

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

MAY 2026



Dear readers,

Welcome to the first edition of the **JA STOCKPILE Newsletter**! This three-year, EU-co-funded Joint Action brings together 54 partners from 25 European countries with a shared goal: strengthening preparedness for cross-border health emergencies through sustainable and well-coordinated strategic stockpiles of medical countermeasures (MCMs).

Building on lessons learned from recent and current crises, JA STOCKPILE focuses on ensuring that essential MCMs are available, well managed, and ready for deployment when needed. Through close collaboration and mutual learning, participating countries work together to identify needs, improve stockpile management practices, strengthen skills and training, and develop coordinated approaches at national, regional, and EU levels.

JA STOCKPILE aims to identify and quantify MCM stockpiles, establish a coordinated layered stockpiling system, ensure sustainable stockpile management, and improve the deployment and use of MCMs. In doing so, it

supports the implementation of the EU's Stockpiling and Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Strategies and contributes to broader EU policy initiatives, including the European Health Union, the One Health Approach, and the EU Global Health Strategy. Overall, the project supports the EU governance framework for crisis management, emergency response, stockpiling, and health security.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on our progress, expert contributions, reflections from key stakeholders, and information on upcoming events and activities related to JA STOCKPILE. We hope it provides a clear and engaging overview of the work underway and the partnership behind it. For more information on JA STOCKPILE, visit jastockpile.eu.

Sincerely yours,
Hannu Kiviranta

Introducing the Work Packages

Projects are built around two types of work packages (WPs). While Technical WPs focus on specific scientific and policy objectives, Horizontal WPs form the backbone of the initiative



WP1 – Coordination

Work Package 1 (WP1) coordinates the Joint Action through effective management, ensuring timely reporting, budget control, and overall support for successful implementation while strengthening collaboration between work packages. Led by the coordinator with support from the Steering Group and Advisory Board, WP1 oversees progress, deliverables, milestones, budget monitoring, reporting to the European Commission and communication with HaDEA, as well as day-to-day management and the organization of key project meetings.



WP2 – Communication and Dissemination

WP2 is responsible for the project's communication activities, including information sharing, network building,

and the dissemination of results, while supporting all Work Packages. It ensures project visibility and strategic alignment at national and EU levels by communicating outcomes, events, and training activities across multiple channels and by producing a wide range of visual materials for project partners.



WP3 – Evaluation

Evaluation Work Package (WP3) ensures that the Joint Action delivers high-quality, meaningful results for Europe. It monitors whether activities are carried out as planned and examines the project's overall progress and impact. By identifying what works well and where improvements are needed, the evaluation supports learning throughout the project and strengthens the reliability of its outcomes. It also provides transparency and accountability, showing how resources are used and what value the project creates.



WP4 - Sustainability

The purpose of Sustainability Work Package, WP4, is to ensure that sustainability and coherence are integrated into all core Work Packages when developing methodologies, frameworks, or tools for MCM stockpiling. Best practices for storage will be incorporated into national policies, with a focus on enhancing cooperation among EU Member States, strengthening national experts' skills, and fostering long-term knowledge sharing.



WP5 – Training

Training Work Package, WP5, aims to increase the skills of national experts in best practices for MCM stockpiling. In addition, the Work Package will establish long-term cooperation based on an expanding body of theoretical and practical knowledge, available to members on an ongoing basis.

The Work Package plans to organize several face-to-face workshops and train-the-trainer sessions, not only to create a sustainable network for sharing knowledge within home

countries but also to bring experts together to learn about best practices.



WP6 – Identifying and quantifying stockpiles for medical countermeasures

Work Package 6 (WP6) develops a structured approach to determine which medical countermeasures (MCMs) and in what quantities are suitable for stockpiling. It assesses the benefits and drawbacks of stockpiling versus alternative supply chain instruments, prioritizes cross-border public health threats, and evaluates whether stockpiling is the most suitable option to ensure critical MCM availability. WP6 also develops methods to identify relevant MCMs and required stockpile volumes. The resulting tools and inputs from other work packages will be consolidated into a handbook and decision-support tool for policymakers.



WP7 – Coordinated layered stockpiling system

Work Package 7 (WP7) aims to develop a coordinated, layered stockpiling framework that reflects EU-level structures while remaining adaptable to Member States' needs. It builds on mapping national and international initiatives, identifying their specific characteristics, interdependencies, overlaps, and challenges. WP7 proposes a layered model (provincial, national, international) and provides recommendations to enhance collaboration between EU and national stockpiles, improving emergency stockpiling coordination.



WP8 – Sustainable stockpile management

WP8 focuses on strengthening long-term stock management for health emergencies, including pandemics, CBRN events, and natural catastrophes. It examines challenges across the life cycle of stored items to propose mitigation measures, aiming to improve sustainability and management of MCM stockpiles by addressing

procurement, supply issues, data exchange, possible shelf-life extension, product rotation, and waste reduction.



WP9 - Deployment and usage of MCMs in and outside the EU

The specific objective of Work Package 9 (WP9) is to ensure EU stockpiling systems are operational and ready to deploy in crises, both within and outside the EU. This involves assessing legislative frameworks via WHO, EU, and national guidelines and clarifying governance, including decision-making on quantities and destinations. Findings will be compiled in a report outlining frameworks, gaps, and recommended practices.

Pilot activities test urgent and nonurgent deployments to evaluate logistics, communication, and coordination, identifying bottlenecks and validating procedures. Postpilot evaluations will provide recommendations, while upcoming work includes developing shared SOPs and analysing the transition from shortterm to longterm crisis management.

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Partner countries in highlight

With partners 54 from 25 European countries, the STOCKPILE project is a powerful example of international cooperation. In this first edition of our newsletter, we're excited to introduce you to the partners who make this collaboration possible.

At first, we would like to introduce you to five countries and their partners.

Belgium

FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment. It and Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products are our partners. With a strong regulatory and coordination mandate, Belgium co-leads the Development of a Coordinated Layered Stockpiling System and supports several technical and horizontal work packages.

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Cyprus

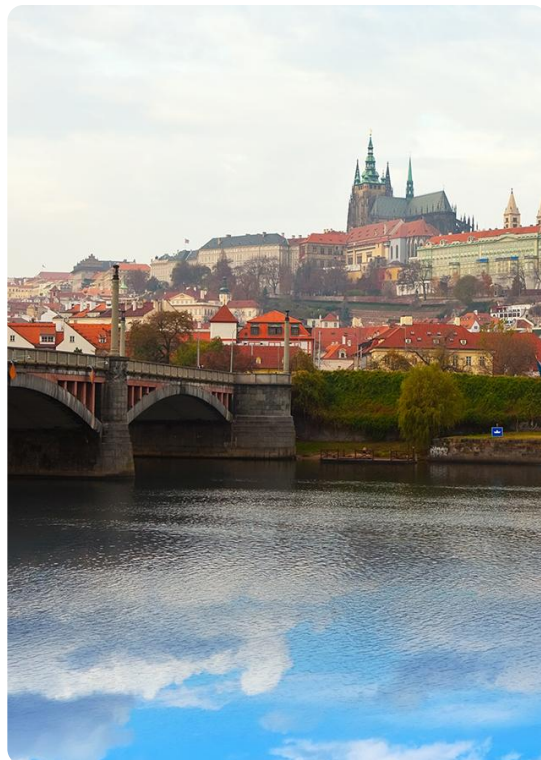
Cyprus takes part in the Joint Action through the Ministry of Health and the Health Insurance Organisation. With responsibilities spanning health policy, regulation, procurement and system financing, Cyprus contributes to ensuring medicine availability, coordinated stock management and system resilience. Cyprus participates in numerous work packages including Communication work package.

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Czech Republic

Czech Republic is represented in the Joint Action by the Ministry of Health and the State Institute for Drug Control (SÚKL). Combining healthcare system governance with strong regulatory authority for medicines and medical devices, Czech Republic contributes to stockpile activities within the broader EU HEALTH framework

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Croatia

Croatia participates in the Joint Action through the Ministry of Health, the Croatian Institute of Public Health and HALMED. Through policy coordination, public health expertise and regulatory oversight, Croatia contributes across multiple work packages, supporting the development of an EU-level stockpiling framework.

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Our achievements from 2025

Joint Action Stockpile (STOCKPILE) completed a strong first 7 months of implementation. Between June and December 2025, the Joint Action successfully established its governance structures, launched all Work Packages (WPs), and laid the strategic and operational foundations for coordinated work across the consortium.

Our top events

- **First Steering Group (SG) meeting, June 2025, Helsinki.** The Steering Group (SG) is the main decision-making body of the project, overseeing the effective implementation of Stockpile and monitoring the budget. The SG hold it's very first meeting in June in Helsinki, Finland.
- **Kick-Off meeting, September 2025, Helsinki.** Stockpile held its official Kick-Off event in Helsinki, Finland, where the Joint Action was officially launched. All the consortium members where represented.
- **First Advisory Board meeting, December 2025, online.** The Advisory Board is a key strategic pillar of the STOCKPILE Joint Action, actively supporting the Steering Group in strengthening Europe's preparedness for future health crises. It provides guidance on policy, scientific developments, and international coordination, ensuring that project activities generate real added value for the EU.

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WP Kick-Off meetings

- WP8 – Sustainable stockpile management, September 2025, online.
- WP9 - Deployment and usage of MCMs in and outside the EU, December 2025, online.
- WP7 - Coordinated Layered Stockpiling System organized kick-off meeting, online, summer 2025.
- WP7 - Coordinated Layered Stockpiling System organized meeting, September 2025, Helsinki.
- WP6 – Identifying and quantifying stockpiles for MCM, October 2025, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Top achieved milestones and deliverables

- **Launching governance and coordination.** Key coordination and management structures were formed under WP1, Steering Group (SG) and Advisory Board were established, draft Consortium Agreement was formed, and the deliverable of the project Kick-off (September 2025) meeting report was created.
- **Adapting the Communication and Dissemination Strategy.** The strategy serves as the foundation for the activities of the Communication Work Package (WP2) and outlines the planned communication actions, key messages, channels, target audiences, and performance indicators, providing a clear framework to guide implementation and monitor progress.
- **Creating visual identity elements for the project.** This includes the development of a cohesive visual identity - such as a logo, banners, posters, templates, Teams backgrounds, and infographics - to provide the project with a clear and recognizable visual presence across all communication materials.
- **Joint Survey.** The aim of the survey was to gain a comprehensive understanding of different countries' views, practices, and experiences related to strategic stockpiling for cross-border health threats.
- **Launching the JA Stockpile website.** The official website of the project is a platform for sharing information, networking and to host project materials. **Check it out!** jastockpile.eu

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Spotlight on Stockpile

1. [EU-HIP - EU interoperability with HERA's IT platform](#)
2. [European Health and Digital Executive Agency \(HaDEA\)](#)

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Next steps – upcoming/current activities

In 2026, we aim to organize several in-person events, including our second Partnership Forum in Portugal in June. In addition, we are committed to finalizing two deliverables and several milestones by the end of the year.

Recent/upcoming events:

- WP9 in person meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 25 March 2026
- WP5 online Kick-off meeting end of March 2025
- WP8 in person workshop in Oslo, Norway, April 2026
- 8th Steering Group online meeting, April 2026
- WP2 Kick-Off online meeting, April 2026
- **Partnership Forum, Lisbon, Portugal, June 2026**

Expected outcomes in 2026: **Deliverables** (with bold) and milestones

- **Methodology for Sustainability (WP4 – Sustainability)**
- Mapping of Training Needs (WP5 – Training)
- Taxonomy of threats and stockpiling solutions (WP6 – Identifying and quantifying stockpiles for medical countermeasures)
- Mapping of stockpiling initiatives (WP7 – Coordinated Layered Stockpiling System)
- Needs assessment of stockpile management (WP7 – Coordinated Layered Stockpiling System)
- **Specification for IT Tool (WP8 – Sustainable stockpile management)**
- Review of existing national and EU legislation and governance structures - Task 9.1 (WP9 - Deployment and usage of MCMs in and outside the EU)



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