

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.

## INDEX e-WEB n°229

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

Location: Italy  
Greece

Event: West Nile

Comments

#### ITALY

- On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012, the first blood donation positive for West Nile virus (WNV) was reported in Italy in a [Eurosurveillance](#) article edited on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012.
- The donor was resident in Venice province, Veneto region (cf. map 1).
- The donor was asymptomatic and was detected in the frame of blood, tissue and organ donations systematic screening (NAT test) performed in Italy (Venice, Belluno and Treviso provinces which are located in Veneto region) between 15th July and 30th November.

Map 1. Venice province, VENETO region, Italy



- As mentioned in the article, the WNV genome identified in July 2012 was found to be the same as the one identified the year before in a blood donor resident from the same area, which strongly suggests that this WNV strain might be overwintering in the area, and that an endemic cycle might be established.
- WNV cases have already been identified in blood donations from Veneto region in previous years (cf. [Note on 2010 & 2011 seasons WNV circulation in EpiSouth countries](#)).
- 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”.
- Last year, the first WNV human case in Italy was reported mid-September 2011 (cf. [eWEB n°183](#)).
- 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 27<sup>th</sup> July 2012, the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention ([HCDCP](#)) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> July 2012 in Attica (cf. [eWEB n° 225](#)).
- 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. [Note on 2010 & 2011 seasons WNV circulation in EpiSouth countries](#)).
- 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.