



# Joint action on wastewater surveillance

*Ana Burgos Gutierrez HERA 02*

# Policy context - HERA and wastewater surveillance

- HERA incubator: Setting up **wastewater surveillance** monitoring systems for COVID-19
  - Commission Recommendation on a common approach to establish a systematic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in wastewaters in the EU
  - DG ENV grants to Member States
  - DG JRC contracts covering further support on resources and logistics
  - DEEP database – JRC
- HERA Communication:
  - strengthen environmental monitoring including wastewater-based surveillance and establish efficient data-sharing mechanisms
  - extend support programmes set up under HERA Incubator
- EU4Health 2023 AWP actions:
  - Joint action on wastewater surveillance
  - Establishment of a sentinel system and support to wastewater activities with JRC

# Objective and scope

- Extending the support programs under the HERA Incubator to **strengthen the detection and identification of SARS CoV-2 variants** and build on preparedness to other serious cross-border health threats
- Strengthening knowledge **exchange and sharing best practices**
- JA to be carried out by the Member States' authorities, health institutes and laboratories - dealing with **public health and environmental surveillance**
- **integration and complementarity of wastewater surveillance** with other surveillance systems with a clear public health perspective
- support to global actors and low- and middle-income countries that can benefit from the exchange of experience and lessons learned

# Activities

- Definition of **wastewater surveillance strategies** – priority pathogens, sampling and translation of results, including airport/aircraft sampling
- Definition of **technical procedures** – alignment of methods, enhancing comparability of data
- Establishment of **governance framework** – EU and international coordination, engagement of relevant stakeholders
- **Communication**
- **Sustainability** and financial viability of the wastewater surveillance

# Expected results and impacts

- Increased surveillance capacities at national and EU level for (pandemic) preparedness and control of infectious diseases and AMR.
- Integration of wastewater surveillance systems into other types of routine surveillance focusing on complementarities.
- Extended implemented systems for monitoring and early warning for future outbreaks of other health threats.

This JA will support MS in the preparation for the future implementation of the revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive - COM(2022) 541 final

# Main takeaways

- Better integration of wastewater surveillance is key to inform a better response – JA needs to **start as soon as possible to support** current and planned activities
- This joint action will need **combined efforts** from authorities carrying out environmental surveillance (current National Focal Points) and public health authorities.
- Continuation of previous programs and paving the way to future legislation
- Complementarity with the EU sentinel system to be established under the 2023 AWP

# Thank you



© European Union 2020

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: e.g. [Fotolia.com](https://www.fotolia.com/); Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: e.g. [iStock.com](https://www.istock.com/)

