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The emergence of new and re-emergence of old pathogens are some of the great global health challenges as evidenced throughout history, for example by influenza virus pandemics, SARS, Ebola or the Zika virus epidemics. The increase in the world population, increased mobility, global warming and development of therapy resistant pathogens are main drivers of global threats caused by pathogens. ERINHA and the health care system share essential mutual needs and benefits to respond to these challenges.

From patient to research to patient



Health care needs	ERINHA's contribution
Rapid access to diagnostics	Reference material for diagnostics development
Rapid access to vaccines and drugs	Key infrastructure for vaccine development and in vivo testing
Access to expertise	Cutting edge knowledge on pathogens and technology
Access to highly skilled people	Pool of continuously trained specialists

ERINHA's needs	Health care contribution
Access to human biological samples and pathogens	Samples from patient care
Information on medical needs	Insight into challenges and requirements
Demonstrate impact	Translation of research to better health

Essentially no protective measures, diagnostics or vaccines would be available for health care in the event of risk group 4 (RG4) infections without BSL4 and associated BSL3 laboratories.

ERINHA is an essential source of state-of-the-art knowledge and human capital to cope with threats caused by RG4 pathogens. Consulting, education and training (on pathogens, biosafety, PPE, decontamination, and raising awareness on biosecurity), providing a pool of highly trained people as well as development of a variety of tools are examples of indispensable assets developed for and provided to health care.

RG4 infections are too rare in health care that health care workers remain properly trained. Research programs will guarantee that continuously trained people essentially needed for adequate response to threats are available on demand. The role of ERINHA for national emergency plans is seen as highly relevant in most countries.

ERINHA as a European research infrastructure could coordinate and provide access to BSL4 laboratories available at the European level, which is not only of relevance for efficient operation and use of these very expensive and limited laboratory capacities but also of particular importance for countries without BSL4 laboratories requiring access in case of emergencies.