

WORK PACKAGE 8

Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonotic infections

Objectives

To strengthen the collaboration between Mediterranean and Balkan Countries through the exchange of information on emerging zoonotic infections with the potential for cross border transmission;

To describe the epidemiology of selected zoonoses in the EpiSouth region;

To facilitate intersectoral collaboration between Human Public Health (HPH) and Veterinary Public Health (VPH) officials within each participating country (one Health), as well as across the Episouth region in order to ensure monitoring, prediction and timely recognition of cross border transmission.

Main Achievements

The analysis of the survey allowed the team to describe the current epidemiology of zoonoses of common interest in the region (brucella, leishmania, campylobacter, rabies, west nile virus). Moreover, a platform for the communication of human (HPH) and veterinary public health (VPH) officials, with listing of accurate contacts for specific diseases was produced and made accessible on the website and a document on emerging zoonoses in the Episouth region was elaborated.

WP8 Steering Team Members: Greece, Cyprus, Albania, FYROM, Kosovo, Tunisia, Jordan, Egypt, and Syria

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Activities

WP8 conducted a survey among participating countries on a list of zoonoses of common interest selected in the course of the first project meeting. Moreover the WP worked to identify the HPH and VPH officials, designated by the countries' authorities for each selected zoonosis.

Human health is inextricably linked to animal health and production. The provision of health care has gradually diverted from individual patients to the community, large-scale planning techniques were devised and evaluation techniques focused on zoonoses and surveillance over foods of animal origin. Although regions with close co-dependence of animals and humans are found around the Mediterranean, Mediterranean countries significantly lag in intersectoral collaboration with most VPH and HPH services being segregated and working separately. Building on the framework of activities carried out by WHO, MED-VET-NET and the EU, WP8 has set in place a complementary approach to epidemiology and preparedness of emerging zoonoses oriented at filling the gaps, enhancing synergies and promoting experience-sharing among participating countries



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