

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

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- A(H5N1) Avian & Human influenza – none
- “INSIDE” events:
  - West Nile – Italy
  - Rabies - Albania
  - Malaria – Greece
- “OUTSIDE” events – none

Location: World

Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic/Human

Comments

No new event has been reported this week

### **REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA** *(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)*

Location: Italy

Event: West Nile

Comments

- The Italian health authorities reported for 2012 a first case of West Nile virus (WNV) in a horse in the North of Sardinia, in Badesi, Ogliastra province. (cf. map 1).
- The sample has been taken on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and analyzed by the [laboratory of virology](#), in the frame of WNV surveillance. IgM were positive for WNV, showing a recent circulation of the virus in the country.
- It is the first equine case of WNV reported for the 2012 season in Italy.

- Last year, WNV circulation was already identified in humans and equine in Sardinia.
- In 2011, 15 provinces have been affected by WN in Italy and 14 human cases were reported in 6 different provinces.
- Considering the 2010 and 2011 dynamics of the WNV epidemic in the Mediterranean area, it is not excluded that an epidemic may occur again this year in Italy and more generally in the Mediterranean area.
- Among the 27 EpiSouth countries, 9 countries reported WNV circulation in human and/or equine in 2011 (cf. [Note on 2010 & 2011 seasons WNV circulation in EpiSouth countries](#)).

**Map 1. Ogliastra province, Sardinia, Italy**



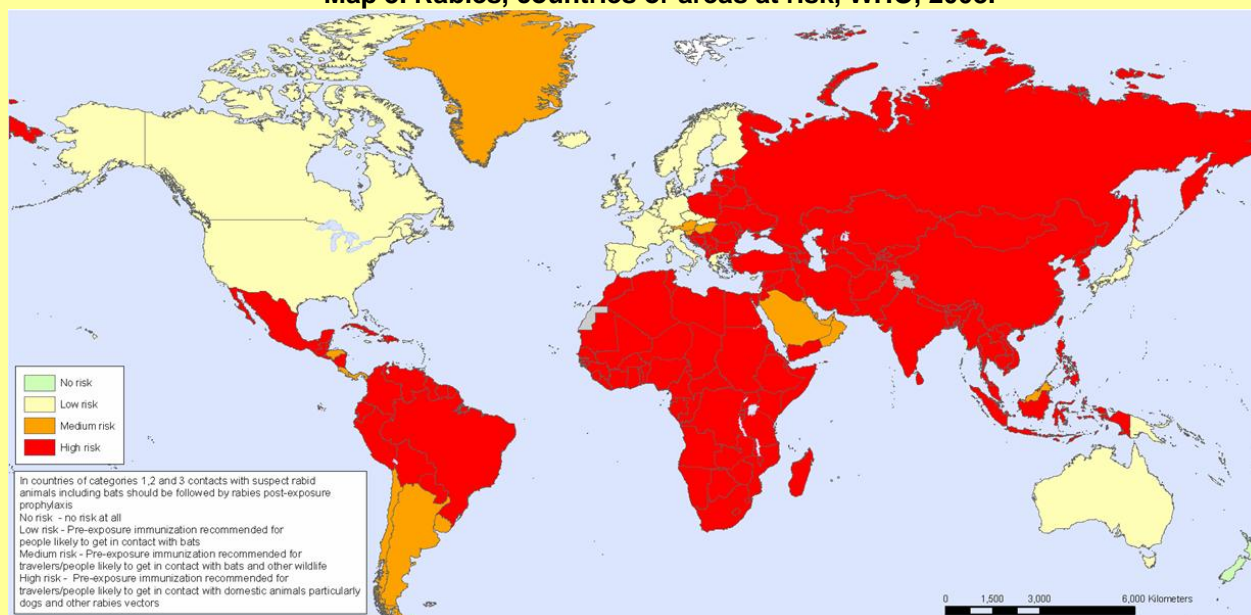
- On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012, Albanian authorities reported to [OIE](#) one new case of rabies in a dog in Kukes, in the North East of the country (cf. map 2).
- The animal was a house dog which may have been exposed to wildlife. Cases in domestic animals are usually linked to wildlife.
- It has been two years and a half that rabies had not been reported in Kukes region.
- Albanian authorities implemented measures including the control of wildlife reservoirs and movement inside the country and the vaccination of dogs in Kukes region.

Map 2. Kukes region, Albania.



- During the past years, sporadic cases have been reported in the Balkan region.
- In the region, the last cases have been reported in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in 2012 (cf. [eWEB n°219](#)) and in Albania in 2009.
- In 2008, the Balkan region was still considered as high risk for rabies by WHO (cf. map 3).
- In other EpiSouth countries, France and Italy reported already rabies cases:
  - In France, a case was reported in a puppy imported from Morocco in August 2011 (cf. [eWEB 177](#)).
  - In Italy, rabies cases (mainly in foxes) are regularly reported, in the North East of the country (Veneto and Friuli especially). Since 2008, the number of cases increased from 9 (in 2008) to 202 (in 2010, cf. [eWEB n°123](#)).

Map 3. Rabies, countries or areas at risk, WHO, 2008.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: WHO Rabnet/CDC  
 Map Production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)  
 World Health Organization



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- On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012, the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([HCDCP](#)) reported one case of *P. vivax* malaria in a Greek citizen. The case was:
  - A 78 years old male;
  - With no recent travel history in malaria endemic countries;
  - The patient resided in Menidi (East Attica). However, the possible site of disease transmission is the Marathon area (East Attica, cf. map 4).
  - The area has been investigated to detect additional cases in the area and control measures for malaria including case investigation, cases finding, reinforcement of rapid diagnostic tests of malaria, information of the public and health care personnel, have been implemented by the Greek authorities.
  - No additional case has been reported so far.
- This case is the second case reported in Greece for 2012:
- The 1<sup>st</sup> reported case in 2012 was reported in a Moroccan migrant early April 2012, in Evrotas municipality (Laconia region), where a cluster with local transmission had been documented in 2011. This case is thus likely to have been contaminated in 2011.
- In 2011, two cases were already reported in East Attica among which 1 in Marathon area in August 2011.

- In Greece, *P. vivax* malaria cases have already been reported in 2009-2011, mainly in Laconia prefecture.
- Between 21<sup>st</sup> May and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011, 63 cases have been reported including 57 in Evrotas municipality (Laconia prefecture) and 6 cases in other prefectures among which 2 in East Attica (cf. [eWEB n°184](#)).
- Among the 57 cases of Laconia:
  - 27 were reported in Greek citizens with no recent travel history
  - while 30 cases were reported in migrant workers.
  - Among them, at least 10 did no travel during the last 3 years (cases were probably autochthonous).
- The recent report of cases in Marathon is likely to indicate that there is an on-going *P. vivax* circulation in Greece and more especially raises the question of its extension to other areas than Laconia. This risk of extension should be carefully considered and monitored.
- To date, the potential risk of exportation in neighbouring countries remains low. However, the establishment of a limited local cycle of transmission in 2011 in Greece underlined the potential risk posed by malaria across the Mediterranean.

Map 4. East Attica, Greece

