



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate C - Public Health and Risk Assessment
C3 - Health threats

Luxembourg, 15.11.2010

Meeting of the EWRS component of the Community Network for the Epidemiological Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases

HITEC Building - Room 02/280

11 rue E. Ruppert, L-2557 Luxembourg

Wednesday 1 December 14:00 – 18:00 and Thursday 2 December 09:30 – 13:00

DRAFT AGENDA

Day1

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Welcome and adoption of the agenda | 14:00 |
| 2. Adoption of the previous minutes | 14:00 – 14:05 |
| 3. EWRS working group on notification | 14:05 – 15:00 |
| ➤ Criteria for notification | |
| ➤ ToR for EPIS roundtable | |
| 4. Draft recommendation on data protection issues | 15:00 – 16:00 |
| <i>Break</i> | <i>16:00 - 16:15</i> |
| 5. Modifications on the EWRS application | 16:15 – 17:15 |
| 6. EWRS security and testing | 17:15 – 18:00 |



EpiSouth-Plus

The Network for the Control of Public Health Threats and other risks in the Mediterranean Region and Balkans

Maria Grazia Dente

Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy

on behalf of the EpiSouth Plus Partners

Meeting of the EWRS contact points, LXB, 1 & 2 December 2010





EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Mediterraneus means
“in the middle of the lands”





The Mediterranean

The countries of the Mediterranean region have common sea borders in the remarkable ecosystem of the Mediterranean Sea, and, as a result, they share common public health problems and threats



EpiSouth Project Objective (2006-2010)

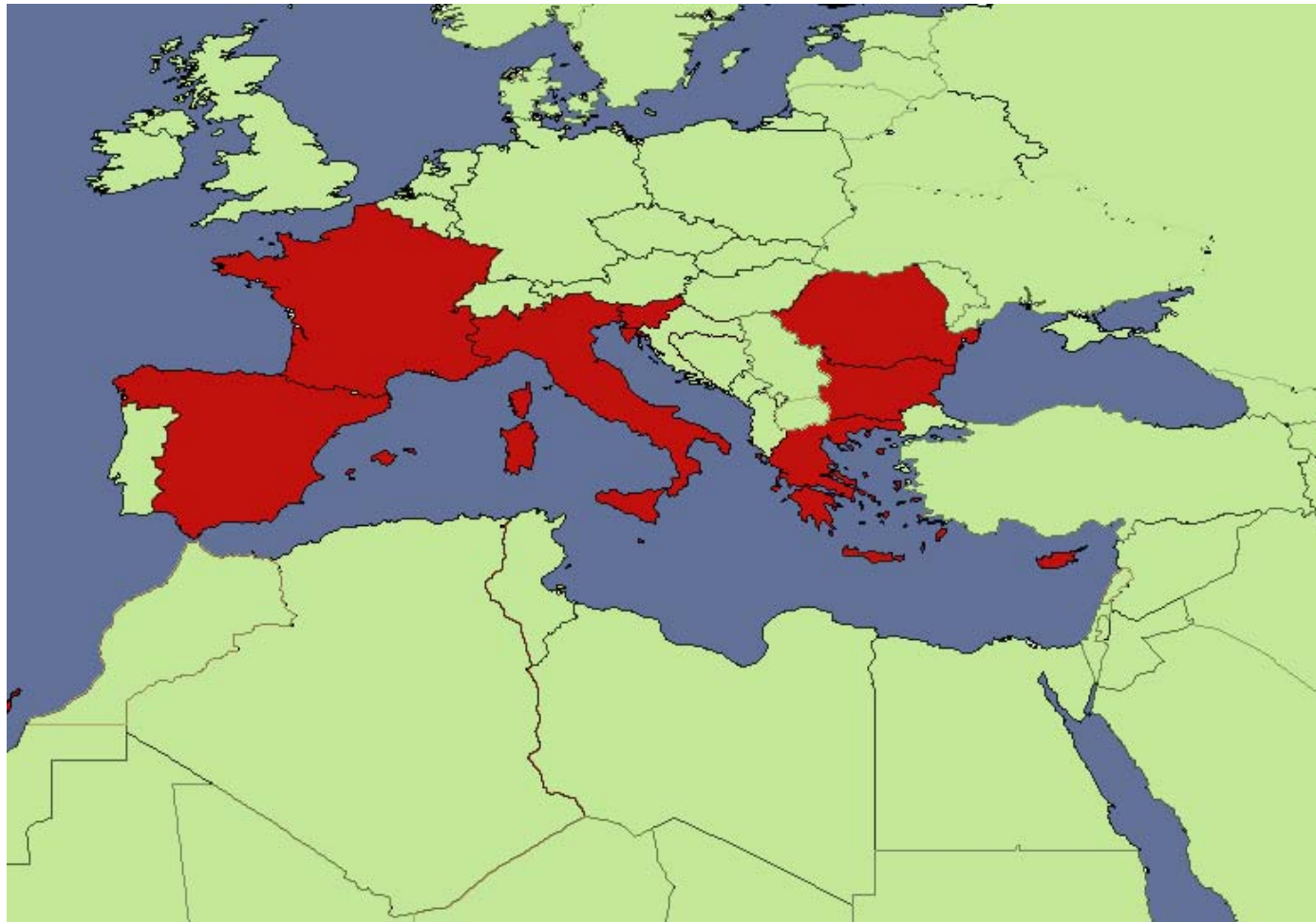
Episouth Network aimed at creating a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries in the area of Mediterranean and Balkans





EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



 EU MS at the Project starting (Oct 2006)



Main project achievements:

Enlargement

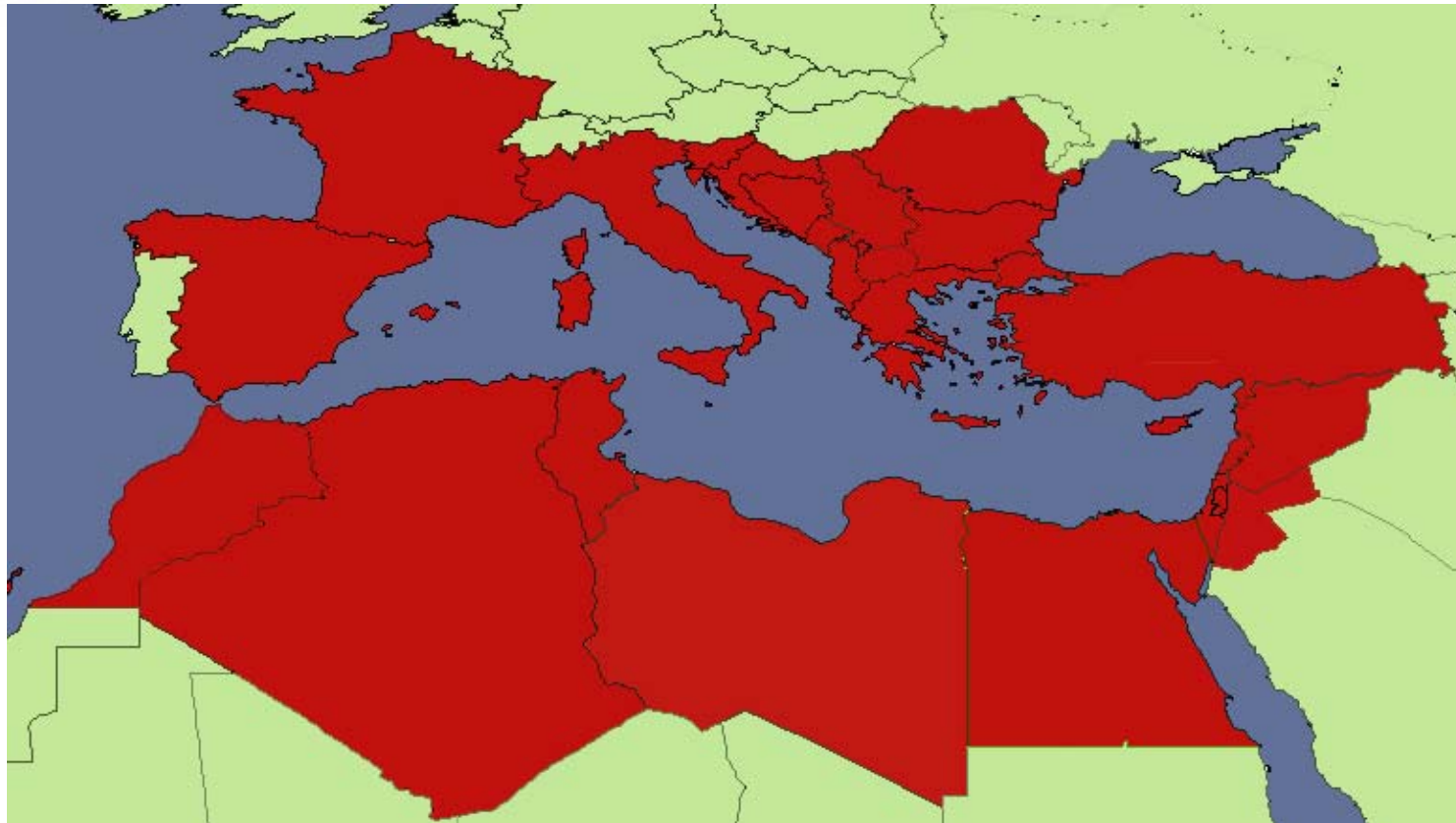
from a European Project to a
Mediterranean Project

in line with the EU's external actions of Neighbourhood
Policy and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership



EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



 EpiSouth Countries as per June 2010

Main project achievements: Networking I

- Four Project Meetings
- Five Project Steering Committee Meetings
- Three WP Steering Team Meetings & Several teleconferences
- Directory of participating Public Health Institution → [on website](#)



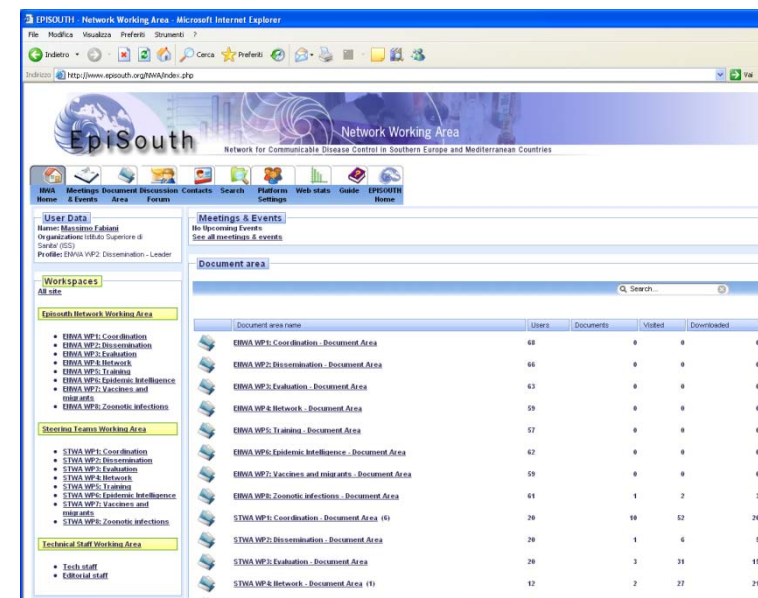
Main project achievements: **Networking II**



A web-based **Network Working Area**: a virtualised work environment where Network participants exchange documents and information in a secure way.

A controlled-access **suite of tools**:

- Meetings and events management
- Document workflow and storage
- Forum for open discussion
- List of contacts
- Data-entry



The screenshot shows the EpiSouth Network Working Area interface. It includes a navigation menu with options like Home, Meetings, Document, Discussion, Contacts, Search, Platform, Web stats, and Guide. The main content area displays a 'Document area' table with columns for Document area name, Users, Documents, Visited, and Downloaded. The table lists various document areas such as 'EpiSouth Network Working Area', 'EpiSouth Network - Document Area', and 'EpiSouth Network - Document Area (1)'. The interface also shows 'User Data' and 'Meetings & Events' sections.

Document area name	Users	Documents	Visited	Downloaded
EpiSouth Network Working Area	68	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	66	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	63	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	59	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	57	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	42	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	59	0	0	0
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	61	1	2	3
EpiSouth Network - Document Area (1)	28	19	52	28
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	28	1	6	5
EpiSouth Network - Document Area	28	3	31	15
EpiSouth Network - Document Area (1)	12	2	27	21



Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Main project achievements:

Training in field epidemiology

- Training needs assessment for all countries (with ad hoc questionnaire) → [Report 6/2008](#)
- First training module (36 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 10-14 September 2007 → [on website](#)
- Second training module (33 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 2-6 June 2008 → [on website](#)
- Third training module (33 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 15-19 2009 → [on website](#)
- Directory of training courses and fellowships → [on website](#)
- Strategic Document on Training → [on website](#)



Main project achievements:

Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence



• Pilot assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities in participating countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)

→ [Report 5/2008](#)

• Epidemic Intelligence weekly bulletins and thematic notes → [on website](#)

• Website secured section on cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners → [on website only members](#))

• Strategic document on Cross-Border Epidemic Intelligence → [on website](#)

INDEX e-WEB n°1

- A(H5N1) Avian influenza: update of the situation as of 25th March 2008
 - Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO
 - Notification of new avian influenza outbreak (see text)
- Yellow fever in Latin America
- Meningitis in Sub-Saharan Africa

Country	2002-2005		2006		2007		2008		Total
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	
Azerbaijan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Canada	4	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	7
China	0	0	23	0	0	3	3	3	30
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Indonesia	20	13	55	45	42	36	12	11	129
Italy	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Japan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Nepal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thailand	22	14	7	3	0	0	0	0	39
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	93	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	135
Total	118	72	115	79	69	36	12	11	329

Vietnam

On March 18th, 2008 the Vietnamese authorities have notified two new avian influenza outbreaks:

- In the province of **Ca Mau**. The last notified avian influenza outbreak in this province was reported in July 2007.
- In the province of **Quang Nam**. The last notified avian influenza outbreak in this province was reported in June 2007.

To date, at least 3 provinces have observed avian influenza outbreak during the last 3 weeks: Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Ca Mau.

Comments: The identification of new outbreaks in a country already affected does not change the global epidemiological situation.



Main project achievements:

***Vaccine preventable diseases
and migrant populations***



- Pilot assessment of vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations in participating countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)
- On-line survey on countries migration status profile and vaccination access of mobile population → [Report 9/2009](#)
- Strategic Document on vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations → [on website](#)



Main project achievements:



Cross-border emerging zoonoses

- Assessment and selection of five zoonoses of priority in the Episouth countries (with ad hoc questionnaire) → [Report 4/2008](#)
- Situation report by country regarding: Brucellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Leishmaniasis, Rabies and West Nile Virus
- On-line questionnaire for contacts of countries Human and Veterinary PH officials
- Directory of Human and Veterinary PH officials → [on website](#)
- Strategic Document on Epidemiology and preparednes to cross-border emerging zoonoses → [on website](#)





Episouth Network Best practices

- the methodology adopted has enhanced the sharing of responsibilities and co-ownership of participant countries
- the presence of international institutions (ECDC, EC, WHO-EURO, WHO-EMRO, WHO-HQ) has allowed sharing views while avoiding overlapping
- the Episouth Network Working Area as provided a permanent communication tool and doc repository
- the approach based on *countries expectations* and *regional needs* has facilitate interest in participation



Episouth Network Added Values (in addition to technical deliverables)

- raised awareness on regional and countries cross-border issues
- succeeded in creating trust, cohesion and concrete collaboration among PH officers of 27 countries of South Europe, Balkans, North Africa and Middle East
- filled a geographical area with common public health problems (Balkans and Mediterranean Basin) that is not addressed, as a whole, neither by the European Commission nor by WHO
- provides a tool for stability in terms of confidence building and collaborative working relationship among PH professional in the participant countries





EpiSouth Plus (2010-2013)

*From EpiSouth Project to EpiSouth Network:
27 Countries ready to work together
for contributing to the health security in the
Mediterranean Area and Balkans*





EpiSouth Plus Project Objective (2010-2013)

*To increase the health security in the Mediterranean Area and Balkans by enhancing and strengthening the **preparedness to common health threats and other risks** at national and regional levels in the Countries of EpiSouth Network **in the framework of the International Health Regulations implementation.***

*The reinforcement of **relations of trust** in the Region is both an objective and an instrument in the scope of project implementation*





EpiSouth-Plus

Starting: 15 October 2010

Duration: 30 months

Funding:

EU DGSANCO (EAHC)

EU DG AIDCO (Instrument for Stability)

Italian Ministry of Health (Epimed Project)

EU Member States

Non-EU countries





EU Member States Partners in EpiSouth Plus

1. ITALY

- Institute of Health, Rome;
- ASLTO1, Turin;
- General Hospital, Padua;
- National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Rome;
- CINECA, Bologna;

2. FRANCE

- Institute Pasteur, Paris;
- Institut de Veille Sanitaire, Saint-Maurice;

3. SPAIN

- Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid

4. BULGARIA (National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia)

5. CROATIA (Institute of Public Health) as acceding country

6. CYPRUS (Ministry of Health, Nicosia)

7. GREECE (Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Athens)

8. MALTA (Ministry of Health, Valletta)

9. ROMANIA (Institute of PH, Bucharest)

10. SLOVENIA (Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana)





Non-EU Member States Partners in EpiSouth Plus

1. ALBANIA, Tirana (Institute of Public Health);
2. ALGERIA, Alger (National Institute of Public Health);
3. 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);
4. EGYPT, Cairo (Ministry of Health and Population);
5. FYROM-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje (Institute for Health Protection; Clinic of Infectious Diseases);
6. ISRAEL (Center for Disease Control, Tel Hashomer; Ministry of Health, Jerusalem);
7. JORDAN, Amman (Ministry of Health);
8. KOSOVO UNSCR 1244, Prishtina (National Institute of Public Health);
9. LEBANON, Beirut (Ministry of Public Health);
10. LIBYA, Tripoli (Infectious Diseases Department Tripoli Central Hospital)
11. MONTENEGRO, Podgorica (Institute of Public Health);
12. MOROCCO, Rabat (Ministry of Health);
13. PALESTINE, Ramallah (Ministry of Health);
14. SERBIA, Belgrade (Institute of Public Health);
15. SYRIA, Damascus (Ministry of Health);
16. TUNISIA, Tunis (Ministry of Health);
17. TURKEY, Ankara (Ministry of Health; Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center)



EpiSouth Plus

Main Collaborating Institutions

ECDC, WHO, EU-DGSanco, EU-EAHC, EU-DGAidco, EU Health Security Committee, ...

Main Networks to collaborate with (or deliverables to be used)

Institute Pasteur International Network; EuroNetP4; SHIPSAN; SEEHN; MECIDS; PPRD-Civil Protection Mediterranean Network; CHORDS; ETIDE; ASHT; ETHREAT; REACT; EQADeBa; EMPHIS; ProMed.



Specific Objective (1)

Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories network (WP4)

A network of regional laboratories will be established in order to facilitate common threats detection in the countries involved.

WP leaders: *French Institute Pasteur & Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center, Ministry of Health of Turkey*





Specific Objective (1)

Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories network (WP4):

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Lack of cross-border lab facilities services for Med Countries*
- *Strengthening complementary with the vertical and fragmented lab networks presently operating in the area*
- *Overcoming national logistic and legislation constraints*



Establishment of a Mediterranean Reference Laboratories network (WP4): Main Activities (1)

Meeting of experts to set minimum requirements (MRs) needed for the Lab of the Network

Meeting with heads of Lab corresponding to the MRs and interested in the approach

Selection of potential lab for the Network and Pilot of operations and follow up

On the job training and training sessions at Pasteur Institute and Institutes of Pasteur International Network

Consolidated Directory with the Lab of the Network



Specific Objective (2)

Promotion of common procedures in interoperable Generic Preparedness and Risk management for the Countries involved in the Network (WP5)

Specific capacity building measures will address the need of interoperability and intersectoral collaboration of countries' preparedness plans to fit the requirements of the IHR and to ensure multi-country harmonic and prompt response.

WP leaders: *Spanish Instituto de Salud Carlos III & Institut National de Santé Publique of Algeria.*



Specific Objective (2)

Promotion of common procedures in interoperable Generic Preparedness and Risk management for the Countries involved in the Network (WP5)

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Reducing the variability of procedures in the Countries involved*
- *Contributing to enhancing capacity and sharing field experiences*
- *Strengthening cross-border concerted actions*
- *Facilitating national GPP development and communication strategy*



Promotion of common procedures in interoperable Generic Preparedness and Risk management for the Countries involved in the Network (WP5)
Main Activities

15 Non-EU participants to the ShipSan Training in January 2011

2 one-week Workshops with Capacity building Sessions in Madrid

2 one-week Training sessions in Algeri

1 Cross border Simulation Exercise



Specific Objectives (3)

Enhancing Mediterranean Early Warning System (EWS) allowing alerts and Epidemic Intelligence information sharing among EpiSouth countries and developing interoperability with other European Early Warning platforms (WP6)

Participating countries will share alerts generated by their national EWS with EpiSouth EWS platform, interoperability will be developed through EPIS/ECDC. Exchange national alerts with cross border potential are determinant to prevent health risk dissemination.

WP leaders: *French Institut de Veille Sanitaire & MECIDS (Middle East Consortium for Infectious Diseases Surveillance, Israel, Palestine and Jordan)*





Specific Objective (3)

Enhancing Mediterranean Early Warning Systems (EWS) allowing alerts and Epidemic intelligence information sharing among EpiSouth countries and developing interoperability with other European Early Warning platforms (WP6)

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Enhancing “horizontal” cross-border and inter-countries alerts sharing in the Med Area*
- *Complementing the presently operating EWSs (national > supra-national) with the info from the Med EWS*
- *Optimisation and minimization of duplication of EI activities*



Interoperable Early warning systems (EWS) and alerts' platform able to share info between EpiSouth countries and with other Early Warning platforms and optimization of EI (WP6)
Main Activities (3)

Interoperability of the secure early warning platform

Support at country level on epidemic intelligence and early warning procedures and on the use of the platform

On the job training at Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVS) in Paris



Specific Objectives (4)

Production of a strategic document, with guidelines, based on assessments and surveys, aimed at facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

To support the implementation of IHR-2005, specific surveys and assessments will be conducted among the EpiSouth Countries in order to describe how national plans and legislations can interact/interfere with IHR requirements

WP leaders: *Italian National Institute of Health and WHO-LYO*

Specific Objective (4)

Facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Define obstacles and constraints which are affecting capacities' assessment and adequacy in the countries involved*
- *Contribute to the definition and implementation of appropriate strategies which facilitate IHR national plans in accordance with the requirements*



Production of guidelines and strategic documents based on assessments and surveys aimed at facilitate IHR implementation (WP7)
Main Activities (4)

To review all available literature on health systems in the EpiSouth Region, with particular attention to aspects such as integrated surveillance, data flows and points of entry that are implicated in core capacity development and to ask Countries to access surveys conducted by WHO to assess the level of implementation of IHR 2005

To perform two surveys: one to assess needs and constraints encountered by Countries while enhancing their surveillance systems and in the elaboration of the general preparedness plans and one to analyse national legislative aspects relevant to IHR 2005 implementation

To discuss and validate information gathered with participating Countries during two Sub-regional Workshops plus a parallel session at the 1st Project Meeting in Paris.



Thank you



Day 2

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 7. ECDC health threats report 2009 | 09:30 – 10:15 |
| 8. Guiding principles for EU response to health threats due to communicable diseases | 10:15 - 11:00 |
| <i>Break</i> | 11:00 – 11:15 |
| 9. Updates on ongoing activities supported under the Health Programme | 11:15 – 12:45 |
| – EPI SOUTH | |
| – REACT | |
| – SHIP and Sanitation | |
| 10. A.O.B | 12:45 – 13:00 |
| 11. Conclusions & Next meeting | 13:00 |