

## PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## EPISOUTH PLUS

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Project Meeting will be held in Rome (Italy) on 5-7 December 2012.**

The EpiSouth Network includes 27 countries (9 EU and 17 non-EU, plus one EU candidate country). It is therefore the biggest inter-country collaborative effort of this kind in the region. Since October 2010, with the approval of a new project phase (EpiSouth-Plus), the network focuses on increasing health security in the Mediterranean Area and South-East Europe by enhancing and strengthening preparedness to common health threats and bio-security risks at national and regional levels in the countries of the [EpiSouth Network](#).

The 1st EpiSouth-Plus Project Meeting, organized by the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS), will be held in Rome on 5-7 December at the Italian Ministry of Health in order to present the current status of the project's activities and discuss about future developments and strategies.

Moreover, about 150 meeting participants will discuss about:

- opportunities and challenges for coordinated action at regional level
- integration between laboratory and epidemiological surveillance
- early warning systems and epidemic intelligence
- WHO guidance for points of entry
- organization of a table top simulation exercise in the EpiSouth region

Finally, parallel sessions will be organized to allow the work packages steering teams to meet and discuss about their specific plan of actions for the last year of project activity.

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The EpiSouth-Plus Project is led by the [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#) and counseled by an [Advisory Board](#) composed by EC, ECDC, WHO and other international experts

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