



The screenshot shows the EpiSouth website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Participating Countries and Institutions', 'Events', 'Bulletins', 'Directories', 'News', and 'Contact'. Below the menu, there are sections for 'Activities of the Network' (listing projects like 'The EpiSouth Plus Project 2010 - 2013' and 'The EpiSouth Project 2006 - 2010'), 'The Network' (with a map of the Mediterranean region), 'News from the EpiSouth Region', and 'Funders'. A 'Member's Area' link is also visible.

### EpiSouth Events

The EpiSouth-Plus Final Conference took place in Rome, Italy on 20-21 November 2013

[Read more](#)

EpiSouth network was presented at the Meeting of ECDC National Focal Points for Threat Detection, Stockholm, Sweden 4 November 2013

[Agenda and presentation](#)

The WP4-MRLN activities were presented at the ISNTD Bites Conference, London, UK 15 October 2013

[Agenda and presentation](#)

### EpiSouth Documents

Thematic notes on impact of MERS CoV on epidemic preparedness in view of Hajj 2013 and wild Polio virus re-emergence in the Mediterranean

[Thematic note on MERS CoV](#)

[Thematic note on wild Polio](#)

The 4th biannual technical report is available on-line

[Read More](#)

### In this issue:

- **EpiSouth Events:** The EpiSouth-Plus Final Conference and presentation of the network activities at different conferences and meetings.
- **EpiSouth Documents:** Thematic notes on MERS CoV in view of Hajj 2013 and wild Polio re-emergence, and 4th biannual technical report.
- **EpiSouth Activities:** Four new EpiSouth-Plus reports and activities related to the "Nautilus" simulation exercise.
- **EpiSouth Network:** Current status of the EpiSouth Network.
- **Focus Topic:** West Nile virus risk assessment tool developed by ECDC

### EpiSouth Activities

Four new EpiSouth-Plus reports are now available

- [Report 1/2011](#): Level of implementation of IHR-2005 in the EpiSouth region
- [Report 4/2012](#): Public health preparedness and response core capacity assessment
- [Report 8/2013](#): Needs assessment of the laboratories
- [Report 9/2013](#): training on West Nile and biosafety II in the laboratory

Workshop for the preparation of the simulation exercise and connected use of the EpiS for EpiSouth platform as well as the EpiSouth "Nautilus" simulation exercise were held in September and October.

[Preparatory workshop](#)

["Nautilus" Simulation Exercise](#)

### The EpiSouth Network

Starting as an EU project, the EpiSouth Network struggled to develop its Mediterranean vocation. From an initial involvement of 5 countries (Italy, Spain, France, Greece, and Bulgaria), it finally includes ALL the Mediterranean countries (27 countries from Southern Europe, Balkans, Middle East, and Northern Africa) and partners from collaborating institutions.

The EpiSouth Project has been closed in June 2010 but the network activities are continuing in 2010-2013 through the EU-funded Project called "EpiSouth Plus".

[Participating Countries and Institutions](#)

[Project Outline](#)

### Focus Topic

West Nile virus (WNV) is an emerging pathogen whose ecology and epidemiology extend across multiple interfaces. As the epidemiology and transmission cycle of WNV is complex, assessing the risk of WNV being transmitted to humans is not always straightforward. Therefore, the European Center for Disease Control (ECDC) has developed a WNV risk assessment tool to provide operational guidance in support of the risk assessment process.

The tool specifically addresses two questions: definition of geographically affected areas and areas at risk of WNV transmission and the triggering of an alert for potential human WNV infection using indicators from different surveillance systems.

[Read the technical report](#)

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The EpiSouth-Plus Project is co-funded by the European Union [DG-SANCO/EAHC](#) and [DEVCO/EuropeAid](#) together with the participating national partner Institutions. The financial support of the [Italian Ministry of Health](#) and [ECDC](#) is also acknowledged. The project is led by the [Italian National Institute of Health](#) and counseled by an Advisory Board composed by EC, ECDC, WHO and other international experts.

The contents of this bulletin are the sole responsibility of the EpiSouth Dissemination Team, co-led by the Italian National Institute of Health and the [Institute of Public Health of Montenegro](#), and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the EU.

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