

e-FabRIC Policy Brief

e-FabRIC is an EU-funded project aiming to develop an innovative broad-spectrum pan-Sarbecovirus therapy dedicated to pandemic preparedness. Sarbecoviruses are a subgenus within Betacoronavirus and have high pandemic potential, as shown by the SARS outbreak and the COVID-19 pandemic.

e-FabRIC shifts preparedness from a single-pathogen response to a virus-family approach. By enabling broad-spectrum coverage against Sarbecoviruses, it supports day-zero readiness for future outbreaks.

Progress

During its first phase, e FabRIC successfully produced a broad-spectrum polyclonal antibody therapy at R&D scale using a mosaic antigen composed of fragments from eight Sarbecoviruses. Designed to provide broad protection, this therapy has demonstrated *in vitro* activity against all eight represented Sarbecoviruses, as well as *in vivo* efficacy in two models.

Policy Context

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed Europe's challenges in rapidly developing, procuring, stockpiling, and deploying medical countermeasures (MCMs) fairly across borders. The Commission swiftly recognised that preparedness is not only defined by the existence of MCMs, but the capacity to deploy them.

The recent development of the Medical Countermeasures Strategy, the Stockpiling Strategy, and the Commission's work on procurement and stockpiling both stress the importance of ensuring access, availability, stockpiling, procurement, storage, distribution, and rapid deployment of medical countermeasures in crisis situations.

The Preparedness Union Strategy, launched in March 2025, promotes a more integrated approach to preparedness, addressing crisis management in an all-hazards, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that connects public health, civil protection, industrial policy, and security considerations.

Finally, the ongoing revision of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) reinforces EU-level coordination and response capacities, including through rescEU. This reflects a broader shift toward integrated preparedness and response, particularly for cross-border crises with health, security, and civil protection dimensions.



Policy Gap

Despite these important developments, significant gaps remain in the EU's ability to operationalise MCM preparedness effectively across the full response chain:



Preparedness responsibilities remain fragmented across multiple policy domains and governance levels.



Procurement and financing pathways are not consistently adapted to emergency conditions, slowing the mobilisation of critical supplies.



Stockpiling models do not systematically address the full lifecycle of MCMs, limiting access to products with limited shelf life and complex manufacturing requirements.



Cross-border deployment remains constrained by operational and regulatory barriers, limit speed and predictability of deployment across MS.



Structural challenges to translate innovation into preparedness capacity limit SMEs in particular.

Policy Recommendations

Research excellence alone will not be sufficient without the ability to manufacture, stockpile, and deploy medical countermeasures rapidly across all member states. To make preparedness operational, e Fabric highlights four priority actions:

- 1 Integrating innovation into preparedness and regulatory pathways.**
 Broad-spectrum medical countermeasures should be embedded early in EU preparedness planning, with clear regulatory pathways to support their development, evaluation, and rapid deployment before a crisis occurs.
- 2 Ensuring procurement instruments are emergency fit.**
 Advance purchase commitments, framework agreements, and long term contracts should support predictable manufacturing and rapid scale up.
- 3 Strengthening stockpile governance across the lifecycle.**
 Stockpiles must be dynamic — with rotation, replenishment, and long term production planning — especially for biologics with limited shelf life.
- 4 Enabling predictable cross border deployment.**
 EU systems should establish interoperable regulatory and logistical conditions so MCMs can move rapidly between Member States.
- 5 Accelerate investment, coordination, and industrial capabilities.**
 Support greater funding for harmonised clinical trial structures, stronger SME support, and a strategic commitment to European production to set a global standard in innovation, resilience, and health security.

These recommendations aim to ensure that innovations like e FabRIC's therapy can be integrated into real world preparedness systems and deployed when needed.

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