

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

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Public health has always been one of the key links in dealing with emergency situations. When we say emergency, the first thought is usually an accident that happened and involves the emergency services. However, if we look at the bigger picture, many situations can be considered urgent and almost always involve multiple services and sectors. In such cases, cooperation between sectors involved in a emergency situation is extremely important. The strengthening of intersectoral cooperation and communication was one of the incentives for launching the JA TERROR project at the European Union level. A terrorist attack or, more broadly, any incident involving chemicals or a biological agent can occur at any time, anywhere. In addition, we all witnessed a pandemic that affected us all equally and revealed where we are strong but also where, unfortunately, we are not. The very launch of JA TRRORA in 2019 seemed to be a foreshadowing of what is to come. Croatia is one of the many countries involved in the work of all work packages of the project, and the Croatian Institute of Public Health is the project holder for Croatia. Our main goal was to strengthen cooperation and communication between the sectors of public health, security and civil protection. By working within several technical packages, together with colleagues from other countries, we have obtained detailed information on the areas that require additional work in order to enhance and make the cooperation between the sectors as effective as possible. By organizing workshops at the national and international level, participants from various sectors had the opportunity to exchange experiences and jointly identify the main problems in communication and cooperation. The purpose of the project and everything that comes from it is to give advice, instructions and suggestions on how to establish the best possible cooperation and communication between the sectors, but also towards the public.

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