

Location Workshop

Vertretung des Landes Niedersachsen bei der
Europäischen Union
Rue Montoyer 61
B-1000 Bruxelles

Tel: +32 2 230 0017
Fax: +32 2 230 1320
poststelle@lv.niedersachsen.eu

To participate online,
please contact us!



Contact

Wiebke Lisner
Lisner.wiebke@mh-hannover.de

Jonathan Voges
Jonathan.voges@hist.uni-hannover.de

Please register by 10 March 2026

Workshop

The "Age of Preparedness"? Historical Notions and Present Reactions Towards (Health) Threats in the European Union



23 March 2026

© BKK

Funded by:



Niedersachsen

To the “Age of Preparedness”?

How do societies come to terms with the fact that there are complex threats out there from which they cannot be protected and which will surely strike them? What role can the EU play in preparedness efforts? What does this mean for the construction of an European identity?

We want to discuss the historical roots, the possible practical present and future responses to threats and anticipated crises (especially but not only) in the realm of health. What are the consequences of a transition from the “Age of Prevention” to the “Age of Preparedness” or even the “Age of Resilience”?

Workshop Programme

Monday, 23 March 2026

8.45 **Welcome Coffee**

9.00-11.00 **Researching Prevention, Preparedness and Resilience: Historical Roots of Contemporary Strategies**

Chair: Cornelia Rauh (Leibniz University Hannover)

*Wiebke Lisner (Hannover Medical School) and
Jonathan Voges (Leibniz University Hannover, ZZF Potsdam)*
Introduction: “Are you Ready?” Preparedness and the new
“Culture of Security” since the 1990s

Christian Sammer (Ruprecht Karls-University Heidelberg)
From Sanitation to The Biggest Loser. Prevention as Modern
Interventions into Lifestyles and Living Conditions

11.00-11.15 **Coffee Break**

11.15-13.15 **Prevention, Preparedness and Resilience Strategies to Counter All Hazards?**

Chairs: Wiebke Lisner/ Jonathan Voges

Frédéric Keck (Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin and CNRS-Collège de France-EHESS)

Techniques of Preparedness and Animist Modes of Thinking : What Europe Can Learn from Virus Hunters in China

Nadja Thiessen (TU Darmstadt)

Remember, Prepare, Adapt: Floods and Heavy Rain Between Historical Experience and Future Resilience

Carola Dietze

Prevention, Preparedness, Resilience and Terrorism 19th - 21st Century

13.15-14.15 **Lunch**

14.15-15.15 **Roundtable: Policies of Prevention, Preparedness and Resilience in the EU**

Chair: Ulf Schmidt (Hamburg University)

Cornelius Schmaltz (European Commission, Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, DG HERA)

Thomas Hofmann (European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, ECDC)

Gülşah Gabriel (Spokesperson for the Leibniz Lab “Pandemic Preparedness: One Health, One Future” & Head of the Department of Viral Zoonoses at the Leibniz Institute of Virology, Hamburg)

Prof. Dr. Heiko Stoff (Hannover Medical School, Institute for Ethics, History and Philosophy of Medicine)

15.15-16.15 **Closing Remarks**

Bernd Gausemeier (Hannover Medical School)

Discussion: Connecting Research and Policies: Future Plans, Projects etc

Chairs: Wiebke Lisner, Jonathan Voges