INDEX e-WEB n°241

- A(H5N1) Human & Avian influenza - None
- “INSIDE” events: Malaria - Greece
  West Nile – Tunisia
- “OUTSIDE” events: None

Report of new health events occurring inside the EpiSouth area

On 22 October 2012, The Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) reported 5 new malaria P. vivax autochthonous cases in Greece.

- 2 cases are located in Karditsa regional unit, Thessaly region (cf. map 1). It is the first time that this area is reporting autochthonous malaria P. vivax cases.
  According to KEELPNO, these cases are considered to have a direct epidemiological relation with a cluster of 8 imported cases.

- 3 other cases were reported in Laconia regional unit, Peloponnese region.

These 5 cases had onset of symptoms between weeks 38 and 42 (between 17 September and 21 October).

To date, a total of 16 autochthonous cases infected in 2012 has been reported in 4 different regions in Greece:
  - 4 in East Attica regional unit. The first autochthonous malaria case was reported on 18 June 2012 (cf. eWEB n°224).
  - 8 in Laconia regional unit, Peloponnese region.
  - 1 in Xanthi regional unit, East of Macedonia and Thrace region.
  - 2 in Karditsa regional unit, Thessaly region.

No new event has been reported this week

The occurrence of new cases in Laconia regional unit was not unexpected considering the establishment of a local transmission cycle of P. vivax malaria in this area.

On 1 October 2010, one case was reported in Xanthi regional unit. It was the first time that this area reported P. vivax autochthonous cases.

The report of a P. vivax malaria case in the new area of Karditsa regional unit strongly suggests an extension of the circulation of malaria in other areas in Greece.
Map 1. Place of residence of the malaria cases without reported history of travel to malaria-endemic areas. Greece, 01/01 until 22/10/2012 (n=16), source KEELPNO.
On 30 October 2012, the Ministry of Health in Tunisia reported to EpiSouth 10 additional WNV cases in humans (cf. map 2). Cases were reported in several governorates:

- Mahdia (4 cases)
- Bizerte (2 cases in Bizerte and Menzel Bourguiba)
- Kebili (1 case)
- Jendouba (1 case)
- Sousse (1 case)
- One case was hospitalised in Tunis (the place of infection is not specified yet)

To date, a total of 33 WNV human cases including 3 deaths has been reported in Tunisia in 2012. The last WNV human cases were reported on 19 October 2012 (cf. eWEB n° 240).

To date, for the 2012 season, a total of 344 WNV infections (clinical and confirm cases) in humans have been reported in 11 EpiSouth countries (cf. map 2):

- Algeria (1)
- Croatia (5)
- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (6)
- Greece (109 confirmed WNND cases)
- Israel (61)
- Italy (45)
- Kosovo (4)
- Palestine (2)
- Romania (14)
- Serbia (64)
- Tunisia (33)

For Algeria, Croatia, Kosovo, Serbia, it is the first year that WNV infections in humans were reported.

In 2010, 485 human WNV infections were reported in 9 countries, while in 2011 232 WNV human infections were reported in 8 countries.