



Republic of Albania
Ministry of Health



Dr. Silvia Declich

Instituto Superiore di Sanita

Rome, Italy

Re: Invitation to a joint MoH Albania, WHO, UNICEF and Regional Development Center on Communicable Diseases subregional meeting: ***Shared solutions to common threats – vaccination and vulnerable populations in South East Europe, 28-29 April, 2011, Tirana, Albania.***

Dear Dr. Declich

We are pleased to invite you to attend the subregional meeting on ***Shared solutions to common threats – vaccination and vulnerable populations in South East Europe***, that is organised by **MoH Albania jointly with WHO, UNICEF and the Regional Development Center on Communicable Diseases on 28-29 April, 2011 in Tirana, Albania during European Immunization Week**

The working language of the meeting will be English.

The meeting is intended to bring together national level experts in immunization and vulnerable populations from South East European and EU countries they share borders with. The meeting will open on 28 April and will close on 29 April afternoon. The main scope of the meeting is to develop a common regional platform reflecting the best practices and solutions of SEE country immunization programs to control and prevent the spread and reemergence of vaccine-preventable diseases in every community. Please find attached the draft program and background information.

We would kindly ask you to nominate two experts on immunization and vulnerable populations to participate in the meeting.

We would very much appreciate your nomination before 13 April, 2011 and ask that you communicate the names and contact details of your nominees to the email address below. All expenses for SEE countries, related to participation in this meeting, will be covered by WHO and UNICEF country offices in Albania.

All details of the meeting will be directly communicated to the nominated persons. For more information please contact Dr. Silvia Bino at silviabino@gmail.com, SEEidcdcenter@gmail.com, 355672059563 and Brunilda Llakmani at BRL@euro.who.int, 355694076101.

We look forward to further collaboration on this important issue and hope to make the European Immunization Week a success, for our countries and the Region.

Yours sincerely



Petrit Vasili
Minister



Ledia Lazeri
Head, WHO Country Office, a.i.



Detlef Palm
UNICEF Representative

EPISOUTH PROJECT

ACCESS TO VACCINATION AMONG MOBILE POPULATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION



*Vaccination and vulnerable populations
in South East Europe*

Tirana 28-29 April, 2011

Mira Kojouharova (Leader of EpiSouth WP7)

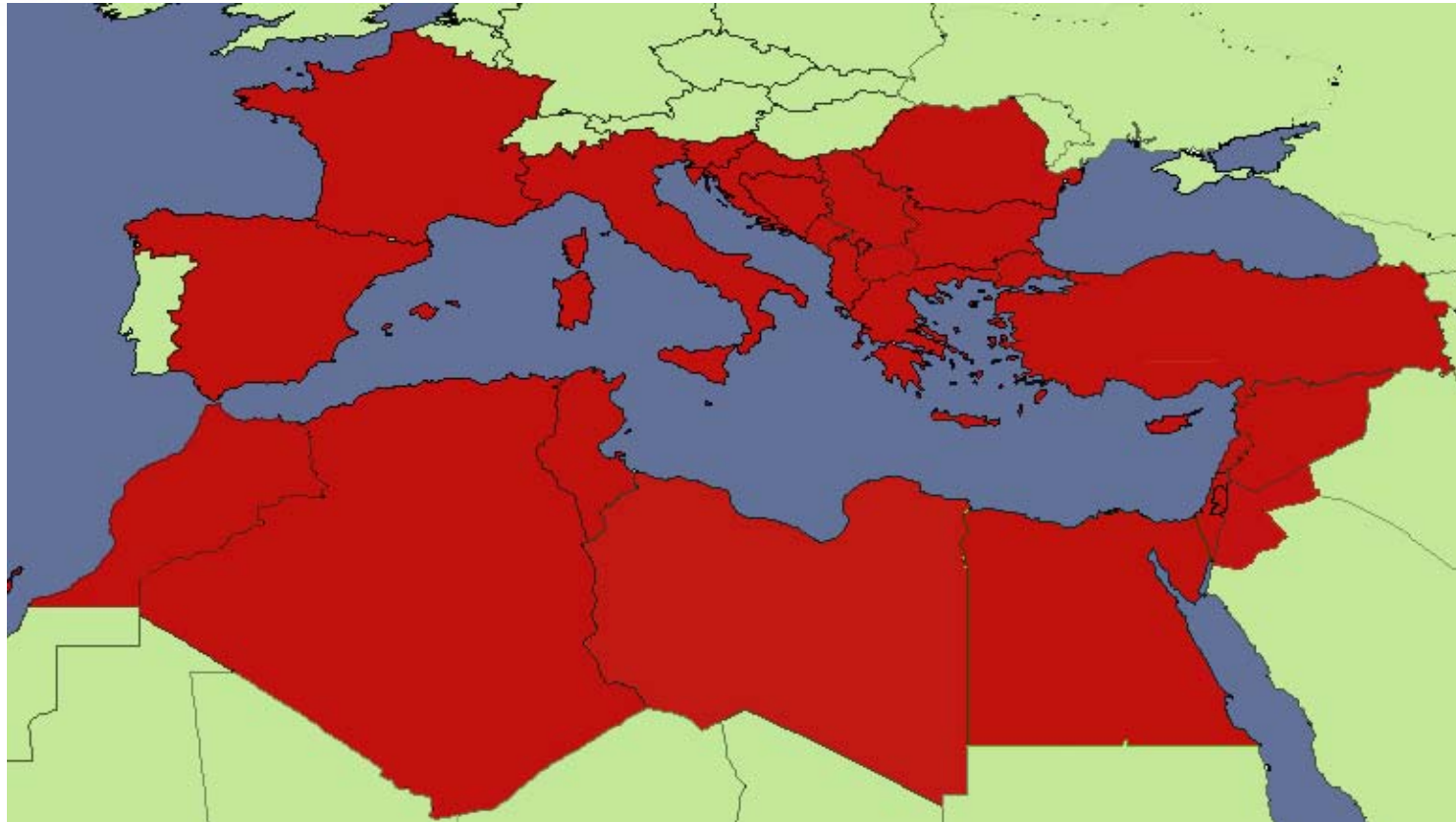
Flavia Riccardo, Maria Grazia Dente and Silvia Declich (EpiSouth Coordination Team)





EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



 Countries as per September 2010



④ The project is composed by 8 Work Packages (WPs)

④ Objectives of WP7: Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations:

④ To assess access to immunization of migrant populations and immigrants

④ To collect data and exchange information on cases/outbreaks of VPDs in this target group

④ To provide an overview of existing programmes for monitoring and improving migrant populations' immunisation coverage and formulate recommendations.



... But also

- To strength capacity building in participating countries for a better organization of the national immunization programme.
- To ensure better possibility for early detection of regional health threats, related to VPD through the network of EpiSouth epidemiologists

Assessment of vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations in participating countries: immunization status and access

- Online survey
- 22 participating EpiSouth Countries





Definitions Adopted

- **Migrant:** person moving from one place of residence to another
- **International migrant:** person who changes his or her country of usual residence
- **Nomad:** Person without a fixed place of residence who moves from one site to another (internal or international migrant)
- **Mobile population:** person moving from one place to another (including migrant and nomad)
- **Refugee:** person granted refugee status either before arrival or upon arrival in the receiving country. Refugee status can be granted on the basis of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees or pertinent regional instruments
- **Asylum:** Asylum is a form of protection given by a State on its territory based on the principle of "nonrefoulement" and internationally and nationally recognized refugee rights. It is granted to a person who is unable to seek protection in its country of citizenship and /or residence in particular for fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of particular social group or political opinion

•Based on: Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 United Nations, New York, 1998 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_58rev1E.pdf



Definitions Adopted

- **Asylum seeker (refugee claimant):** person whose application for asylum (under the 1951 Refugee Convention) is pending in the asylum procedure or who are otherwise registered as asylum-seekers
- **Seasonal Labour migration:** is very common in agricultural cycles; it is arranged with farmers to provide the necessary help at the seasonal time, often with foreign nationals whose employment opportunities are more limited in their home areas
- **Legal immigrant:** immigrant whose stay is legal in the hosted country
- **Illegal immigrant:** immigrant whose stay is illegal in the hosted country
- **Visitors (from abroad to the country):** Person admitted for short stays for purposes of leisure, recreation, holidays; visits to friends or relatives; business or professional activities not remunerated from within the receiving country; health treatment; or religious pilgrimages. Visitors include excursionists, tourists and business travelers.

•Based on: Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 United Nations, New York, 1998 http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/SeriesM/SeriesM_58rev1E.pdf



Survey in the EpiSouth Region

- ④ immunization program and its implementation
- ④ migrant population (type and size)
- ④ monitoring and assessment of vaccination coverage
- ④ availability of specific programs aimed at ensuring high vaccination coverage in the migrant population
- ④ monitoring and surveillance of VPD in general and migrant populations



Migration in the EpiSouth Region

21 Countries reported the presence of legal migrants, 11 of those indicated the most of them are tourists and short term visitors, and that students and worker immigrants constitute a negligible quota of legal migration.

The presence of illegal migrants was reported by 14 Countries.

12 countries reported the presence of nomadic populations that are traditionally found in Europe (Roma/Sinti) and 10 countries reported other country specific nomadic populations.

Conclusions

• Diversity in the context of immigration and in the level of integration of migrants.

• Although in almost all EU and non-EU countries in the Balkan peninsula special approaches are introduced in order to reach the Roma/Sinti communities to guarantee access to immunization, different social, behavioral and traditional reasons lead to lack of acceptance.

• Lack of specific monitoring leads to rough estimations of immunization coverage among migrant groups based on the general population coverage. This hinders evaluation of needs and assessment of the risk of VPD outbreaks.





Further information

EpiSouth Assessment of Countries Migration Status Profile and Vaccination Access of Mobile Population http://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp7/WP7_9_Report_Assessment_Countries_Migration.pdf

EpiSouth Strategic Document on Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Migrant Population http://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp7/4_EpiSouth_Strategic_document_on_Vaccine.pdf

EpiSouth website relevant document section on Vaccinations and Vaccine Preventable Diseases http://www.episouth.org/relevant_links/docs.html

The screenshot shows the EpiSouth website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Register to receive bulletin', 'Contact us', 'Search', and 'FAQ'. Below this, the main content area is titled 'Home > Relevant links and Documents'. The page is divided into two columns. The left column contains a list of links: 'The project', 'Participating countries and Institutions', 'Directories', 'Project outputs', 'Project related events', '- Relevant links and Documents' (which is highlighted), and 'Members' area'. The right column is titled 'Relevant links and Documents' and lists several organizations: 'Organizations', 'ECDC - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control', 'EFSA - European Food Safety Authority', 'EU PUBLIC HEALTH - European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection, Public Health', and 'WHO - World Health Organization'.