

27. May 2026

SECOND EDITION OF RENCONTRES FRANCO-DANOISE DE LA SANTÉ

Maison du Danemark, Paris

HEALTH DIPLOMACY



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H.E. HANNE FUGL ESKJÆR, AMBASSADOR

"Today's discussions have demonstrated that resilience and preparedness can no longer be considered in isolation. Healthcare systems, critical infrastructures, energy security, and defense preparedness are increasingly interconnected, requiring closer cooperation across sectors and institutions. Bringing together representatives from these different fields is essential if we are to strengthen our collective resilience and prepare for future crises."

"France and Denmark share a strong tradition of collaboration and a pragmatic approach to solving complex challenges. Beyond exchanging experiences, the ambition is to transform today's discussions into lasting partnerships and concrete initiatives. As preparedness and resilience also become increasingly European issues, continued French-Danish cooperation can also contribute to broader European efforts to strengthen health security and crisis preparedness."



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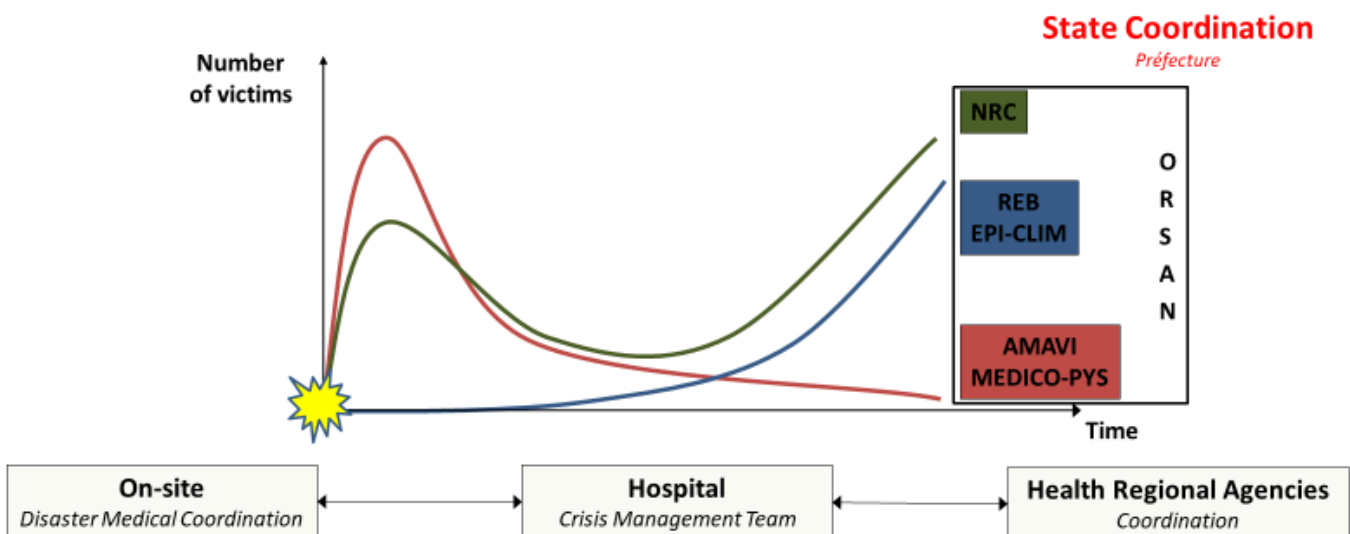
HOSPITAL CRISIS PREPAREDNESS

  **Nicolas Lefebvre**
CHU Strasbourg

Nicolas Lefebvre explained how French hospitals prepare for complex health crises such as mass casualty incidents, pandemics, cyberattacks, and industrial accidents. He outlined the French crisis management structure, including national emergency plans, regional coordination mechanisms, and local hospital preparedness plans. The presentation focused on operational continuity, digital resilience, staffing shortages, triage, communication, and the need for continuous training and adaptability. He also highlighted lessons learned from COVID-19 and the importance of integrating crisis preparedness into future hospital design.



A RISK-ADJUSTED AND COORDINATED RESPONSE



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STATE RESPONSE TOOLS AND STRATEGIES IN THE EVENT OF A SANITARY CRISIS

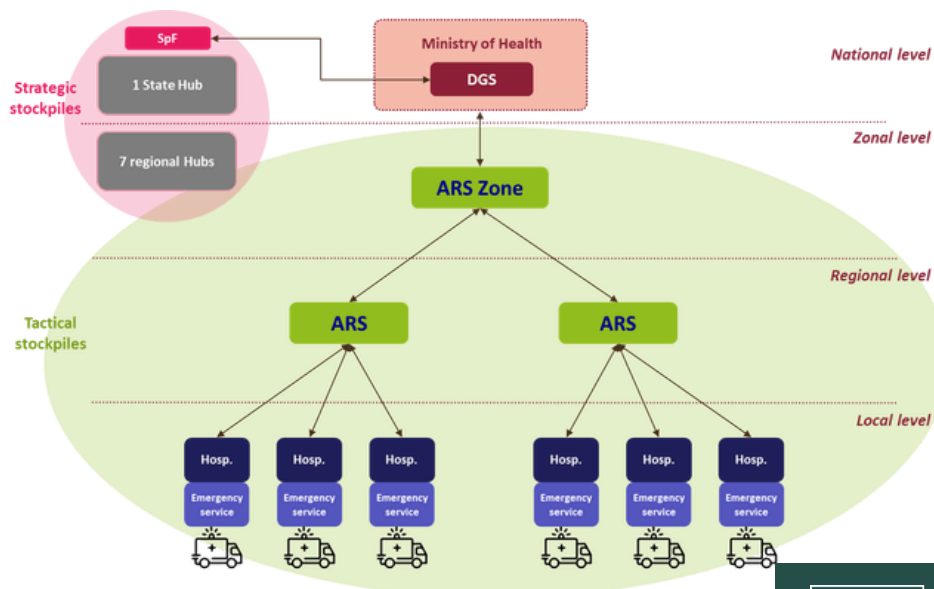


Victoire Barailles
Centre de Crises Sanitaires



Victoire Barailles presented the French national health crisis preparedness system and the newly established Center for Health Security (CHS), created in 2024 following the lessons learned from COVID-19. She described the organization's structure, focusing on the need of a continuum for anticipation, preparedness and response. She also explained France's system of strategic and tactical (regional) stockpiles for medicines, protective equipment, and emergency supplies, as well as the coordination with the EU, throughout rescEU stockpiles into the national preparedness framework. The presentation emphasized the importance of strong central coordination combined with regional operational capacity.

FRENCH HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ORGANIZATION



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CIVIL-MILITARY COLLABORATION

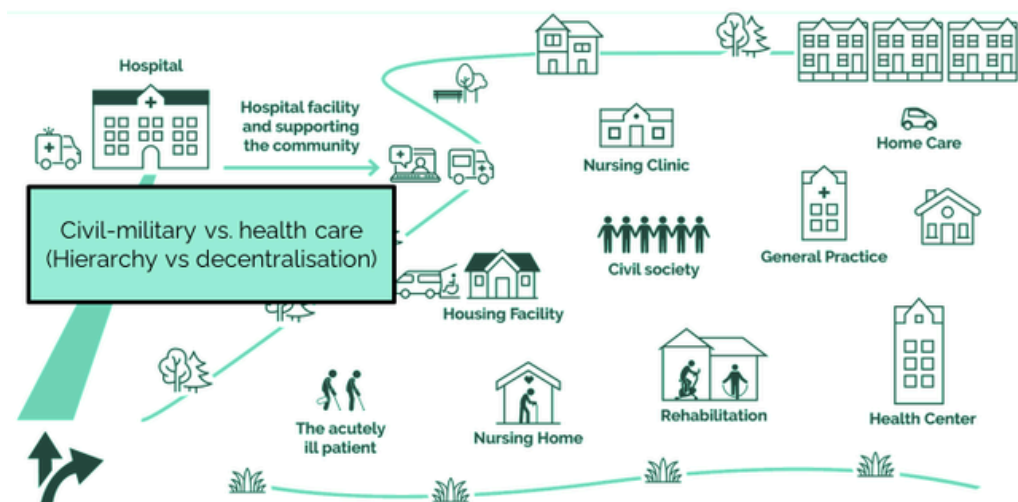


Kirstine Moll Harboe
Danish Health Authority

Kirstine Moll Harboe described how Denmark is strengthening civil-military cooperation in healthcare preparedness in response to a more severe threat landscape involving hybrid threats, cyberattacks, and potential NATO Article 5 scenarios. She explained the creation of a new civil-military unit within the Danish Health Authority, that aimed at improving cooperation between the civilian healthcare system and armed forces. The presentation focused on resilience, host nation support, mass casualty reception, supply chain security, interoperability, and coordination with NATO, the EU, and Nordic partners. She also highlighted the challenge of connecting a decentralized healthcare system with military command structures.



THE FUTURE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



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POLYCRISIS MANAGEMENT

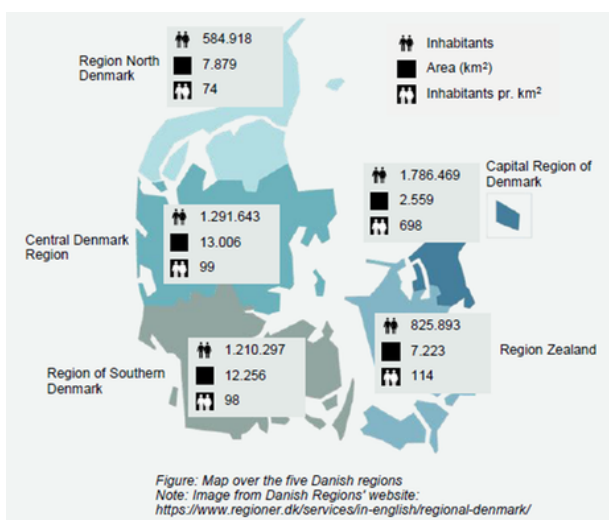


Karen Geismar
Danish Health Authority

Karen Geismar focused on the management of simultaneous and overlapping crises (“polycrises”) and argued that relationships, coordination structures, and clearly defined responsibilities are more important than maintaining numerous detailed contingency plans. She presented the Danish incident management system, where authorities, regions, and municipalities cooperate closely across sectors and governance levels. She emphasized the value of regular coordination forums and exercises in building trust and improving crisis response capabilities. There is also a focus on raising awareness in the general population and getting prepared for crisis situations with a small emergency stock.



HEALTH PREPAREDNESS: STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS AT REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL LEVEL



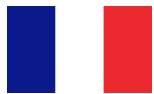
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ENERGY - PROTECTION OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



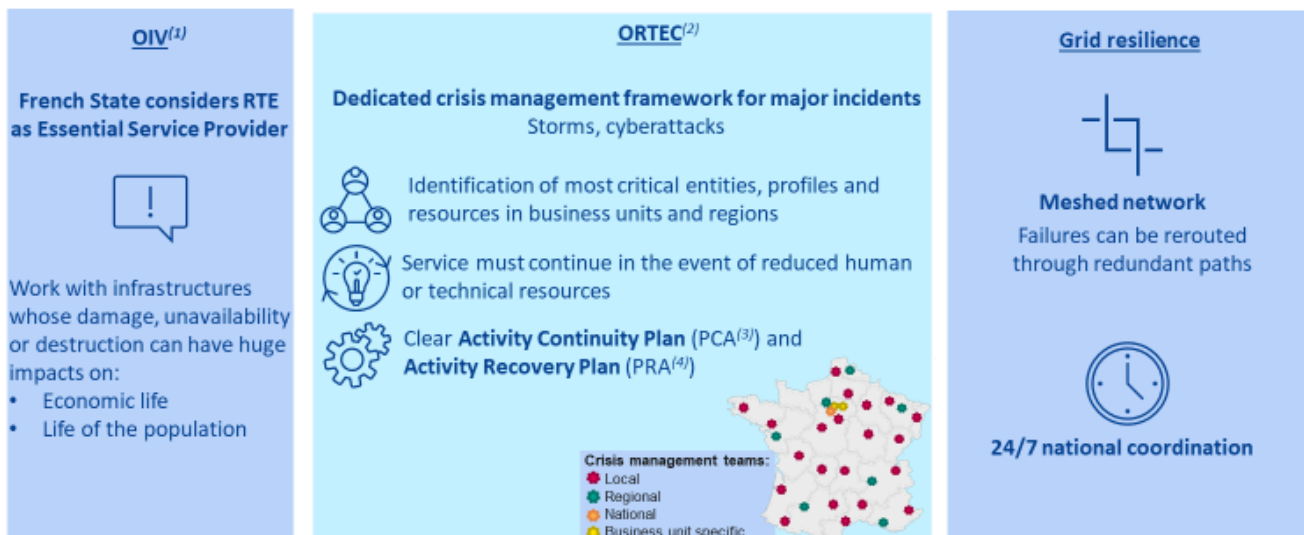
François Berthélemy

RTE - Réseau de Transport d'Electricité

François Berthélemy presented the energy sector's perspective on crisis management and highlighted the crucial role of electricity in maintaining healthcare services during major crises. He explained RTE's role as operator of the French high-voltage electricity grid and described the electricity system as a critical infrastructure upon which hospitals and emergency response systems depend. The presentation focused on how physical and cyber threats to the energy sector can directly impact healthcare preparedness and response capacities, underlining the need for resilient infrastructure, cross-sector coordination, and adaptive security frameworks in an increasingly unstable geopolitical environment.



ENSURING GRID RESILIENCE: CRISIS MANAGEMENT AT RTE



*RTE is the transmission system operator that operates France's high-voltage electricity grid and helps ensure that power is delivered reliably across the country.



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DEFENCE - INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION DURING CRISESÆ



Sandrine Duron
French Military Health Service

Sandrine Duron presented the French model for interministerial coordination between health authorities and the armed forces during major crises and potential high-intensity conflict scenarios. She described the cooperation between the civilian healthcare system and the military health service in the context of NATO scenarios and large-scale casualty management. The presentation emphasized joint planning, medical logistics, interoperable information systems, reservist management, and exercises such as the large-scale ORION military exercise. She highlighted the importance of close cooperation between ministries, regional authorities, and international organizations such as NATO and the EU.



A NEW PRIORITY: HEALTH PREPAREDNESS FOR A LARGE SCALE COMBAT OPERATION (LSCO) SCENARIO



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KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE: ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

The Rencontre Franco-Danoise de la Santé aims to encourage active knowledge exchange. Round table discussions allowed participants from healthcare authorities, hospitals, stakeholders across the healthcare, defense and energy sector, to reflect on the presentations and compare national approaches to crisis preparedness and resilience. Beneath is an overview of the key synergies that came up during the informal discussions.

Cross-sector collaboration is essential,

as healthcare preparedness increasingly depends on coordination with defense, energy, digital infrastructure, and public authorities.

Civil-military cooperation is gaining importance,

particularly regarding host nation support, mass casualty management, medical logistics, and healthcare support during conflict scenarios.

Digital resilience is a growing priority,

with discussions focusing on cybersecurity, IT dependencies, contingency planning, and maintaining healthcare services during digital disruptions.

Preparedness requires anticipation and training,

including information sharing across local, regional, and national levels, regular exercises, and clear crisis management structures.

Resilience requires balancing sovereignty and solidarity,

raising questions about supply security, pharmaceutical production, strategic reserves, and international cooperation.

France and Denmark are complementary,

offering valuable opportunities for mutual learning on topics such as planning, stockpiling, digitalization, crisis governance, and healthcare resilience.



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