



WASP

Western Balkan Strategic Partnership for Health Protection

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic put a heavy strain on many public health systems, which had to deal with high numbers of severely ill people and deaths and with challenges regarding vaccination and medical supplies. The Balkan region was seriously affected by the pandemic, highlighting the importance of strengthening preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks. WASP builds on the work of previous GHPP projects, which fostered networking among national institutes of public health (NIPHS) (GETPrepaReD), assessed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on AMR surveillance, prevention and control (ARGOS), strengthened population health metrics data (BoCo-19) and offered training on intensive care treatment for COVID-19 patients and on SARS-CoV-2 laboratory capacity (CORRAL). WASP further strengthens public health core capacities in the Western Balkans in the field of epidemiological preparedness and response. In this endeavour, it focuses on the public health workforce in the region, providing training to NIPH staff, on strengthening molecular laboratory capacities and on disease prevention and control. Ultimately, this will result in more targeted public health decision-making the whole population will benefit from.

Objective

Strengthening the national epidemiological preparedness and response capacities of Western Balkan countries to tackle infectious disease threats.

Key facts

Duration

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

Budget

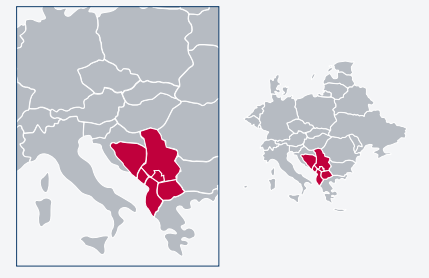
~ EUR 3 million

Partner countries

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia,
Serbia

Region

South Eastern Europe

**Implemented by**

Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Health
(BMG)

Thematic focus

Strengthening of public health systems

Outbreak management

Surveillance and reporting

Infection prevention and control

Laboratory diagnostics

Clinical management

One Health

Digital solution

Activities



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening national epidemiological preparedness and response capacities by developing documents such as guidelines and conducting workshops and training; establishing a monitoring system for improved surveillance of dynamic outbreaks within and across countries using population health metrics



TRAINING AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Deepening and expanding the knowledge of health personnel on intensive care medicine; training laboratory staff in diagnostic testing and genomic sequencing; training health personnel in the clinical management of patients with antibiotic-resistant infections

In cooperation with

- National Institute of Public Health (IJZCG), Montenegro
- Clinical Centre of Montenegro (KCCG), Montenegro
- Charité-Universitätsmedizin, Germany
- National Institute of Public Health (IKSHPK), Kosovo
- Institute of Public Health (ISHP), Albania
- Institute of Public Health (IPH), North Macedonia
- Institute of Public Health (IPH), Serbia
- Public Health Institute (PHI), Bosnia and Herzegovina

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GHPP, the Global Health Protection Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Health, promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between specialized German and international public health actors. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at the national, regional and international level, in particular relating to pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response, the GHPP fosters public health protection – worldwide.

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