İnV8 EpiSouth Weekly Epi Bulletin – N°229 EpiSouth 1st August – 7st August 2012 The objective of the bulletin is to report new heath 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. their borders The EpiSouth-Plus Project is cofunded by the European Union <u>DG-SANCO/EAHC</u> and <u>EuropeAid</u> together with the participating national partner Institutions. The financial support of the <u>Italian</u> <u>Ministry of Health</u> and <u>ECDC</u> is also acknowledged. Yet, the contents of this bulletin can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union. **INDEX e-WEB n°229** A(H5N1) Human & Avian influenza – none "INSIDE" events: West Nile - Italy, Greece "OUTISDE" events: none Location: World Event: A(H5N1) – Human /Epizootic Comments No new event has been reported this week **REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING INSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA** (Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries) Italy Location: **Event: West Nile** Comments Greece ITALY On 15th July 2012, the first blood donation positive for As mentioned in the article, the WNV genome West Nile virus (WNV) was reported in Italy in a identified in July 2012 was found to be the Eurosurveillance article edited on 2nd August 2012. same as the one identified the year before in a blood donor resident from the same area, The donor was resident in Venice province, Veneto which strongly suggests that this WNV strain region (cf. map 1). might be overwintering in the area, and that The donor was asymptomatic and was detected in the an endemic cycle might be established. frame of blood, tissue and organ donations systematic screening (NAT test) performed in Italy (Venice, Belluno and Treviso provinces which are WNV cases have already been identified in blood donations from Veneto region in located in Veneto region) between 15th July and 30th previous years (cf. Note on 2010 & 2011 November. seasons WNV circulation in EpiSouth countries). Map 1. Venice province, VENETO region, Italy ENETO In the frame of the Italian national surveillance system, only human West Nile Neuroinvasive Diseases (WNND) are considered, hence this infection is not considered as a "case". nice Last year, the first WNV human case in Italy was reported mid-September 2011 (cf. eWEB <u>n°183</u>). The early detection of a WNV human infection (even though not neuroinvasive) in northern Italy this year might predict an increased WNV activity.

In 2011, both lineage 1 and 2 were isolated in human, bird and mosquitoes in different parts Italy.

GREECE

On 27th July 2012, the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (<u>HCDCP</u>) reported one autochthonous human case of WNV on Samos Island (North Aegean region, cf. map 2).

It is the first time ever that a WN human case is reported in Samos Island.

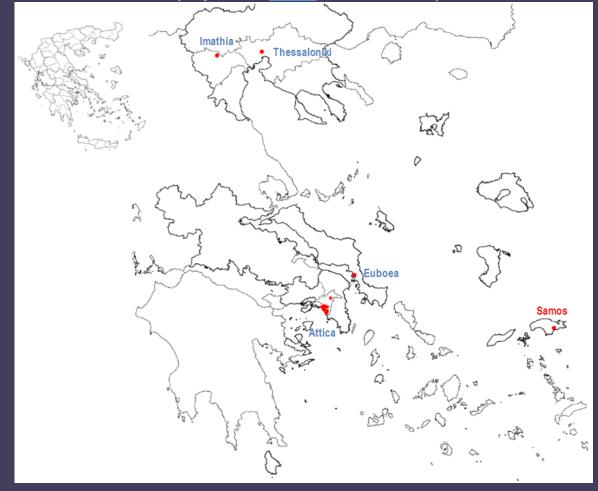
As of 3rd August 2012, a total of 40 human WNV cases including 30 neuroinvasive were reported in Samos, Attica, Imathia, Thessaloniki and Euboea.

The first WNV human case was reported on 9th July 2012 in Attica (cf. <u>eWEB n° 225</u>).

In 2010 and 2011, Greece reported a total of 262 and 101 human WNV cases respectively; it corresponds to 54% and 43% of all cases reported by EpiSouth countries for each year (cf. <u>Note on 2010 & 2011 seasons WNV circulation in EpiSouth countries</u>).

While WNV cases have been mainly concentrated on the Greek mainland and Euboea until now, the occurrence of WNV cases on a Greek island indicates a geographical extension of the virus in the country. Furthermore, it is worth considering that Samos is located 70km far from the Turkish Aegean region which was affected by WNV in 2010 and 2011.

Map 2. Areas reporting WNND cases, Greece (adapted from HCDCP, 1 red dot = 1 case)



So far, within EpiSouth countries, WNND cases have been reported in Israel, Palestine, and Greece.