

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

The EpiSouth-Plus Project is cofunded by the European Union DG-SANCO/EAHC and EuropeAid together with the participating national partner Institutions. The financial support of the Italian Ministry of Health and ECDC is also acknowledged. Yet, the contents of this bulletin can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

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- A(H5N1) Avian & Human influenza – None
- “INSIDE” events: West Nile Virus – Romania, Greece, Israel
- “OUTSIDE” events: none

Location: World	Event: A(H5N1) – Epizootic / Human	Comments
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No new event reported this week.

Location: Romania, Greece, Israel	Event: West Nile Virus	Comments
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The West Nile Virus is a *flavivirus* belonging to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex.

WN is a mosquito-borne infection affecting mainly wild birds and transmitted by different mosquitoes' species mainly *Culex spp* and *Aedes spp*.

Last year, between 1st July and 7th October 2010, 8 of the 27 Mediterranean and Balkans countries (EpiSouth network) have reported WNV circulation (cf. [West Nile thematic note, 2010](#)).

The WNV transmission season seems to have started in several EpiSouth countries, and a local transmission is highly possible in the Mediterranean area. The situation will be monitored carefully.

Map 1. West Nile infections reporting in human in 2011 in Greece, Israel, Romania, Russia.



➤ **ROMANIA**

On 14th July 2011, one case of West Nile infection was reported to the National Centre for Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases.

The case was confirmed on 20th July 2011, and was:

- a 37 years old female
- a farmer, living in a swampy area at 2 km far from Smulti village, in Galati District.
- Onset of symptoms on 8th July 2011, with loss of consciousness, muscle contractions, and headache.
- The patient was hospitalised and diagnosed with acute viral meningo-encephalitis on 11th July 2011.
- The case did not use physical or chemical protection against mosquitoes.

➤ **GREECE**

On 26th July 2011, the Greek Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (KEELPNO) reported the first laboratory WNV case in an adult woman living in Karditsa (Thessalia region), cf. map 2.

The case was suffering from mild encephalitis and was hospitalised in Larissa state hospital.

➤ **RUSSIA**

On 26th July 2011, 4 WNV cases were reported in residents of Volgograd, in the Volga basin.

The patients recovered.

In Russia last year, 413 cases (including 5 deaths) were reported in Volgograd area.

Volga basin is a major bird nesting area, from which major Mediterranean bird migration routes pass through.

➤ **ISRAEL**

Last week one pool of *Culex perexigus* mosquitoes was found positive for WNV in the north of Israel. All other mosquitoes pools examined in the Northern District were negative.

"Positive mosquitoes" were also reported in Eilat, in the south of the country (cf. map 3).

Since 1st January 2011, 4 confirmed and 5 suspected cases of WN disease in humans were reported, by Health District Offices.

➤ In Romania This is the first reported case of the year 2011.

Galati district is known to be an area at risk for West Nile viruses, 20 cases were confirmed with West Nile neuro-infection between 1997-2010.

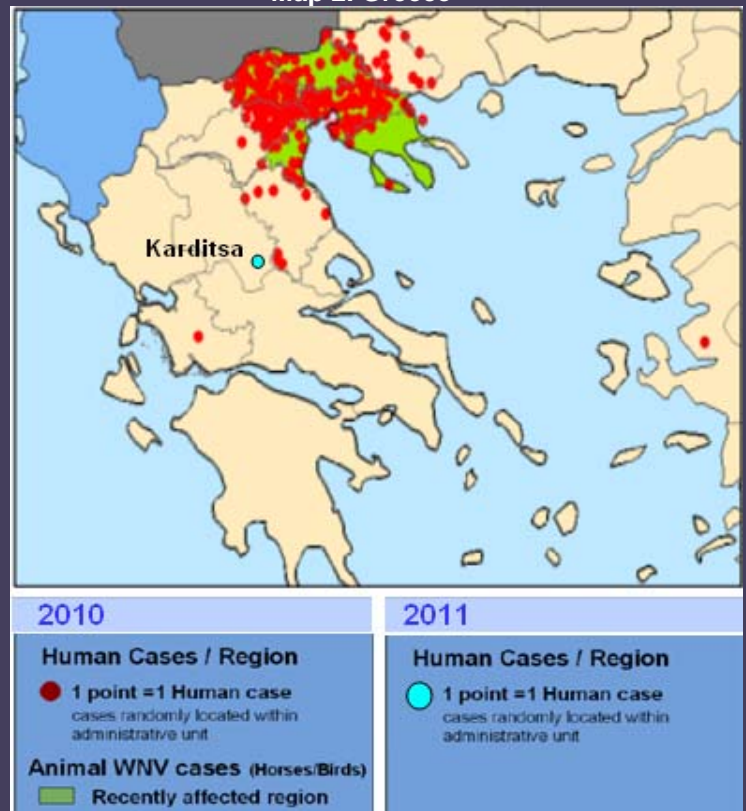
The local public health authority informed the population of the area about the measures to be taken to avoid mosquito bites.

The village is not situated on an attractive touristic road.

Last year, the WNV epidemic started in 30th August 2010, with 41 cases (including 4 deaths) reported in total in 2010 (cf. [eWEB n° 146](#)).

➤ In Greece, last year, 257 cases of WNV (including 31 deaths) were reported in Greece.

Map 2. Greece



➤ In Israel, there was no correlation between the places where positive mosquitoes were found and the places where cases in humans were identified.

Until now there were only sporadic cases of the disease in humans, but the seasonal morbidity can be expected from now on at any time.

WNV is considered as endemic in Israel.

