

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

EPISOUTH PLUS

The EpiSouth-Plus “Nautilus” Simulation Exercise will be carried out on 2-3 October 2013.

The EpiSouth Network includes 27 countries (9 EU and 18 non-EU countries). 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 “Nautilus” Simulation Exercise (SE) is the final point of a capacity building process that started with a capacity needs assessment aimed at identifying the aspects to be strengthened in the Mediterranean and Balkan regions.

The “Nautilus” SE will simulate a public health event of international concern affecting several EpiSouth countries, with possibility of spread all over the Mediterranean basin and even further.

The objectives are:

1. Testing the availability and use of the National emergency preparedness and response plans
2. Testing the communication, coordination and decision making process in emergency situation
3. Testing the coordination between National public health services and Points of Entry
4. Identifying different levels in communication and decision making process (national and international) in the EpiSouth region (use of the EPIS/Episouth platform tool)
5. Testing the diagnostic confirmation procedures in the EpiSouth Mediterranean Regional Laboratory Network (MRLN)
6. Testing the timeliness of the process
7. Identifying needs and assessing availability of stockpiles and funds for facing outbreaks

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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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