# Bringing SiS issues into Pandemic Preparedness & Response

The overall objective of ASSET project is to contribute to incorporating Science-in-Society issues into the system of Research and Innovation related to pandemic or epidemic preparedness by:

- exploring and mapping SiS-related issues in global pandemics;
- developing a partnership with complementary perspectives, knowledge and experiences to address effectively scientific and societal challenges raised by pandemics and associated crisis management;
- developing a participatory and inclusive strategy.

# 6MAINSIS/RRI THEMES

ASSET Strategic Plan outlined some priorities in the field of pandemics or infectious emergencies, which follow 6 main themes:

### **GOVERNANCE**

- Following 2009 A(H1N1) pandemic, authorities still have to face mistrust;
- the perception of conflict of interests by the public is not completely solved;
- in risk and outbreak communication there is still space for
- ethical, law, human rights and gender issues are scarcely considered.

#### **UNSOLVED SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS AND OPEN ACCESS** TO SCIENTIFIC OUTCOME

- Communicating **uncertainty**;
- role of new social media;
- top-down uni-directional decision process;
- new informal surveillance approaches;
- involvement of GPs;
- non-pharmacological preventive steps (e.g. frequent hand-washing):
- inter-disciplinary scientific approach.

#### **CRISIS PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION**

Previous challenges, along with: neglect local conditions;lack of flexibility;

- underestimation of citizens needs and capacity hurdle an effective participation of citizens in the management of a crisis.

## **ETHICS, LAW AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

Ethical, human rights and legal issues, which include:

- solidarity:
- public good versus personal privacy and freedom;
- transparency and informed consent;
- stigmatization:
- resource allocation;

are also relevant for their impact on the spread of diseases.

# **GENDER ISSUES**

- **Pregnant women** can be more vulnerable;
- women have lower rate of immunization;
- mainly men in clinical trials;
- few women in decision committees;
- scarce attention to this theme in preparedness and response plans.

# **INTENTIONALLY CAUSED OUTBREAKS**

- National and international authorities should have policy
- documents **ready to be used** in case of emergency; security and ethical implications of any measure must be
- discussed **before the crisis**; • countries and institutions should also consider participation in **international regimes** for these issues:
- attitudes of citizens should also be explored.

HealthCare Professionals Award
E-learning courses

Improve awareness, knowledge and communication skills

Pandemic Preparedness High Level Policy Annual College Ann and Response bulletis Mester Improve communications ider Sis is in the communication of the co JEALTHCARE AUT/OSTITES PROFESSIONALS

MOBILLA

Favour dialogue, also co order to disclose Cot Stakeholder portal **MEDIA** 

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Video pills

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SOCIAL NETWORK

STAKEHOLDER PORTAL | DATANT



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Sold of Street, active a...

Citizens consultation

Local initiatives

exchange

