

## PARTNERS AND COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

### Partners

ALBANIA, Tirana (Institute of Public Health);  
ALGERIA, Alger (National Institute of Public Health);  
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Ministry of Civil Affairs, Sarajevo; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska; Public Health Institute, Mostar, Federation of B&H);  
BULGARIA, Sofia (National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases; Ministry of Health);  
CROATIA, Zagreb (Croatian National Institute of Public Health);  
CYPRUS, Nicosia (Ministry of Health);  
EGYPT, Cairo (Ministry Of Health and Population);  
FYROM–Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje (Institute for Health Protection; Clinic of Infectious Diseases);  
FRANCE (Institute for Public Health Surveillance, Saint Maurice Cedex; Institute Pasteur, Paris);  
GREECE, Athens (Hellenic Center for Diseases Control and Prevention);  
ISRAEL (Center for Disease Control, Tel Hashomer; Ministry of Health, Jerusalem);  
ITALY (National Institute of Health, Rome; Teaching Hospital, Padua; National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Lazzaro Spallanzani", Rome; Intrauniversity Consortium CINECA, Casalecchio di Reno; Local Health Unit of Turin, Turin);  
JORDAN, Amman (Ministry of Health);  
KOSOVO UNSCR 1244, Prishtina (National Institute of Public Health);  
LEBANON, Beirut (Ministry of Public Health);  
LIBYA, Tripoli (National Center for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control);  
MALTA, Msida (Ministry of Health, Elderly and Community Care);  
MECIDS Middle East Consortium on Infectious Disease Surveillance;  
MONTENEGRO, Podgorica (Institute of Public Health);  
MOROCCO, Rabat (Ministry of Health);  
PALESTINE, Ramallah (Ministry of Health);  
ROMANIA, Bucharest (Institute of Public Health);  
SERBIA, Belgrade (Institute of Public Health);  
SLOVENIA, Ljubljana (Institute for Public Health);  
SPAIN, Madrid (Carlos III Health Institute);  
SYRIA, Damascus (Ministry of Health);  
TUNISIA, Tunis (Ministry of Health);  
TURKEY, Ankara (Ministry of Health; Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center);  
WHO-IHR International Health Regulations Coordination, Lyon, France.

### Collaborating Institutions

ECDC-European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden;  
EAHC-European Agency for Health and Consumers, Luxembourg;  
EUROPEAN UNION DG SANCO Public Health Directorate, Luxembourg;  
EUROPEAN UNION EuropeAid, Brussels, Belgium;  
MOH-Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy;  
WHO-EMRO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean, Cairo, Egypt;  
WHO-EURO Regional Office for Europe, Copenhagen, Denmark;



Network for the Control of Public Health Threats  
in the Mediterranean Region and South East Europe

# EpiSouth Plus Project (2010-13)

**Increasing the health security in the Mediterranean  
area and South-East Europe by enhancing and  
strengthening the preparedness to common health  
threats and bio-security risks at national and regional  
levels in the countries of the EpiSouth Network**

[www.episouthnetwork.org](http://www.episouthnetwork.org)

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The Project is led by the Italian National Institute of Health and counselled by an Advisory Board composed by EC, ECDC, WHO and other international experts.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Italian National Institute of Health and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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## THE EPISOUTH NETWORK

### EpiSouth Project (2006-10)

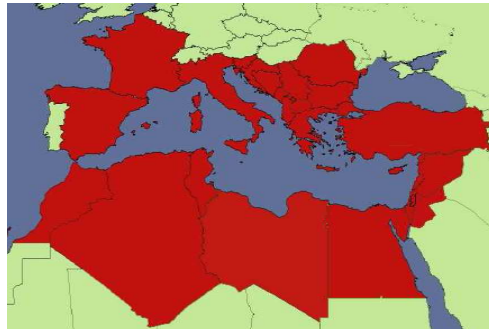
In occasion of the Year of the Mediterranean (2005), a number of countries that share the Mediterranean ecosystem and therefore have common public health problems, agreed to develop the project "EpiSouth", whose aim was to create a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training in the Mediterranean region and South-East Europe.

The Project "EpiSouth" started in October 2006 with the financial support of the EU DG-SANCO together with the Italian Ministry of Health and has been closed in June 2010.

As per June 2010, EpiSouth is a Network of 27 countries (9 EU and 17 non-EU countries plus 1 candidate to enlargement country).



EpiSouth Meeting, Rome, 2010



EpiSouth participating countries

It is therefore the biggest intercountry collaborative effort in the Mediterranean region.

### EpiSouth Plus Project (2010-13)

A new phase of the EpiSouth Network activities has been approved and started on 15 October 2010 and is expected to last until 15 April 2013.

The new phase implies a shift of the Network's activities to a wider approach. Building on the knowledge of regional gaps and needs identified during the first EpiSouth implementation in the fields of Epidemic Intelligence, Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Migrants, Cross Border Emerging Zoonoses and Training in field/applied epidemiology, the new EpiSouth Plus Project aims at contributing to the control of public health threats and other bio-security risks in the Mediterranean region and South-East Europe.



## EPISOUTH-PLUS PROJECT

### Objective and organization

The EpiSouth Plus project is aimed at increasing the health security in the Mediterranean area and South-East Europe by enhancing and strengthening the preparedness to common health threats and bio-security risks at national and regional levels in the countries of the EpiSouth Network in the framework of the International Health Regulations implementation. The reinforcement of relations of trust in the region is an objective and an instrument in the scope of Project's implementation.

Ensuring a successful response to this challenge requires a solid framework of collaboration and information exchange among the 27 participating Countries. To this purpose, Focal Points from each participating country have been appointed and asked for active involvement and collaboration in the project's activities.

The project is organized in seven Work Packages (WP), jointly co-led by EU and non-EU countries. WP leaders work in strict contact with the corresponding WP Steering Team, while a Steering Committee, constituted by all WP leaders, and the Project General Assembly, constituted by all participants, are responsible for the general strategic decisions.

Finally, an Advisory Board, constituted by representatives of the collaborating institutions and external experts, provide support for the revision of relevant documents and recommendations.

### Activities

Apart from three transversal WPs (i.e., WP1-Coordination; WP2-Dissemination; WP3- Evaluation) the project's activities are articulated in four WPs:

- 1) Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories Network to facilitate common threats detection in the countries involved (WP4).
- 2) Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management Plans among the countries involved (WP5).
- 3) Enhancing Mediterranean Early Warning Systems (EWS) and cross-border Epidemic Intelligence allowing alerts and Epidemic Intelligence information sharing among EpiSouth countries and developing interoperability with other European EW platform, especially EWRS, as forecast by the current EU legislation (WP6).
- 4) Facilitating IHR implementation through the production of a strategic document, with guidelines based on specific assessments for describing how national plans/ legislations can interact with IHR requirements (WP7).