framework for international travel-related public health measures in the context of COVID-19 based on regional consultations
- A public health checklists for controlling the spread of COVID-19 in aviation, ground crossings and at sea ports and inland ports
- 4 regional consultations on coordinated decision-making on International travel measures during COVID-19, including at airports.

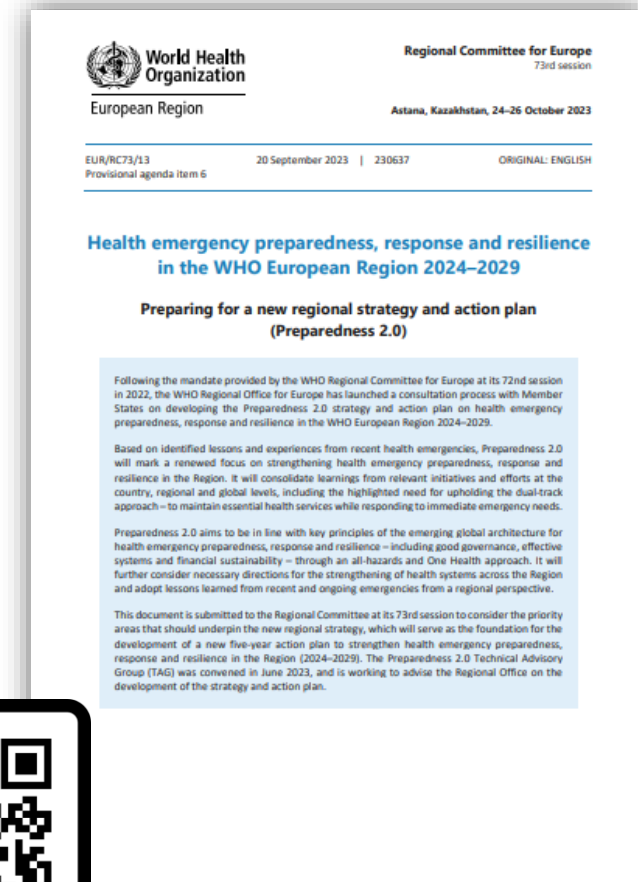
Catalogue of WHO guidance, assessment tools and trainings on Border Health and Points of Entry, including airports

1. WHO guidance
 1. All PoE
 2. **Specific for airports and air transport**, ground crossings and seaports and sea transport
2. Assessment and review tools
3. Trainings
 1. WHO online trainings for PoE & Border Health
 2. Face-to-Face trainings



Preparedness 2.0: Objective and Progress to date

- **Ensure continuation of action:** The current *Action Plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region (2018-2023)* ends this year.
- Establish **regional priorities** for targeted efforts to address identified preparedness capacity gaps.
- Create a common platform for countries to **contribute to ongoing global processes** and facilitate a consolidated European position.
- **Synchronize** global and regional consultation processes.
- Submission of **Working Document and TAG Recommendations** for RC73.
- Delivery of **Strategy and Action Plan** for RC74 in 2024



Border health - literature reviews, technical advice and operational tools

- [Evidence review – Public health measures in the aviation sector in the context of COVID-19: quarantine and isolation.](#)
- [Rapid review-International travel-related control measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic \(including measures implemented at airports\)](#)
- [Handbook for the management of public health events in air transport](#)
- [WHO aircraft disinfection methods and procedures.](#)
- [Guide to hygiene and sanitation in aviation.](#)



European Region



Coordination between aviation and public health authorities

Airport designation and the status of public health emergency contingency plans

1. To provide adequate public health emergency response, designated airports should have **a public health emergency contingency plan**. (IHR(2005))
2. Designated airports should Integrate their public health emergency contingency plans with other response plans.
3. Designated airports should have periodic training and/or drill exercises to familiarize contact points of key sectors/services at point of entry with the public health emergency contingency plan and respective roles and functions within it.

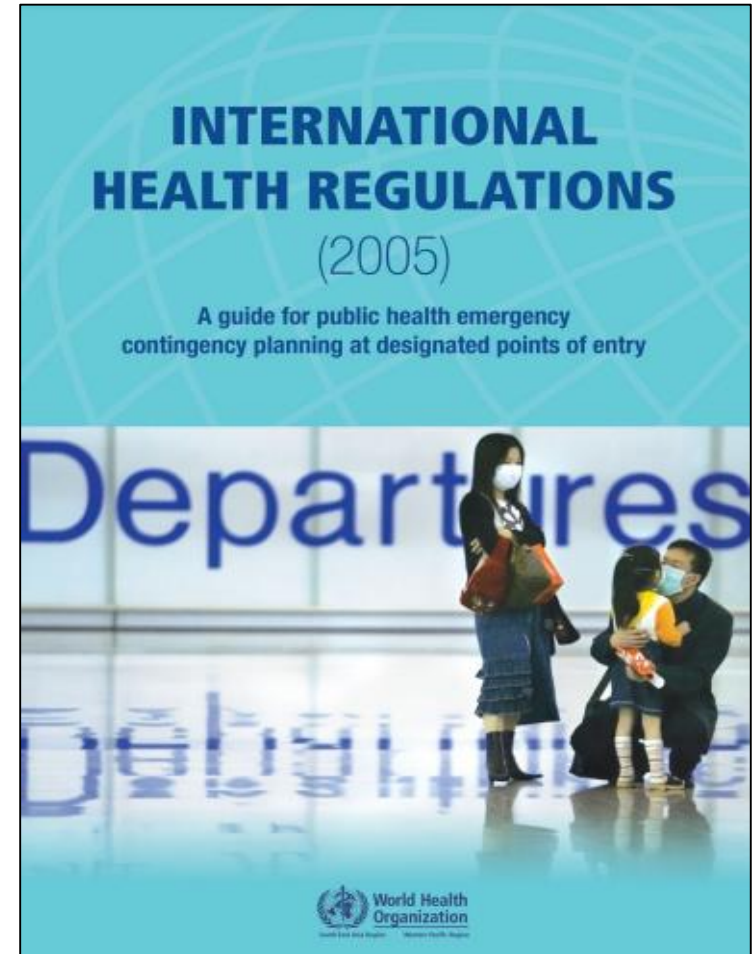


Coordination between aviation and public health authorities

- Better coordination needed between aviation and public health authorities to address gaps in public health emergency contingency planning
 - Joint training of personnel required for implementation of the public health emergency contingency plans
 - Joint simulation exercises to test functionality of public health emergency contingency plans and coordination between all stakeholders
 - Joint evaluation and review of existing public health emergency contingency plans
 - Joint workshops to develop public health emergency contingency plans where unavailable



European Region



Coordination between aviation and public health authorities: Way forward

- Other areas of cooperation between aviation and public health authorities?
 - Joint assessments of public health risks at airports
 - Joint development of SOPs for management of specific public health events in aviation
 - Joint trainings on assessment of public health capacities at airports in line with the IHR



Thank you!

For further questions on WHO EURO activities please contact

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European Region

Overview of Regional PoE Capacities in the **EMR**

Fatima Arifi, Technical Officer (PoE)
WHO EMRO



Points of Entry & IHR



“To prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic & trade

PoE means a **passage** for international entry or exit of travellers, baggage, cargo, containers, conveyances, goods and postal parcels as well as **agencies and areas** providing services to them on entry or exit.

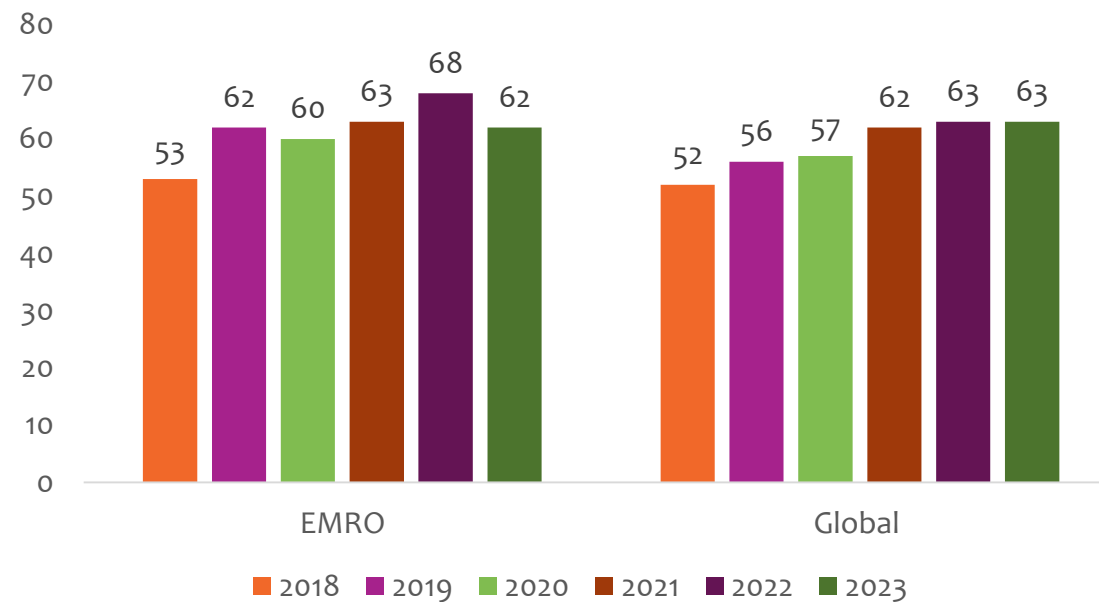
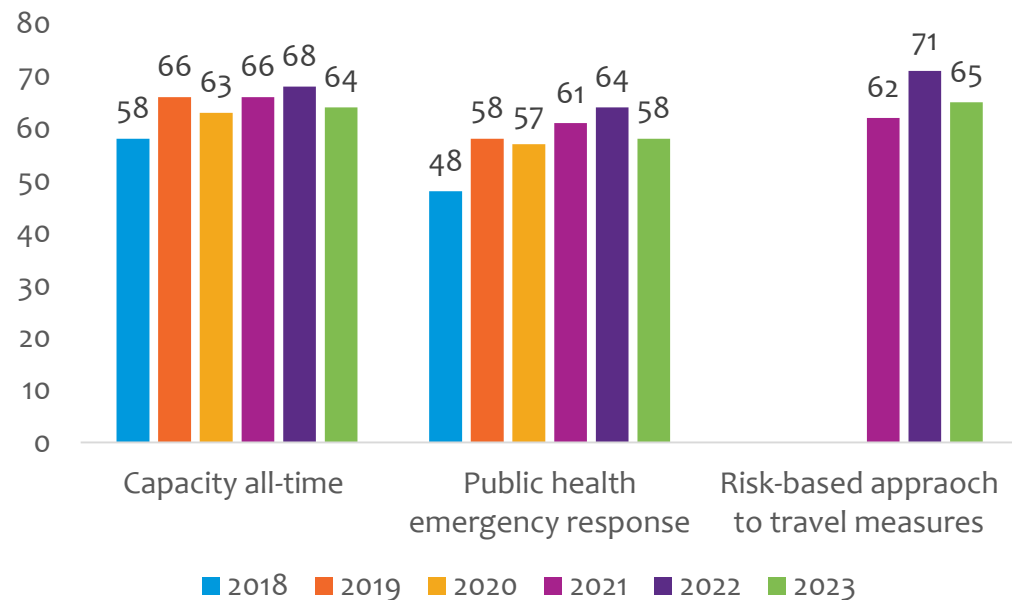
Designation of PoEs under IHR

- States Parties shall designate to designate the airports and ports that shall develop the capacities provided in Annex 1.
- Varying capacities across countries in the region
- Capacities at airport better than other PoEs
- Average number of PoEs designated by SPs (9)

IHR designated points of entry in EMR

247	Total designated PoEs
104	Ports
90	Airports
53	Ground crossings
19	Number of States Parties reporting authorized ports to issue ship sanitation certificates (SSC)

PoE Capacities in EMR, SPAR (1)

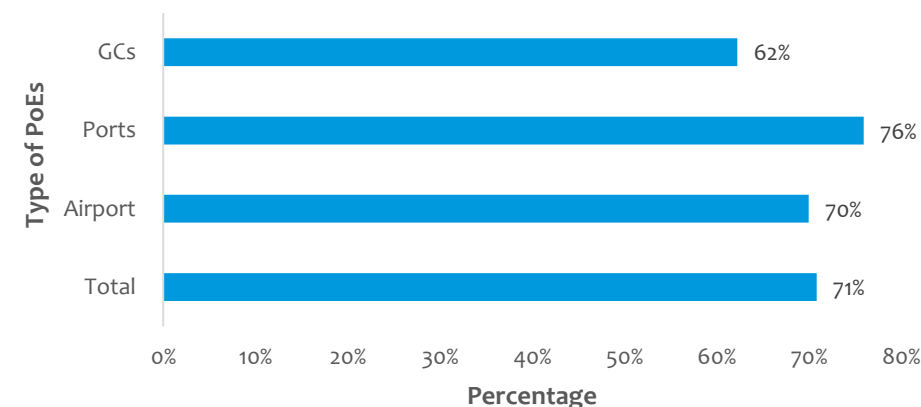


PoE Capacities in EMR, e-SPAR, WHO

PoE Capacities in EMR, SPAR (2)

- **99%** of designated PoEs have identified competent authority (245/247)
- **84%** of designated PoEs have vector surveillance & control programme (207/245)
- **71%** of designated PoEs have developed public health emergency contingency plan (175/245)

Percentage of designated PoEs with PHECP in EMR



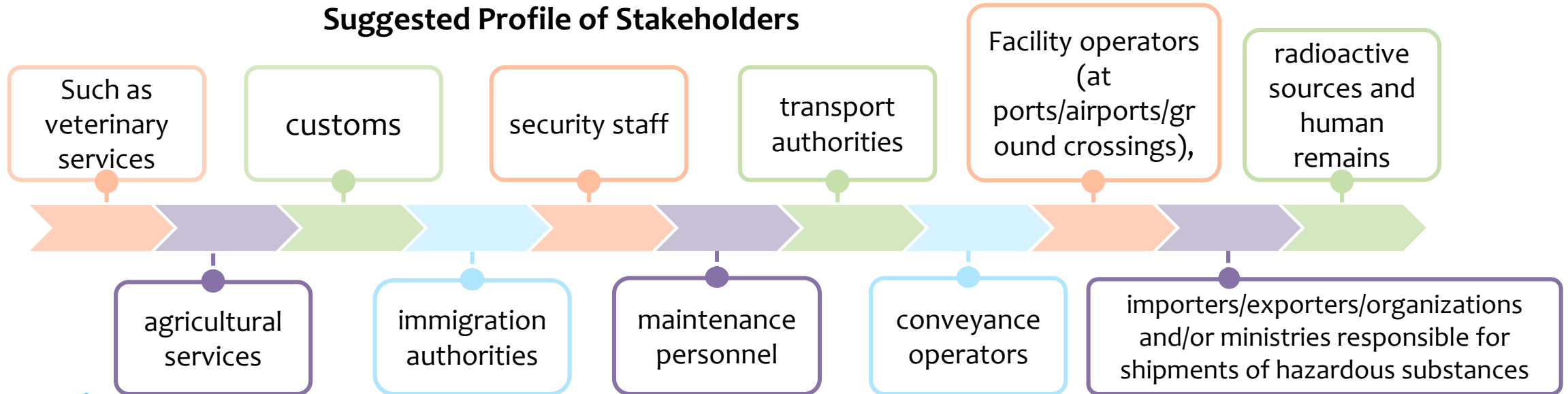
Multi-sectoral coordination at PoE

Many sectors, agencies, organizations and services providers may be involved

Strategic relationship: PoE is part of the National System for the public health emergency response which links to the national command and response management structure

Operational: Important for implementation of tasks and actions at the operational levels

Suggested Profile of Stakeholders



Enhancing multi-sectoral coordination at PoEs in EMR

- Multi-sectoral coordination is at the heart of all PoE capacity building, assessments and developing policies and plan in EMR countries
- Established partnerships and collaboration with other UN agencies and partners (i.e Africa CDC, ECDC, IOM, ICAO, UNHCR, IMO..)
- Advocacy for enhancing multi-sectoral engagement
- Multi-sectoral coordination established for cross-border collaboration TWGs and steering committees
- WHO supports in developing the ToR for multi-sectoral committee for IHR NFPs' unit and PoE competent authority
- SimEx and joint response & SimEx to public health events
- Coordination and communication is one of the main elements in PoE assessments



PoE Public Health Emergency Contingency Plan (PHECP)

PHECP is agreed, updated, documented public health emergency contingency plan, integrated with other public health response plans (national/intermediate/local levels) and other emergency operational plans at point of entry, covering relevant services at point of entry and disseminated to all key stakeholders.

PHECP devised for an outcome to an unusual event other than in the plan for day-to-day operations

Templates developed for PHECP at airports and seaports

WHO supports in developing, testing, updating PHECP

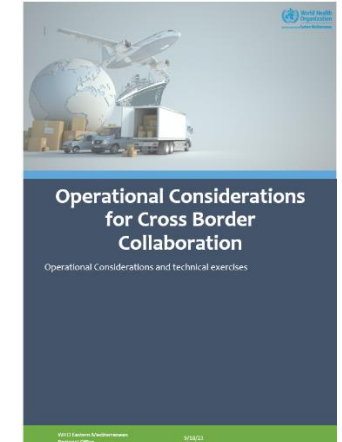
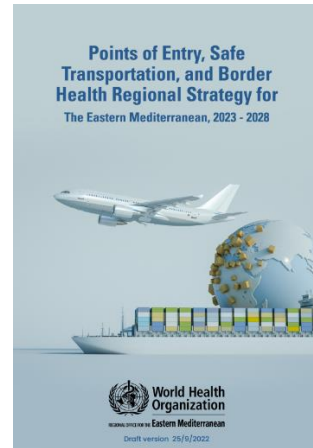
- Multisectoral coordination
- Trainings & capacity building
- Conducting Risk-assessment & prioritization
- Developing PHECP & SOPs, implementing, SimEx

WHO approach to developing PoE capacities

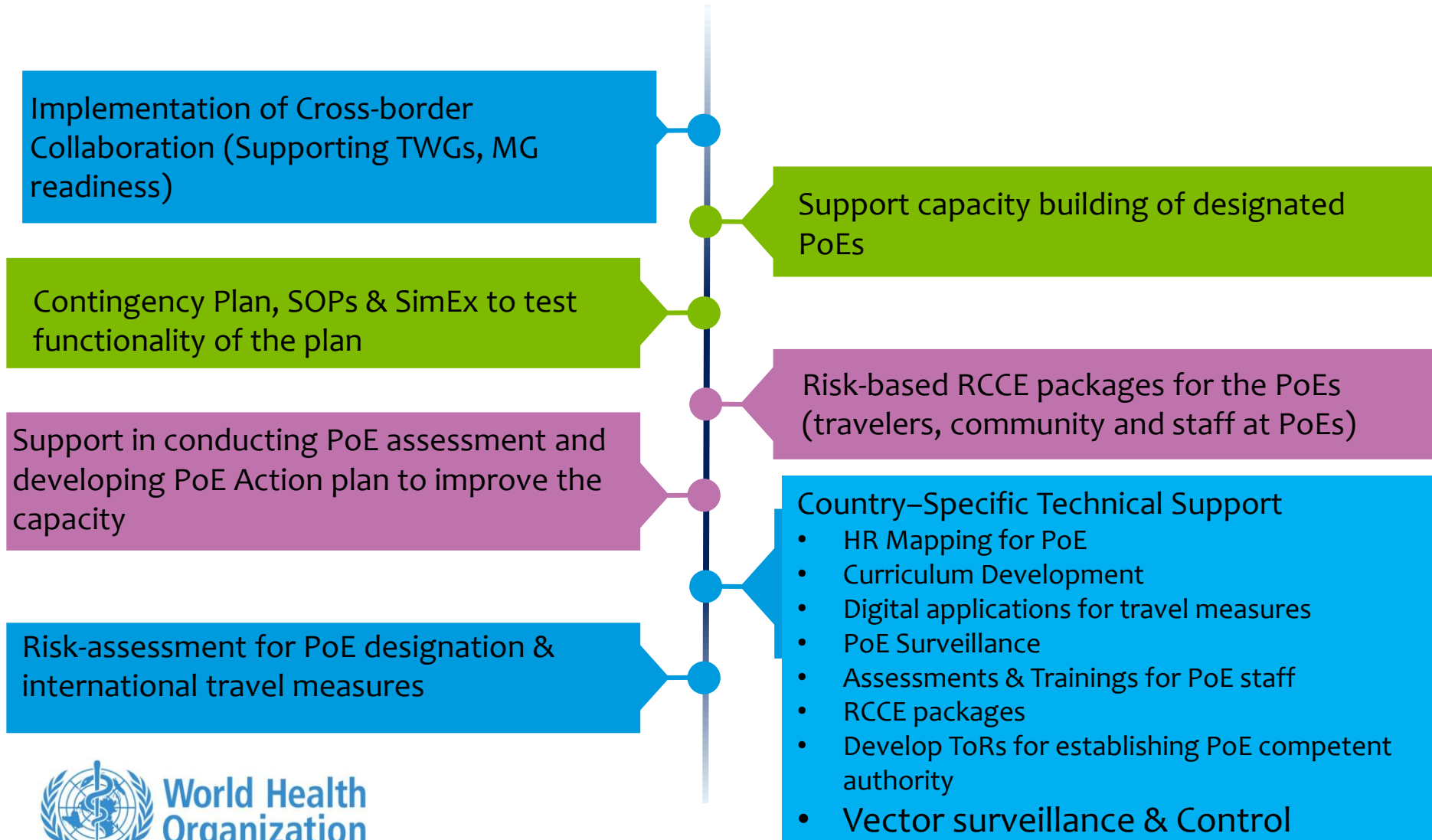
- PoE regional strategy “Border Health & Safe Transportation, 2023-2028

- Enabling Environments
- Multi-sectoral coordination
- Cross-border collaboration
- Operations for effective preparedness and response
- Workforce & Capacity Building
- M&E
- Regional PoE Network

- Technical support & strategic guidance/framework to develop PoE capacities by enhancing the enabling environments, multi-sectoral coordination, cross-border collaboration, workforce capacity building,
- Inter-agency network/coordination (Africa CDC, ICAO, IOM, UNHCR,...)
- Joint cross-border SimEX in context of One-Health between Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia
- Guidelines & advocacy for risk-based approach travel measures and advice against disease outbreaks in the region
- Facilitating exchange opportunities and case Studies for PoE Lessons Learned & Legacy
- EMR Expert Roster for PoE Professionalism
- PoE Stakeholder mapping across EMR
- Regular review, evaluation, learning and updating of capacities



WHO approach to developing PoE capacities (Operational)



Conclusion

Foundational needs & continuous investment to adequately equip PoEs with the proper resources & to maintain the capacities

Adopt innovative, and rigorous **multisectoral coordination** in preparedness and response approaches at PoE

Cross-Border Collaboration a key avenue for syncing resources and modalities across countries/regions and harmonization of emergency preparedness

Investments required in **applying risk-assessment** approach to inform travel-related measures and all-hazard emergency planning preparedness with operational SOPs for rapid response.

Expanding and enhancing **Human Resources** capacity

Develop, test and maintain the **PHECP** in coordination with the relevant sectors

Utilizing **digital solutions** and platforms

Promote conducting **research** to inform evidence-based policies and interventions

Regular **assessment and Plans** implementation



Thank You

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Panel discussion for day 2



European Region

Panel discussion: What collaborative activities between public health and aviation authorities will be beneficial to States?

- What are some examples of collaboration between public health and aviation authorities in your country or that your organization has supported ?
- Describe any challenges you encountered in your collaboration with either public health or aviation authorities, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and how these challenges can be overcome?
- How can collaboration between public health and aviation authorities be strengthened as part of preparedness, readiness and response to future pandemics?
- What specific support or resources would you need to enhance the capacity of your country to implement multisectoral approaches between aviation and public health effectively?

