Submission Date: 27 January 2010 at: 12:44

Questionnaire about Institutions partners

SECTION 1

Official name[1]
[1] *Provide the name of the organization such as the Ministry of Health or Public Health Institute to which your unit belongs.*

Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Unit[2]
[2] *Department/Unit within the institutions involved in the Network, in charge of the surveillance of communicable diseases (especially in early warning and response system, vaccine preventable diseases and zoonotic infections).*

Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU), (formerly known as the Disease Surveillance Unit)

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EpiSouth Focal Points:

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c) Institution	
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SECTION 2

Mandate[3] as described in the regulation enacting your organization
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

**Mission Statement TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE ON THE MALTESE ISLANDS
Objectives: – Empowering individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles – Advocating the creation of supportive**

environments conducive to health – Carrying out effective surveillance and control of communicable diseases – Developing strategies for reducing the burden of communicable and non communicable diseases

SECTION 3

Describe your unit position within the organizational chart (organigram)[4] of the larger institution you belong to
A maximum of 200 words is allowed
[4] *An organizational chart for a whole organization shows the units who make up such organization and the relationships between them. Relationships refer to authority and communication lines.*

refer to uploaded file

Upload a file for further informations:

Detailed informations are available in the organigram attached

SECTION 4

Describe your unit's organizational chart (organigram)[5]
A maximum of 200 words is allowed
[5] *An organizational chart for a unit shows the managers and main professional roles who make up such unit and the relationships between them.*

The Department of health promotion and disease prevention which is under the directorship of Dr C Gauci is divided into 3 units. A. Infectious disease prevention and control unit composed of 7 physicians, 2 nurses and a health inspector. B. The health promotion unit, a multidisciplinary team made up of 10 members including 1 health promotion officer. C. Non–communicable disease prevention and control unit.

SECTION 5

Illustrate the main roles and activities carried out by your organization in the field of infectious diseases prevention and control, specifically in the following areas:

a) Surveillance of infectious diseases
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The IDCU is the only centre in Malta dealing with surveillance of infectious diseases. Data is collected from various sources, including medical doctors, laboratories and through our surveillance systems. These include passive surveillance and active surveillance. The unit regularly contacts hospitals and medical labs to update its information. Sentinel surveillance is also conducted. An example of this is the influenza surveillance.

b) Epidemic Intelligence[6]
A maximum of 200 words is allowed
[6] *Please, see: C. Paquet, D. Coulombier, R. Kaiser, M. Ciotti, Epidemic Intelligence: a new framework for strengthening disease surveillance in Europe in Eurosurveillance, 2006; 11 (12): 212–4.*

The IDCU participates actively within the EWRS and EPISouth organisations, including teleconferences. The staff also checks regularly PROMED publications and other internet sites, to keep up to date with outbreaks and other episodes occuring in other countries.

c) Monitoring of services delivery, including immunization of migrant populations
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The IDCU monitors all irregular immigrants arriving in Malta, as early as possible. Clinical screening for infectious diseases is done to all immigrants at port of entry by a medical officer attached to the Environmental Health Department. Screening for active TB is done by CXR. The immunisation services also immunise all immigrants soon after their arrival. There is close collaboration between our unit and the others. Services are also provided by GPs who visit the migrant population.

d) Zoonosis
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The IDCU investigates every case that is notified to the unit through the surveillance systems. This can be from doctors, laboratories and even the general public. We participate actively in ECDC/Enternet, as well as with the EFSA so they can publish the zoonotic report. We provide data on outbreaks. We collaborate closely with the Environmental Health Unit and rodent control in dealing with some of these tests. We also collaborate with veterinary services in zoonosis eg. foodborne illness, brucellosis, leishmaniasis, etc.

e) Diagnostic services

There is a public health lab. that falls under the Environmental Health Dept. This laboratory processes all our samples

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

related to food–borne illnesses and water– borne diseases such as Legionnaire's. All other samples, including virology samples are sent to the Pathology Dept. at Mater Dei hospital, the island's only acute care hospital. Diagnostic services are also available in the private sector. In fact we also receive notifications from the private labs. Certain facilities are not available locally, therefore we have an agreement with reference labs. abroad to perform these tests. Agreements were also done with labs. abroad on studies eg. ISS in Rome.

f) Emergency preparedness
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The unit has an on call system 24 hours 7 days a week, whatever the emergency is. The director will be informed. Then other doctors in the department will deal with the situation as well. Examples of a situation are: an outbreak, bioterrorism, avian/pandemic influenza. The doctor would need to wear personal protective equipment accordingly. A risk assessment of the situation is done. Contact tracing is done, information is provided to the general public, media and other health care professionals. If more staff is needed, health inspectors from the environmental health department can help. The unit has prearedness plans for Avian influenza outbreak, Pandemic flu, Biological agents, some chemical agents, infectious diseases outbreaks.

g) Training and education
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

Our department organises in–house training as a series of lectures on topics of public health interest. The Association of Public Health Medicine also organises CPD (continuos professional development) lectures on a regular basis. There is also structured training within the department by specialised trainees for junior staff. All this training is a prerequisite for specialist recognition. Staff are given the opportunity to attend to EPIET, to courses organised by ECDC and WHO.

h) Research
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

A number of studies were carried out in the past and a number of studies are being caried out at present as well. These include a study on chlamydia, a study on rotavirus in children and a study on influenza vaccination.

SECTION 6

Describe the alert procedure adopted by your organization and the conditions to which applies paying special attention to infectious diseases.
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The unit receives alerts from abroad and from the local scenario. From abroad we receive alerts from EWRS, RAS BICHAT, IHR. E–mails are checked by the contact points morning and evening. Locally, alerts are received via phone, fax or e–mail. The doctors at the unit deal with the alert. They investigate the cases, and do contact tracing. Samples are taken when necessary. Information is disseminated to doctors working in hospitals, health centres, paediatricians according to the type of infectious disease. Information is sent to ECDC, WHO, and member states.

SECTION 7

Provide a brief account of your unit's professional staff mix[7]
[7] *The categories are mutually exclusive: please, assign only one profile to each unit's professional staff.*

Staff mix	Senior	Junior	Total
Epidemiologists	*2*	*4*	*6*
Infectious diseases specialists	*0*	*0*	*0*
Statisticians	*0*	*0*	*0*
Microbiologists	*0*	*0*	*0*
Biologists	*0*	*0*	*0*
Laboratory technicians	*0*	*0*	*0*

Information Technology Managers	0	0	0
Others (please, specify) *Trainee public health physicians and senior health inspector*	1	1	2

SECTION 8

Describe the content of and time span covered by the databases related to infectious diseases your organization manages.
Please select the number of databases you want to describe, insert their descriptions, and leave the drop–down menu with the number of databases you have compiled.

Number of databases: **4**

Data–base	Content	Time span	Brief description
IDCU database	**personal details, demographic data &lab results**	**since 1999. A new database which would be continuous from year to year.**	**The software used for the database is Microsoft Access**
Tuberculosis database	**personal details, demographic data &lab results.**	**since 2000**	**The software used for the database is Microsoft Access**
Influenza sentinel database	**aggregate data collected from a small number of GPs**	**since 2004**	**The software used for the database is Microsoft Access**
Pandemic Influenza database	**data collected re patients swabbed, positive cases and patients hospitalised**	**July 2009**	**The software used for the database is Microsoft Access**

SECTION 9

Exemplify the main publications produced by your organization during the last three years.
Please select the number of publications you want to describe, insert their descriptions, and leave the drop–down menu with the number of publications you have compiled.

Number of newsletters: **4**

Title	Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)	Web link (if available)
Il– Gardjola	**The newsletter is being published bi–annually. The first one was about influenza**	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm**
Il– Gardjola	**The second one was about Food– borne illnesses**	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm**
Il– Gardjola	**The third one was about sexually transmitted illness**	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm**
Il– Gardjola	**The last one was about Hepatitis A**	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm**

Number of bullettins: **1**

Title	Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)	Web link (if available)
	these are published as necessary, to keep the public informed about major public health risks.	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/index.htm**

Number of reports: **2**

Title	Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)	Web link (if available)
Monthly report	**Monthly**	
Annual report	**Yearly**	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/reports/index.htm**

Number of research: *1*

Title	Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)	Web link (if available)
	Continuous basis. Published in local and foreign journals	

Others: *1*

Title	Description	Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)	Web link (if available)
Information leaflets and booklets		**total of 9**	**http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/publications/index.htm**

SECTION 10

Identify your main collaborating partners in each area.

Number of partners: *4*

Partner name	Location	Surveillance of infectious diseases	Epidemic Intelligence	Monitoring of s. delivery	Zoonosis	Diagnostic Services	Emergency preparedness	Training and education	Research
Public Health Lab	*National*	*No*	*No*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Pathology Lab	*National*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Immunisation services	*National*	*No*	*No*	*Yes*	*No*	*No*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*No*
Environmental Health	*National*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*

MHEC DIRECTORATES FOLLOWING RESTRUCTURING

Parliamentary Secretary

Minister

Permanent Secretary

Financial Monitoring and Control Unit

Special Initiatives Directorate

ICT Strategy

Resources and Support Division

- Human Resources

Strategy and Sustainability Division

- Health Information and Research
- Policy Development and EU Affairs
- Programme Implementation Monitoring
- Pharmaceutical Policy and Monitoring

Health Care Services Division

- Community Health Care Partnership
- Institutional Health Care Governance
- Procurement

PERSON CENTRED SERVICES
Elderly Care
Primary Health Care
Acute Care Hospital
Gozo General Hospital
Blood Bank
Oncology and Dermatology
Mental Health
Rehabilitation
Community Care

Public Health Regulation Division

- Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Health Care Services Standards
- Environmental Health
- Nursing Services Standards
- Medicines Authority