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Regional Project News







EpiSouth Plus Project will focus on coordination of health surveillance in

24-08-2011

27 countries

The first Steering Team Meeting of the EpiSouth Plus Project Work Package 7 (WP7) resulted in the identification of "coordination of surveillance and response between Points of Entry and National systems" as a priority area for the project to focus on, as well as the development of a framework for collaboration between Work Package 7 (WP7) and other WPs in the context of International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 implementation.

A press release said the meeting, held in Rome on 20 and 21 July, was attended by the WP7 Steering Team and representatives of all the Work Packages of the project. During this meeting, data for the EpiSouth region concerning IHR implementation collected by WHO were presented and participants from nine countries provided their views on the national priorities for the acquisition of IHR core capacities.

WP7, co-led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS), aims to improve capacities required by the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), identified among those considered as priorities in the EpiSouth region. Given its focus, this work package is also complementary to the other technical Work Packages of the Project (WP4 -Mediterranean regional laboratory network, WP5 - Generic preparedness plan and risk management procedures and WP6 - Early warning system and cross-border epidemic intelligence) as the general aim is to reinforce surveillance and response to health threats.

The activities of the EpiSouth Network started in October 2006 with the involvement of 9 EU Member States. It worked for the past four years in enhancing communicable disease surveillance in the Mediterranean region and now includes 27 countries (9 EU and 17 non-EU, plus one candidate country). It is therefore the biggest inter-country collaborative effort of this kind in the region.

EpiSouth Plus is co-ordinated by the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS) and co-funded by the EU Public Health Programme (DG SANCO) and EuropeAid with an amount of €3.9 million together with the involved Public Health Institutes and Ministries of Health. (ENPI Info Centre)

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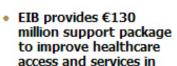
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