

**2nd EuroMed Ministerial Conference on Health
(16-17 November 2008)**

Workshop C “Controlling infectious diseases in the EuroMed region”

Participants conclusions and report to the Ministers

(Monday 17 at 15.00-17.00)

1. The countries of the Mediterranean region face similar Communicable Diseases (CD) threats and there is a recognized need of enhanced collaboration in the region
2. A comprehensive common approach for the control of CD should be developed at regional level
3. The common approach should:
 - ✓ be based on existing and functioning networks (e.g. EpiSouth, SEE, MECIDS...)
 - ✓ avoid duplication through enhanced coordination and synergies among networks
 - ✓ consider regional platforms and early warning systems (e.g. RASDON, EWGLI) as sharable tools
 - ✓ work in close collaboration with WHO
 - ✓ define the cooperation with ECDC
4. The strategy selected by UfM for the control of CD must be sustainable on a long term basis. Partnership and ownership from participating countries are essential and countries must be involved in the development process
5. The priorities should consider to:
 - ✓ develop a Mediterranean early warning system
 - ✓ improve data exchange (incl. travel health)
 - ✓ facilitate IHR implementation
 - ✓ enhance the communication among epidemiologists
 - ✓ establish a regional laboratory network
 - ✓ strengthen training and capacity building
 - ✓ sharing prevention approaches and guidelines
6. Within the frame of UfM, a Euro-mediterranean Network for CD should be implemented. EpiSouth that already covers all countries from the four areas of the region (S.Europe, Balkans, M.East, N.Africa) could be used as a starting point
7. Comprehensive discussion involving all countries regarding global strategy, priorities and methodologies should be held through:
 - ✓ plenary starting conference
 - ✓ regular follow-up meetings
8. Two key issues are related to:
 - ✓ Guaranteeing political commitment by the national authorities to support the Network
 - ✓ Ensuring Network sustainability through adequate provision of resources

*2nd EuroMed Ministerial Conference on Health
Cairo, 16-17 November 2008*



Conclusion from Workshop C

Controlling infectious diseases in the EuroMed region

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Workshop discussion points



1. What is the current situation regarding CD in the Euro-Mediterranean region?
2. What are the needs, priorities and common health challenges for CD in the region?
3. Are there actions in place addressing these needs?
4. Are there possible solutions for a common response?

Mediterraneus in latin means
“in the middle of the lands”





The Mediterranean

The countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea have common sea borders in this remarkable ecosystem.

Communicable Diseases do not have geographical or political boundaries

Workshop Conclusions 1



The countries of the Mediterranean region face similar Communicable Diseases (CD) threats

There is a recognized need of enhanced collaboration in the region

Workshop Conclusion 2



A comprehensive common approach
for the control of CD should be
developed at regional level

Workshop Conclusion 3



The common approach should:

- ✓ be based on existing and functioning networks (e.g. EpiSouth, SEE, MECIDS...)
- ✓ avoid duplication through enhanced coordination and synergies among networks
- ✓ consider regional platforms and early warning systems (e.g. Rasedoon, EWGLI) as sharable tools
- ✓ work in close collaboration with WHO
- ✓ define the cooperation with ECDC

Workshop Conclusion 4



The strategy selected by UfM for the control of CD must be sustainable on a long term basis

Partnership and ownership from participating countries are essential and countries must be involved in the development process

Workshop Conclusions 5



The priorities should consider to:

- ✓ develop a Mediterranean early warning system
- ✓ improve data exchange (incl. travel health)
- ✓ facilitate IHR implementation
- ✓ enhance the communication among epidemiologists
- ✓ establish a regional laboratory network
- ✓ strengthen training and capacity building
- ✓ sharing prevention approaches and guidelines

Workshop Conclusions 6



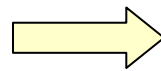
Within the frame of UfM, a Euro-mediterranean Network for CD should be implemented

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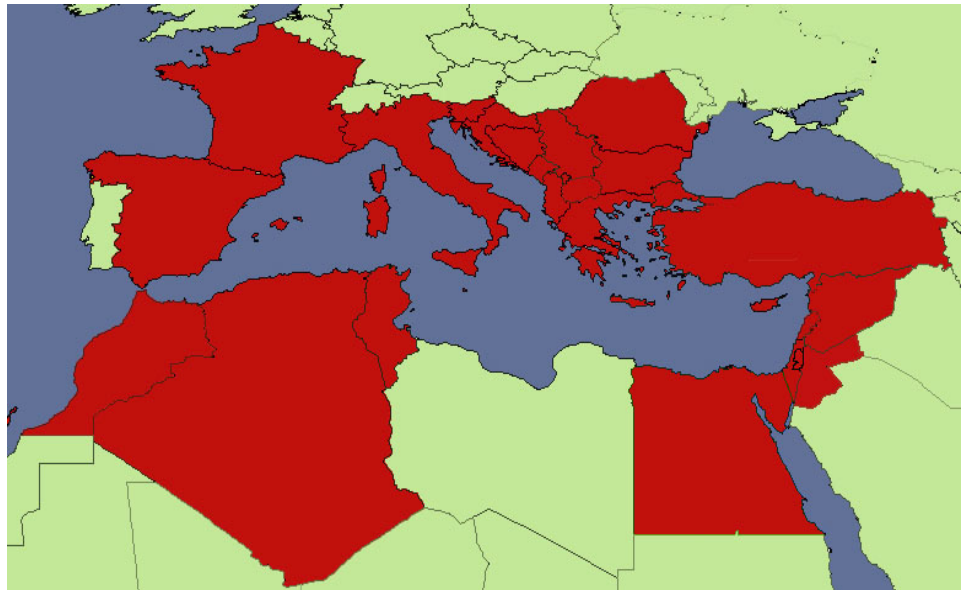
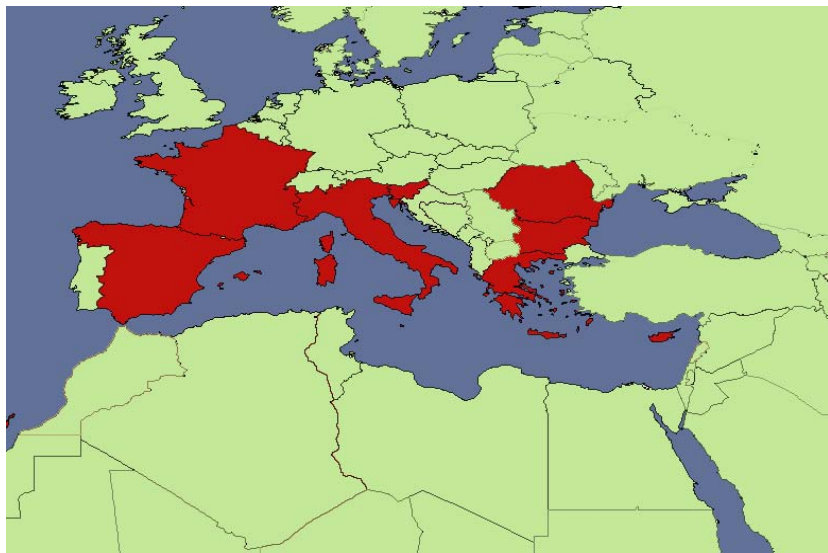
EpiSouth from a european project to a regional network



October 2006



October 2008



Workshop Conclusions 7



Comprehensive discussion involving all countries regarding global strategy, priorities and methodologies should be held through:

- ✓ plenary starting conference
- ✓ regular follow-up meetings

Workshop Conclusions 8



Two key issues are related to:

- ✓ Guaranteeing political commitment by the national authorities to support the Network
- ✓ Ensuring Network sustainability through adequate provision of resources