

# EpiSouth – Stage on Epidemic Intelligence at ISS

**Organizing Institution** National Centre of Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Promotion (ISS)

**Tutor** Flavia Riccardo

**Office** Unit of Communicable Disease Epidemiology

**E-mail** [flavia.riccardo@iss.it](mailto:flavia.riccardo@iss.it)

---

## Introduction:

EpiSouth is organizing a set of stages involving the network's participating countries in order to widen the general knowledge on epidemic intelligence and focus on practical aspects useful to its implementation at country level. Organizing institutions are the InVS (Paris), where the stages have been held last March 2013, the ISS (Rome) and the ISCIII (Madrid). These training moments are also an opportunity to enable participating EpiSouth Focal Points to acquire familiarity with the EpiSouth platform for early alerting and prepare for its use during the forthcoming simulation exercise that will be carried out by the network under the guidance of the WP5 team.

## Description:

On the job stage on epidemic intelligence with tutors selected among staff actively involved in EI activities at country level and internationally.

## Goals:

1. Understand the basic principles and technicalities of Epidemic Intelligence
2. Experiment with existing tools to verify the applicability of EI in your own Country
3. Acquire competence on the functioning of the EpiSouth Platform for sharing of information of public health relevance in the EpiSouth Region also in view of the forthcoming Simulation Exercise

## Requirements:

Ideally the participants should be selected from countries planning to establish (or in the process of establishing) national EI activity,

A total of 2 trainees from non EU-countries will be selected for the stage at ISS-Rome.

## Trainees:

-  Should be EpiSouth focal points or should work in close relation with EpiSouth focal points
-  Should have epidemiological background and a minimum good knowledge of their Country's needs in terms of national public health priorities, surveillance systems,
-  Should be comfortable in working in English and have IT literacy (use of internet browsers, office package, familiarity with databases is needed)
-  Be prepared to attend in advance of the training the e-course prepared by ECDC on Epidemic Intelligence

Basic information on the candidates' prior knowledge and expectations will be collected in a pre-course assessment

## Resources:

Practical sessions on computers with tutors will be organized throughout the stage.

## Evaluation:

The stage will be evaluated through a brief questionnaire at the end of the training session.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic	Required Reading	Required actions
<b>Sept 2-6</b>	Generalities on Epidemic Intelligence	ECDC online training <a href="http://external.ecdc.europa.eu/EI_Tutorial/course.htm">http://external.ecdc.europa.eu/EI_Tutorial/course.htm</a>	<b>Completion of online training.</b> Email any questions/ aspects that you would like to deepen during the stage to the Tutor ( <a href="mailto:flavia.riccardo@iss.it">flavia.riccardo@iss.it</a> )
<b>Sept 9-12</b>	Specificities and performance of epidemic intelligence platforms	<a href="http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0057252">http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0057252</a>  Additional reading material may be provided	<b>Reading of suggested articles</b>  Completion of <b>pre-course assessment</b>
<b>Sept 16-17</b>	Episouth Simulation Exercise	Meeting at ISS premises	Presence at the episouth meeting
<b>Sept 17- 20</b>	Stage on Epidemic Intelligence at ISS	Additional reading material will be provided at the beginning of the course	Daily presence from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm