The contribution of the EpiSouth Network to strengthening preparedness against cross border health threats in the Mediterranean

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http://www.episouthnetwork.org/content/episouth-video

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The EpiSouth Network (2007-2013)

has been the biggest inter-country effort in the Mediterranean region representing a unique collaborative experience in a geographical area with common public health problems that is not addressed, as a whole, neither by the European Union nor by WHO.
EpiSouth Plus Project (2010-2013)

“To enhance and strengthen the preparedness to face common health threats and biosecurity risks among the Mediterranean area and SE Europe, in the framework of the IHR”

OBJECTIVES (LINES OF ACTIVITIES)

• Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories Network

• Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management

• Enhancing Mediterranean Early Warning Systems and cross-border Epidemic Intelligence

• Facilitating IHR 2005 implementation
Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management

COLEADERSHIP
Spain (ISCIII), Algeria (NIPH), Serbia (IPH)

STEERING TEAM
Egypt (MoH), Greece (HCDCP/KEELPNO), Lebanon (MPH), Malta (MoH), Romania (IPH/ISPB), Syria (MoH),

Facilitating IHR 2005 implementation

COLEADERSHIP
Italy (ISS), WHO-GCR

STEERING TEAM
Albania (IPH), Bulgaria (NCIPD), Cyprus (MoH), Greece (HCDCP/KEELPNO), Israel (MoH), Jordan (MoH), Morocco (MoH), SEEHN, Slovenia (NIPH/IVZ), Tunisia (MoH)
Promotion of common procedures in Generic Preparedness and Risk Management

Capacity building process

- Core-Capacity Assessment
- Workshops & Trainings
- Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan development
- Simulation Exercise

Capacities installed

CHAFAE Symposium “Bridging Epidemiology to public health security policy”, Stockholm 10 November 2015
Approach to data collection

• Survey (semi-structured questionnaire, 21/27 countries)

Gaps and Training Priorities

• No generic preparedness and response plans
• Specific plans available but not always responding to identified regional PH risks
• Training priorities: scientific risk assessment, epidemiological intelligence, communication with vulnerable populations, evaluation

Results

• 4 focussed trainings involving 90 participants (28 from EU MS and 62 from non-EU MS), workshops
• A Simulation exercise involving over 250 people in 20 countries
  • successful in testing national core-capacities in emergency preparedness/response and identifying opportunities for improvement
• Emergency Preparedness Planning (EPREP) Tool.
Facilitating IHR implementation
Approach to data collection

- Literature Review, Consensus workshops
- EpiSouth national situation-analysis (ENSA-Study)

Regional Priority

- Coordination of surveillance between Points of Entry (PoE) and National Health Systems

Results

- Italy, Malta, Jordan and Morocco participated in the ENSA-study.
- Four strategic lines for improving surveillance coordination at PoE:
  - invest on a legal framework linking IHR national focal-points with Competent Health Authorities (CHA);
  - ensure the presence of CHA at PoE;
  - elaborate/update relevant protocols processes and procedures;
  - ensure, through training, correct and consistent application of protocols, processes and procedures.
### Bridging epidemiology to PH policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Long Term Outcomes and Impact (*)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training on preparedness and risk management</td>
<td>Four modules plus two workshops and one Simulation exercise conducted. Development of the EPREP tool.</td>
<td>EC and ECDC and funded consortia for projects on training on preparedness (CELESTE Consortium) and on preparedness tool development (PERPHECT Consortium) in the framework of EC decision No 1082/2013/EU on serious cross border threats to health (start Dec 2013).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilitating IHR implementation</td>
<td>Conduction of the EpiSouth Plus National Situation Analysis on coordination of surveillance between points of entry and health systems (ENSA) with production of four country reports</td>
<td>Coordination of epidemiological surveillance between points of entry and the national health system in the framework of the international health regulations 2005 in the EpiSouth region (January 2014)</td>
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*Activities financed subsequently for further development, through projects involving countries of the EpiSouth Network/Tools or documents subsequently developed that draw from the EpiSouth Network experience*
Acknowledgements

EpiSouth Coordinators and WP5 and WP7 leaders

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