

## **The contribution of the EpiSouth Network to strengthening preparedness against cross border health threats in the Mediterranean**

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<http://www.episouthnetwork.org>

<http://www.episouthnetwork.org/content/episouth-video>

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# The EpiSouth Network (2007- 2013)

has been the biggest inter-country effort in the Mediterranean region representing a unique collaborative experience in a geographical area with common public health problems that is not addressed, as a whole, neither by the European Union nor by WHO



The screenshot shows the EpiSouth website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Participating Countries and Institutions', 'Events', 'Bulletins', 'Directories', 'News', and 'Contact'. Below this is a search bar and language options for English, Français, and العربية. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Activities of the Network' (listing 'The EpiSouth Plus Project 2010 - 2013' and 'The EpiSouth Project 2006 - 2010'), 'The Network' (with a map of the Mediterranean region), 'Member's Area' (with a login button), 'News from the EpiSouth Region', and 'Funders'. The footer includes a note about the project being led by the Italian National Institute of Health and funded by the European Union, EC, ECDC, WHO, and other international experts.

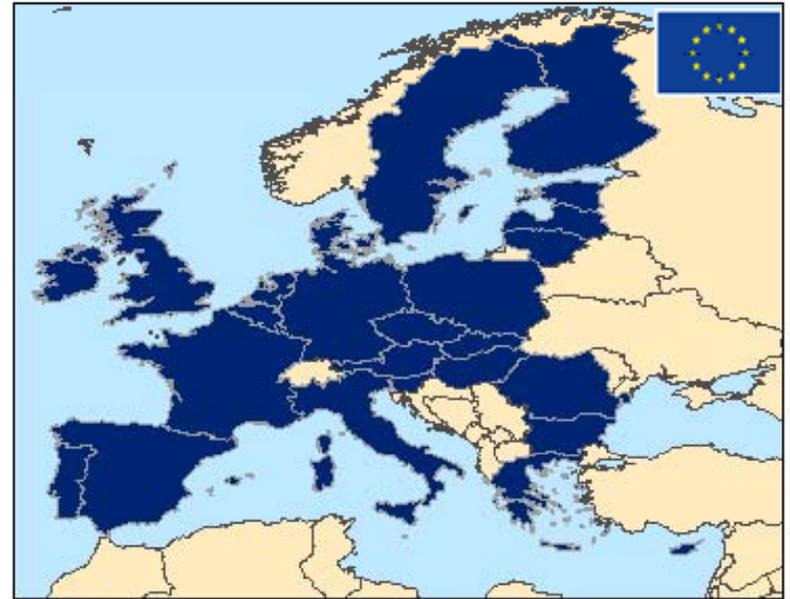
## EpiSouth



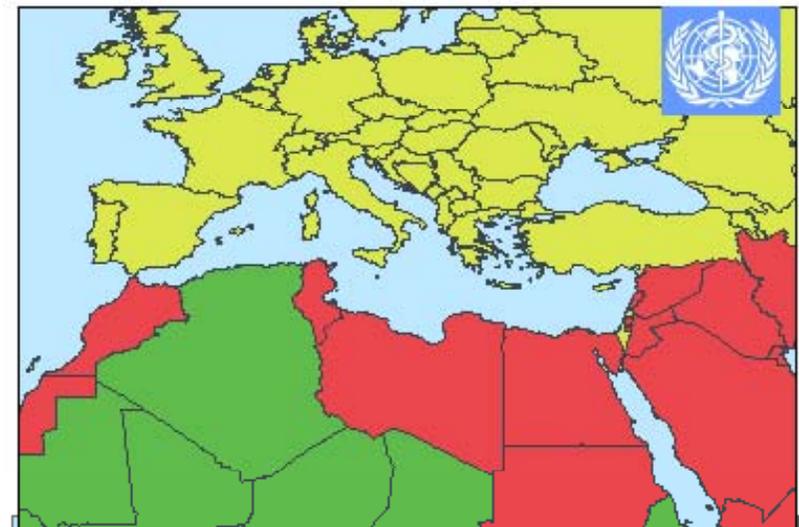
27 Participating countries

- 9 EU
- 6 Middle East
- 5 North-Africa
- 7 Balkans

## EU (27 countries)



## WHO Regions



■ EURO ■ EMRO ■ AFRO

## EpiSouth Plus Project (2010-2013)

“To enhance and strengthen the preparedness to face common health threats and biosecurity risks among the Mediterranean area and SE Europe, in the framework of the IHR”

### **OBJECTIVES (LINES OF ACTIVITIES)**

- Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories Network
- **Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management**
- Enhancing Mediterranean Early Warning Systems and cross-border Epidemic Intelligence
- **Facilitating IHR 2005 implementation**

## ❖ Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management

### **COLEADERSHIP**

Spain (ISCIII), Algeria (NIPH), Serbia (IPH)

### **STEERING TEAM**

Egypt (MoH), Greece (HCDCP/KEELPNO), Lebanon (MPH), Malta (MoH), Romania (IPH/ISPB), Syria (MoH),

## ❖ Facilitating IHR 2005 implementation

### **COLEADERSHIP**

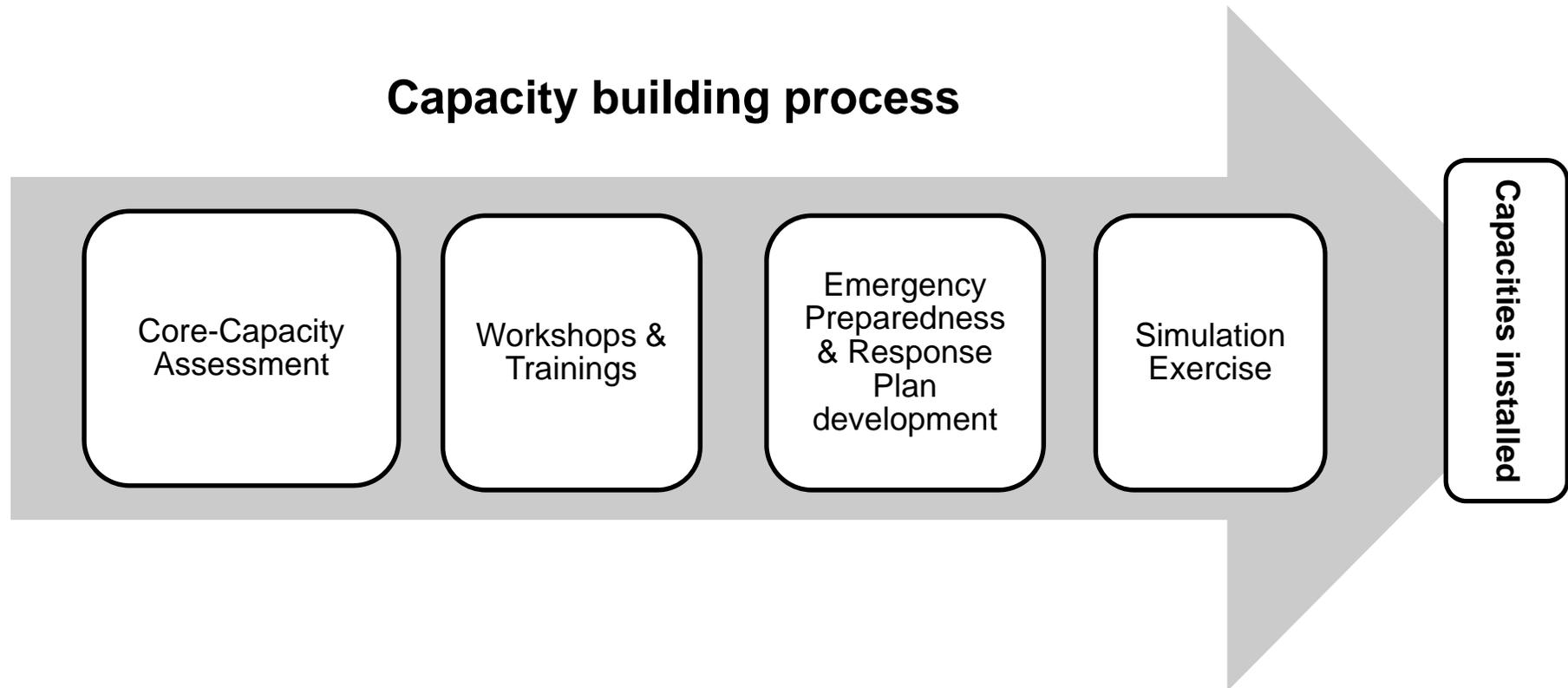
Italy (ISS), WHO-GCR

### **STEERING TEAM**

Albania (IPH), Bulgaria (NCIPD), Cyprus (MoH), Greece (HCDCP/KEELPNO), Israel (MoH), Jordan (MoH), Morocco (MoH), SEEHN, Slovenia (NIPH/IVZ), Tunisia (MoH)

## Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management

### Capacity building process



## Approach to data collection

- Survey (semi-structured questionnaire, 21/27 countries)

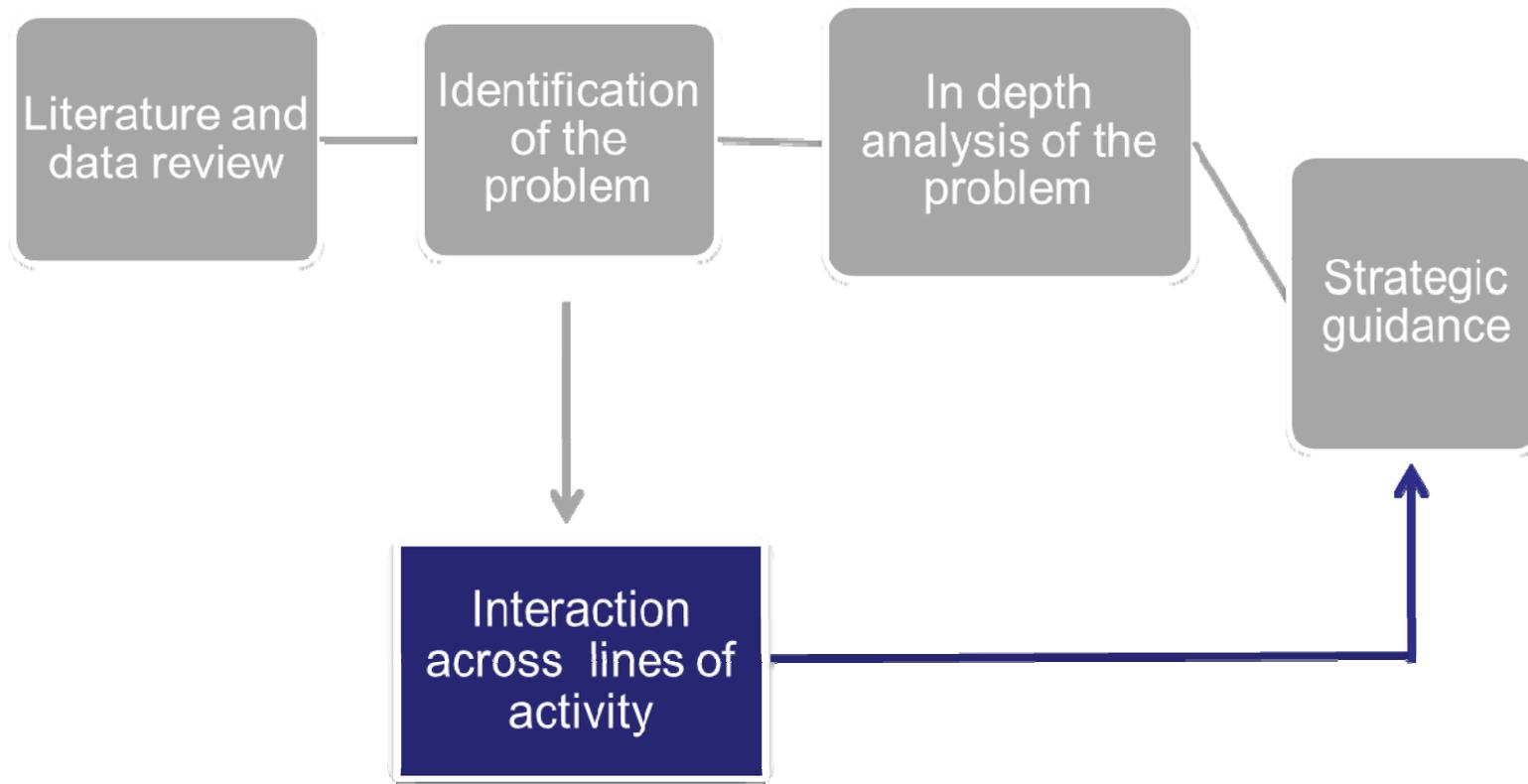
## Gaps and Training Priorities

- No generic preparedness and response plans
- Specific plans available but not always responding to identified regional PH risks
- Training priorities: scientific risk assessment, epidemiological intelligence, communication with vulnerable populations, evaluation

## Results

- 4 focussed trainings involving 90 participants (28 from EU MS and 62 from non-EU MS), workshops
- A Simulation exercise involving over 250 people in 20 countries
  - successful in testing national core-capacities in emergency preparedness/response and identifying opportunities for improvement
- Emergency Preparedness Planning (EPREP) Tool.

## Facilitating IHR implementation



## Approach to data collection

- Literature Review, Consensus workshops
- EpiSouth national situation-analysis (ENSA-Study)

## Regional Priority

- Coordination of surveillance between Points of Entry (PoE) and National Health Systems

## Results

- Italy, Malta, Jordan and Morocco participated in the [ENSA-study](#).
- Four strategic lines for improving surveillance coordination at PoE:
  - invest on a legal framework linking IHR national focal-points with Competent Health Authorities (CHA);
  - ensure the presence of CHA at PoE;
  - elaborate/update relevant protocols processes and procedures;
  - ensure, through training, correct and consistent application of protocols, processes and procedures.



# Bridging epidemiology to PH policies

Sectors	Outputs		Long Term Outcomes and Impact (*)
	Activities	Strategic Documents	
Training on preparedness and risk management	Four modules plus two workshops and one Simulation exercise conducted. Development of the EPREP tool.	Capacity building development regarding Preparedness Plan and Risk management procedures (January 2014)	EC and ECDC and funded consortia for projects on training on preparedness (CELESTE Consortium) and on preparedness tool development (PERPHECT Consortium) in the framework of EC decision No 1082/2013/EU on serious cross border threats to health (start Dec 2013).
Facilitating IHR implementation	Conduction of the EpiSouth Plus National Situation Analysis on coordination of surveillance between points of entry and health systems (ENSA) with production of four country reports	Coordination of epidemiological surveillance between points of entry and the national health system in the framework of the international health regulations 2005 in the EpiSouth region (January 2014)	<p><b>Project 39</b> (Strengthening health security at ports, airports and ground crossings) funded by EC DEVCO (start Jan 2014)</p> <p><b>Document:</b> WHO “Coordinated public health surveillance between points of entry and national health surveillance systems”, (2014)  <a href="http://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO_HSE_GCR_LYO_2014.12/en/">http://www.who.int/ihr/publications/WHO_HSE_GCR_LYO_2014.12/en/</a></p>

*(\*) Activities financed subsequently for further development, through projects involving countries of the EpiSouth Network/ Tools or documents subsequently developed that draw from the EpiSouth Network experience*

## Acknowledgements

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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.



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