

Prevention of, preparedness for and response to emergencies in WHO agenda

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Conference of the Parties

to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

Stockholm, 14-16 November 2012



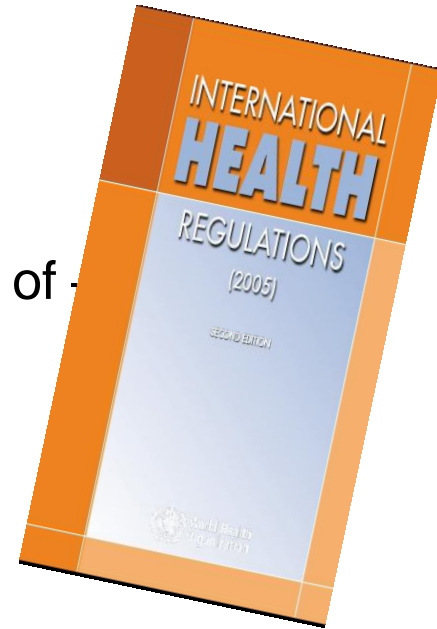
**World Health
Organization**

Presentation context

- IHR – complementary international agreement
- Current capacities and priorities in WHO/Europe Member States
- WHO activity in prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents

IHR – complementary international agreement

- IHR (2005) – International Health Regulations were adopted by governments of all WHO Member States during the World Health Assembly in May 2005
- Entry into force in June 2007
 - ▣ One exception: there is a five year phase until 2012 for (technical) IHR Core Capacities development
- **Binding international law** for the entire government of - in the meantime - **194 Member States**
- National ratification is not required



NFPs, WHO FPs and A GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM



- ▶ Notification
- ▶ Reports
- ▶ Consultation
- Verification ◀



National IHR Focal Point

(one per State Party)

Risk assessment

Coordinating international
emergency assistance

IHR communications not relating to
events, e.g. capacity development

Advocacy for, and monitoring of,
national IHR implementation



WHO IHR Contact Point

(one per WHO Region)

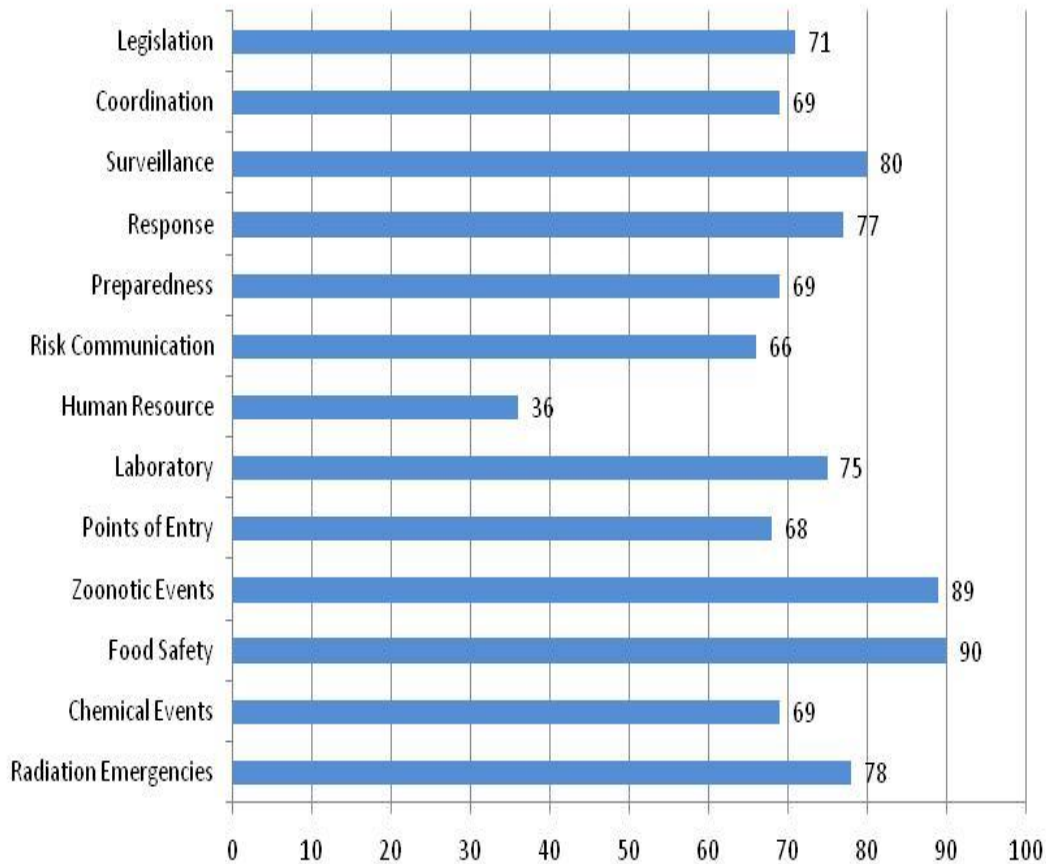
Informal and formal (it's
mainly not about
notifications!)

Dissemination of information
from WHO

IHR Benefits & Challenges

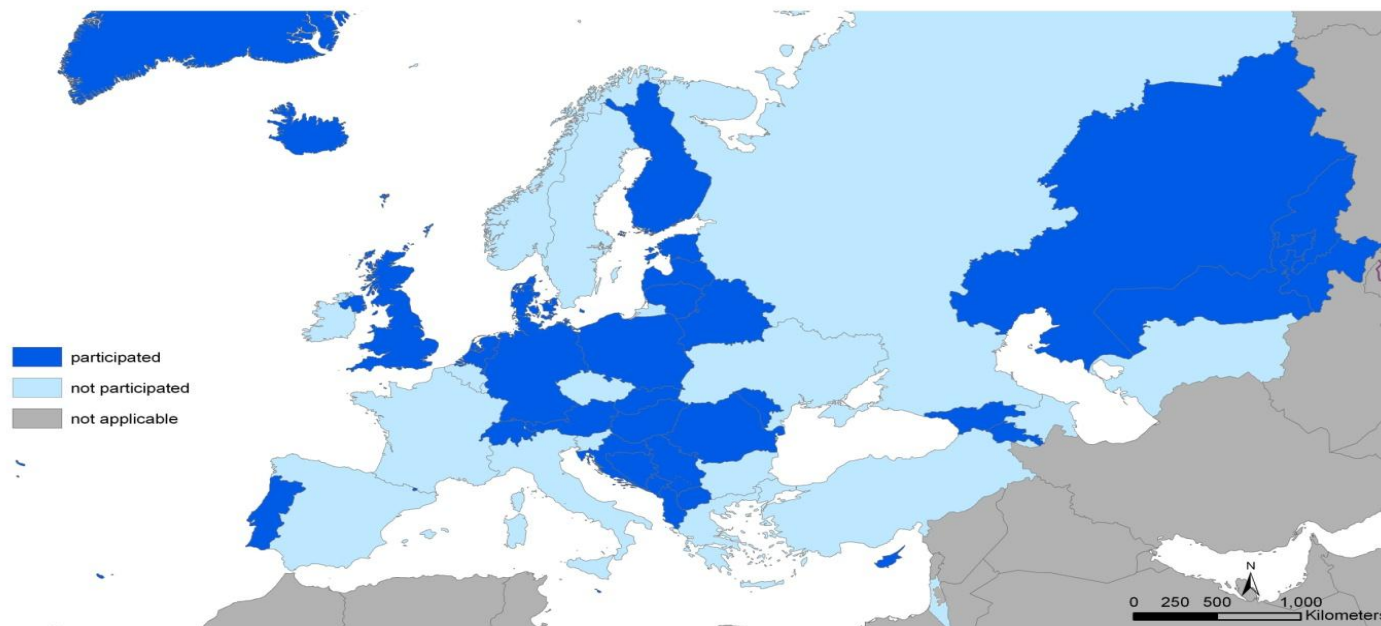
- Efficient coordination and communication, both nationally and regionally
- Standardized risk assessment
- Identification of appropriate response mechanisms
- Only few costly requirements (IHR is nothing new, existing structures can be used)
- Long term economic benefit!
- New way of reporting for day-to-day operations
- All-hazard approach
- Whole-health approach
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Multisectoral approach
- Cooperation and link between all levels, e.g. Points of Entry

Regional Scoring Core Capacities, WHO European region, 2011



WHO/Europe Questionnaire Survey

Countries participating to the survey



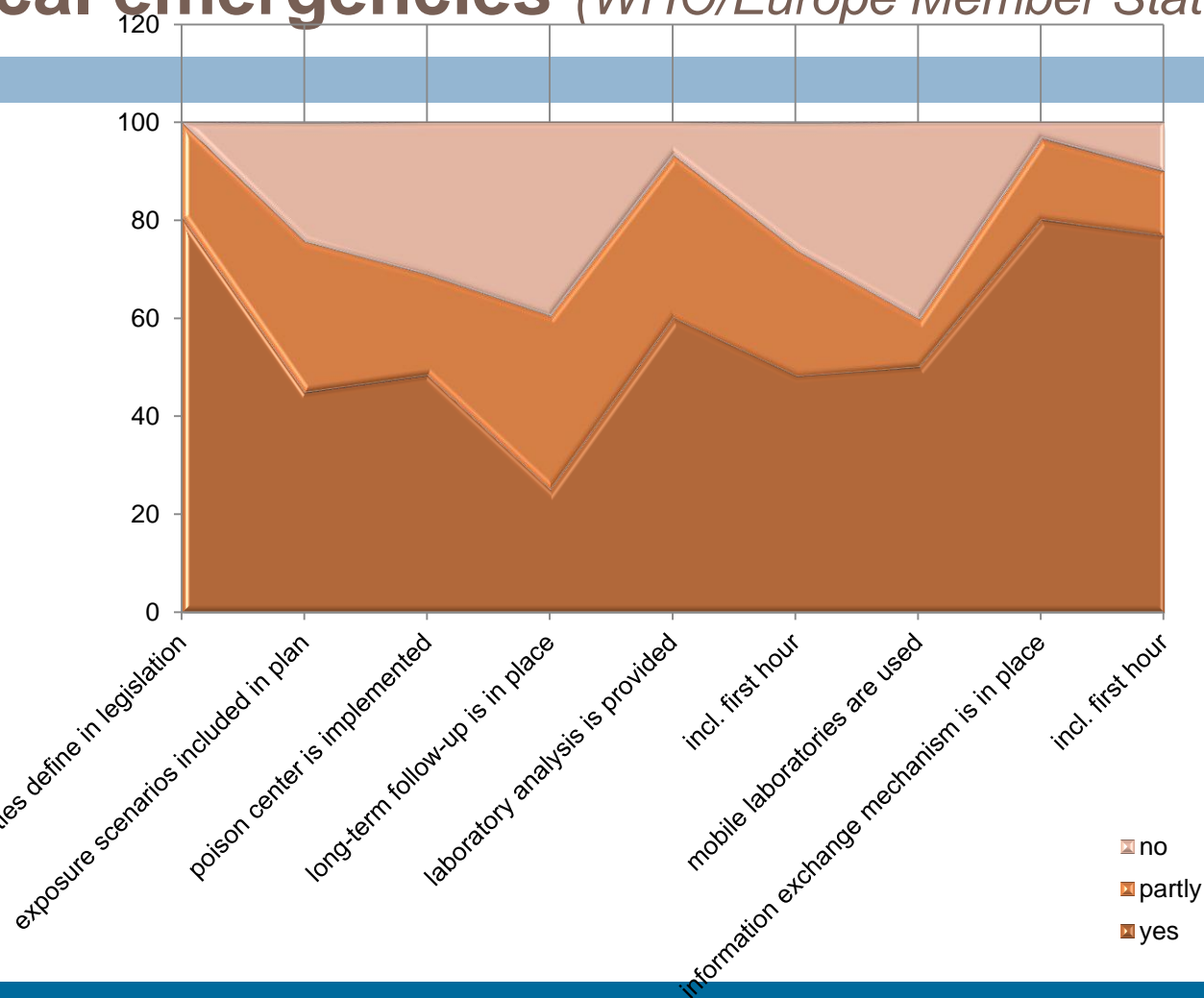
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Main gaps in capacities to respond to chemical emergencies *(WHO/Europe Member States)*



WHO Activities

Trainings (multi-sectoral)

2011

- December: Sub-regional IHR risk communication training workshop for Central Asian countries in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

2012

- January: Training workshop for National Public Health Institutes/National IHR Focal Points of EU Member States in Luxemburg
- April: Sub-regional IHR training workshop for Ukraine, Belarus, Russian Federation in Kiev, Ukraine
- May: National IHR assessments and training workshops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo and all Central Asian and Caucasus countries
- Oct 2012 to Mar 2013: Training workshop and country-specific consultations for IHR implementation in national legislation

Planning activities 2012 / 2013

- February 2013: Chemical emergencies preparedness and response for SEE countries
- May 13: Assessment and training of IHR requirements at border crossings for Middle-East, Central Asian and Caucasus countries

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WHO Activities

Guidelines, tools, recommendations *(examples):*

- Rapid Risk Assessment of Acute Public Health Events (2012);
- Decision Instrument for the Assessment and Notification of Events that May Contribute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (2010);
- Manual for the Public Health Management of Chemical Incidents (2009);
- World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for an International Clearing House for Major Chemical Incidents. Public health and chemical incidents. Guidance for national and regional policy makers in the public/environmental health roles. 1999 [cited 27 August 2008];
- Mapping Public Health Resources and Risk; GIS tool;
- WHO Outbreak Communication Planning Guide (2008);
- Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness. WHO Six-years Strategy for the Health Sector and Community Capacity Development (2007);
- Effective Media Communication during Public Health Emergencies: a WHO Handbook (2005);

WHO activities

Provide expertise at chemical emergencies



Disseminate of newest scientific information for human risk exposure, assessment and management

Awareness raising campaigns

World Health Day 2009:

Save lives. Make hospitals safe in emergency.

What are the special considerations of a chemical emergency?

*Thanks for your
attention*

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