



NEW CHALLENGES FOR CROSS-BORDER PANDEMIC MANAGEMENT

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Italian Red Cross Association
Comitato Nazionale – Sala Solferino

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Croce Rossa Italiana

Since antiquity, pandemics and epidemics represent a severe challenge to human being, causing health emergencies loss of lives and economic crises: the recent Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) was certainly the most serious pandemic in contemporary history, and it stimulated ethical dilemmas and challenges for the scientific community, for civil security and for emergency response strategies.

However, the COVID19 pandemic is just one of the epidemiological emergencies that human being has known and faced. Equally different scenarios with a transnational character are imagined to occur causing a similar health and population and environmental impact, requiring the interaction of different institutions and collaboration between different countries with a shared strategy.

The impact of pandemic, and of other possible scenarios, has affected the protection of life and physical integrity, our social asset and our socio-economic system: the demand for response to the diverse needs has emerged to create multidisciplinary and transversal methods for a shared, informed and coordinated response at national and supranational. An answer that includes health, social welfare, juridical, macro and micro economic aspects.

The pandemic experience can be further capitalized: the COVID-19 has in fact shed a light on the issue of managing and coordinating emergencies having a cross-border nature and a transnational impact and which, as such, require tools for sharing information and integrating of forecasting and management models between agencies, entities and between countries.

The pandemic experience actually stimulated the research to set up tools and response methods in support of cross-border emergencies such as nuclear or chemical events, industrial accidents, or emergencies such as drought or pollution or spills in international waters, events that may have natural or anthropic origin but which share a transnational character and which therefore require synergy and collaboration between multiple institutions and countries.

Has the COVID19 experience made us more resilient in responding to epidemiological emergencies? What tools can we instead capitalize on to develop and integrate cross-border emergency response strategies by developing synergies with a transnational, multidisciplinary and integrated approach?

THE PANDEM PROJECT

The PANDEM-2 project aims to increase pandemic emergency planning and response capacity at the European level, through the development of prototype IT tools to support the forecasting, preparedness and monitoring of scenario development related to cross border health emergencies, situational awareness and decision support for a quick and shAred response.

Extensive end-user involvement ensures that results are tailored to the needs of the real world, public health agencies directly involved in pandemic management, and actors involved in response on the ground.

The IT tools developed by the project have the capacity to monitor the health, social and economic impact of a pandemic by acquiring and integrating relevant data for pandemic management from international media, laboratory data and social media. The integrated data according to the user's needs will be available on an online dashboard to support the decision-making process at different levels.

THE ROLE OF ITALIAN RED CROSS WITHIN THE PROJECT

The Italian Red Cross, participates in the PANDEM-2 project as a first-responder, contributing from the first phase of the project to the identification of relevant indicators for monitoring the pandemic and the requirements necessary for an effective response.

In the most advanced phase of the project, the Italian Red Cross contributed to the design of emergency management scenarios, using the experience acquired during the past pandemic, testing the technologies developed to support the pandemic response in the national and transnational framework.

The theme of communication during pandemics was also explored, through the critical discussion of lived experience and "lessons learned", the development and sharing of good practices and the use of social media analysis

AIMS OF THE WORKSHOP

The aim of the Workshop is to create an opportunity for the analysis of cross-border emergencies, by offering an approach focused on the pandemic experience and on its transnational character (also common to other types of risks and events) in order to offer an opportunity to compare experiences that the various players have gained and that can be the starting point for synergies in future activities for preparedness and response to emergencies and for shared projects.

Consistent with the role that the Italian Red Cross has in the PANDEM-2 project, the workshop aims to enhance the lessons learned at a national level, in a multidisciplinary perspective and to experience the added value of the tools prototyped by PANDEM-2 in scenarios of the real response to epidemiological emergencies. It is also the objective of verifying whether the same tools can be adequate and useful, more generally, in emergency scenarios with a cross-border character, albeit of a non-epidemiological nature.

In detail, the topics proposed in the workshop will be:

- How technology applied to emergency response can support the international community by improving its response capacity and resilience*
- The need to strengthen the synergy and the network between institutions and actors at national, European and international level for the preparation for the new challenges in the management of pandemic emergencies: from Covid to Ebola passing through the epidemiological risks that every disaster presents - experience sharing and good practices*
- The importance of sharing a coordination system in cross border and transnational emergencies: which models can be replicated in health or biological, chemical, nuclear emergencies or in those emergencies that can potentially have a large-scale cross-border impact.*
- What is the potential of the IT tools developed by PANDEM in responding to different needs. The workshop will therefore provide participants with the opportunity to explore the PANDEM system, to test and experience it in practice and to be able to verify the integration with other possible data collection and data analysis tools.*

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CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

09:30 a.m. Institutional Greetings

Lwy. Rosario Valastro, National President, Italian Red Cross Association
Minister of Health, Hon. Orazio Schillaci

10:00 a.m. Conference Opening

Moderator: Dr. Cecilia Crescioli, Secretary General, Italian Red Cross Association

The health activities of the ITRC in emergencies and the synergy with the institutions

Dr. Riccardo Giudici, National Referent of the Health Area, Association of the Italian Red Cross

The role of the Volunteer Nurses of Italian Red Cross for Pandemic Emergency and the integration with Armed Forces

Dr. Cinzia Venturi, Umbria Regional Inspector Corps of Volunteer Nurses of the Italian Red Cross

The Volunteer Military Corps and CBRN activities

Maj. Gen. Gabriele Lupini, National Inspector Volunteer Military Corps of the Italian Red Cross

Inter-agency integration in pandemic emergency management: model and strategic approach to possible future scenarios

The Italian Civil Protection system and Europe: which transnational scenarios and which synergies can be developed in the response to cross-border emergencies

Dr. Sisto Russo, Director of the Voluntary Service and Resources, Department of Civil Protection

From the privileged observatory, which are the scenarios in CBRN, which tools for information, prevention, and management and which possible integrations between civil and military forces and between countries in the operational response to emergencies

Gen. B.ta Riccardo Fambrini, Commander Joint Forces School for CBRN Defense - Ministry of Defense

The key role of the Ministry of Health and the synergistic coordination of various institutional competences in response to complex health emergencies: the synthesis of different perspectives

Dr. Marco Mattei, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Minister of Health

01:00 p.m. Lunch

02:30 p.m. Afternoon session

Moderator: Dr. Ignazio Schintu, Deputy Secretary and Director of Operations, Emergency and Relief, ITRC

The long wave of Covid: changes in psychosocial needs from the beginning of the epidemic to present. The response of the Italian Red Cross on territory

Dr. Santa Sicali, Regional Referent for the Psychosocial Service, Sicily Regional Committee, Association of the Italian Red Cross

Prevention of pandemics and synergy between institutions: the role of the Ministry of Health and how shared data analysis tools and platforms can support the forecasting, preparation and response to cross-border emergencies

Dr. Emanuela Maria Frisicale, Directorate General for Health Prevention, Ministry of Health

Future pandemic threats and use of PANDEM-2 outputs for pandemic preparedness training

Dr. Jessica Hayez, Pandem-2 Coordinator – University of Galway

Epidemiological and health emergencies around the world

Dr. Rachel Goodermote, Senior Emergency Health Officer, International Federation of Red Cross

Pandem Platform Demo and Scenario Simulation