

# Consolidation of WGS/RT-PCR and infrastructure processes in surveillance and outbreak investigation activities – HERA 2



## What is HERA 2?

HERA 2, the follow-up project of HERA in 2011, aims to **consolidate whole genome sequencing (WGS) and RT-PCR activities** and to ensure the **integration of the enhanced infrastructure into routine surveillance and outbreak investigation activities**, in synergy with relevant on-going work at the **international level**. The focus will be the **joint continuation of automation, optimization, and validation of WGS/RT-PCR capacities** and establishment and validation of NGS (next generation sequencing) methods and on the **distribution and harmonization of knowledge** among consortium members and other relevant stakeholders.

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## The Goals of HERA 2:

- Establishing a sustainable, efficient, and high-performing WGS and RT-PCR infrastructure for the expansion of microbiology in the national health care system
- Improved routine genome-based surveillance of infectious diseases
- Early detection and enhanced surveillance of emerging and known SARS-CoV-2 variants
- Improved preparedness for timely and cross-border detection of infectious disease outbreaks and pandemics in the future

## The HERA 2 consortium:

Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety – AGES (Austria)



Ethnikos Organismos Dimosias Ygeias – NPHO, EODY (Greece)



Nemzeti Népegészségügyi és Gyógyszerészeti Központ – NCPHP (Hungary)



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