

WORK PACKAGE 4

Network of Public Health Institutions

Objectives

To strengthen connections between all participating countries, in order to reduce the variability of approaches in communicable diseases surveillance.

Main Achievements

Links among institutions belonging to the network have been strengthened and information regarding the core functions of each public health institute was made available through an updated directory of Institutions involved in surveillance of communicable diseases in southern Europe, the Balkans and Mediterranean Countries. The great effort made through networking was the most evident added value of the Episouth Project. It enabled participants to develop a sense of trust and a common understanding of the technical priorities in Public Health in the region and ultimately reach consensus on possible solutions to propose.

Activities

WP4 facilitated the networking process, provided information regarding institutions involved in communicable diseases surveillance in the Mediterranean area and in the Balkans. Moreover, WP4 worked to harmonise the activities of vertical work packages (WP6, WP7, WP8).

Countries belonging to the Mediterranean area share common public health problems. For this reason, it is crucial to create a network of institutions responsible for surveillance of infectious diseases. Communication among partners is the best way to react and respond to possible health threats, and the dissemination of the information to those who need to know enables a prompt action. On the one hand the networking process was open and participatory; on the other, the participants of the network should very much rely on stronger cohesion. Evidence from the questionnaires and the interviews highlighted that the potential of the network should be exploited by a strengthened governance with identification of common aims and shared responsibilities

WP4 Steering Team Members: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Israel, and the 6 WP leader Countries in addition to ECDC, EC-SANCO, WHO EURO, WHO EMRO and WHO LYO as observers in order to facilitate synergy and avoid overlapping.



WP 4 Leader
Azienda Ospedaliera di Padova,
Regione Veneto
(Padua Teaching Hospital)
Training and International Projects
Department
Padua, Italy
Email: episouth@iss.it

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