

EpiSouth Project

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



Grant Agreement n° 2005206

*A project funded by the European Commission,
Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General*

First Interim Report

01/10/2006 – 30/09/2007



EPISOUTH Project

Main beneficiary



Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy)

Associated beneficiaries



Azienda Ospedaliera di Padova (Italy)



Instituto de Salud Carlos III (Spain)



Institut de Veille Sanitaire (France)



National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (Bulgaria)



Hellenic Centre for Disease Control & Prevention (Greece)



Ministry of Health (Cyprus)



Ministry of Health (Malta)



Institute of Public Health (Romania)



Institute of Public Health (Slovenia)

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PROJECT FACT SHEET



Contract number:	2005206
Proposal title:	Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries
Acronym:	EpiSouth

Starting date:	01/10/2006
Duration of the project:	3 years
Reporting period:	01/10/2006 – 30/09/2007

Main partner:	ISS – Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy)
Number of associated partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1-Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy2-Azienda Ospedaliera di Padova (Padua GH), Veneto Region, Italy3-Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain4-Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVS), France5-National Center of Infectious & Parasitic Diseases (NICPD), Bulgaria6-Hellenic Center for Infectious Diseases Control (HCIDC/KEEL), Greece7-Ministry of Health (MOH CY), Cyprus8-Ministry of Health (MOH MT), Malta9-Institute of Public Health (IPH/ISPB), Romania10-Institute of Public Health (IVZ-RS), Slovenia

Total amount of the project:	2,308,772.26 Euro
EC Co-funding :	1,719,032.68 Euro
First prefinancing payment:	687,613.07 Euro
First interim financial report:	524.010,23 Euro (of which 306.841,91 from EC funding)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

The project “Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries (EpiSouth)” is under the DGSANCO Grant Agreement 2005206 which states that the project shall run for 36 months from 01/10/2006 to 30/09/2009.

However, the signed Grant Agreement was received by Istituto Superiore di Sanità (the main beneficiary) on October 20, 2006.

Soon after the project’s activities were started but, especially considering staff recruitment aspects and coordination with the other partners involved, the 1st Steering Committee Meeting foreseen by the original Grant Agreement Schedule for October 2006, was actually held in December 2006 (see related letter annexed to this report).

1.2 Objectives

The general objective of the EpiSouth project is to create a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries in the area of Mediterranean and Balkans.

Several areas of activity were identified and are being developed through specific Work Packages (WP) as follows:

- 1 - Co-ordination of the project, with the main specific objective (SO) of guaranteeing a high quality performance of the project.
- 2 - Dissemination of the project, with the main SO of disseminating the information produced by EpiSouth within the participating countries and to those who need to know through an ad hoc created website and an electronic bulletin.
- 3 - Evaluation of the project, with the main SO of evaluating the project and its achievements in terms of milestones, deliverables, and indicators.
- 4 - Network of public health institutions, with the main SO of facilitating the networking process and activities among participants in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion.
- 5 - Training in field/applied epidemiology, with the main SO of strengthening the early response capacity of participating countries to health threats and infectious disease spread.
- 6 - Cross-border epidemic intelligence, with the main SO of establishing a common platform on epidemic intelligence where participating countries may find broad internationally as well as regionally focused information.
- 7 - Vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations, with the main SO of assessing the access to immunisation and exchanging information on cases/outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases of migrant populations.
- 8 - Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonoses, with the main SO of providing a platform for the communication of human (HPH) and veterinary public health (VPH)

officials, describing risk assessment methods and providing a mechanism for exchanging information between HPH and VPH.

1.3 Organisation of the project

The original project organisation was partially revised in the light of the outcomes of the 1st Project Meeting held in Rome on 28-30 March 2007.

In fact, beside the EU-Countries partners of EpiSouth Project, 16 non-EU Countries from the Mediterranean Basin were invited to this Meeting in order to evaluate their concrete interest to participate to EpiSouth Project with the ultimate objective of creating a network among the majority of the Mediterranean Countries.

The meeting was successful as out of the 16 non-EU Countries invited 13 participated and all of them expressed their general interest in the project and their specific interest in collaborating actively in specific Work Packages.

Therefore, the project organisation was revised accordingly:

i) The project is led by the Steering Committee (SC), composed by the 6 WP leaders plus ECDC and EC-SANCO C3 as observers. WHO EURO, WHO EMRO and WHO HQ representatives were also involved in the SC as observers after the Meeting in Rome. All WHO entities agreed also to give inputs in the Work Packages activities.

ii) The participation of the countries to the project foresees three different levels of active involvement:

a) Country Focal Points (CFPs) of the Episouth Network (WP4)

Each country has identified and appointed one or two relevant persons, who act as Country Focal Points (CFPs) of the Episouth Network and who convey all the communication/information to the relevant officers in their respective countries.

Each CFP will directly interact with the project coordinator (Italy-ISS) as well as with all the other CFPs of the Episouth Network.

b) Work Packages Steering Teams (WPSTs)

Each country has selected one or more WPs in which to be especially active.

In order to facilitate and enhance the work, a Steering Team has been formed for each WP. Each Steering Team is constituted by the WP's Leader, by an Associated Partner and by those Participating Countries which have expressed their interest for the related WP.

The Steering Team will be in charge for identifying the countries' needs, developing the tools and the conducive project environment in accordance with the specific objective and requirements of the related WP.

The guiding documents produced by each Steering Team will be shared with all Country Focal Points (CFPs) before their official adoption in the project's implementation.

c) Participation to Work Packages' activities

Each participating country can participate to the activities of one up to all the WPs in accordance with their needs and interests. The participation to the activities of WPs not chosen can be requested by the country in the coming years.

In fact, it is worth stressing that, although each country could be in the Steering Team of 1 or 2 WPs, the participation to the activities of the WPs is extended also to the participating countries which are not part of the WPST.

1.4 Activities undertaken in the period covered by the interim report

Table 1. Activities undertaken by each WP

<p>WP1- Coordination of the project</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st Steering Committee Meeting (Venice, 11 - 13 December 2006) 2. 1st Project Meeting (Rome, 28-30 March, 2007) 3. Ad hoc meetings with WHO and ECDC representatives 4. Obtainment of formal commitment letter to the project from 12 non-UE countries 5. Coordination mission to Madrid (WP5) 6. Preparation and partners approval of Project Work-plan for the 1st year
<p>WP2- Dissemination of the results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subcontracting CINECA for the construction and maintenance of an ad hoc created web site 2. Opening of the restricted working area of the Web site (called Network Working Area NWA) accessed by all the EpiSouth participants by a personal user ID and password 3. Making available draft pages of the public area of the web site 4. Organising the press coverage for the first EpiSouth Meeting held in Rome on 28-30 March 2007 5. Preparation of the form to be compiled on-line to receive the EpiSouth Electronic Bulletin 6. Opening of the final version of the public area of the project's web site 7. Preparation of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients 8. Preparation and release of the draft issue of the Electronic Bulletin 9. Preparation of abstract for submission to scientific conferences
<p>WP3- Evaluation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criteria for evaluating the quality of the process (activities indicators) and of the outcomes (output indicators) defined during the first EpiSouth Steering Committee and evaluation tools prepared accordingly 2. An Evaluation Work-plan was drafted and posted on the Steering Committee section of the web-site and later also on the cooperative area (Network Working Area NWA).
<p>WP4 – Network of Public Health Institutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Networking work-plan 2. Permanent communication tool: restricted area of work on web site – Member's private area, called Network Working Area NWA (withWP2) 3. Questionnaire for collecting information for Directory
<p>WP5 – Training in field/applied epidemiology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of the questionnaire for the Survey to identify training needs 2. Questionnaire filled by Episouth participants and analysed by the WP5 ST 3. Collaboration and link with EPIET & FETPs 4. First training module 5. Teaching materials of the first training module

WP6 – Cross border epidemic intelligence

1. Consensus on criteria for epidemic intelligence (international events) during the 1st Steering Committee
2. Collaboration with MedISys and ECDC on epidemic intelligence
3. Monitoring international events: Pilot phase
4. Assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities in participating countries (with the preparation of a specific questionnaire)
5. Participation to scientific seminars on cross-border epidemic intelligence

WP7- Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Migrants

1. Draft questionnaire “Vaccine preventable Diseases and migrant population” was developed
2. The Draft questionnaire was distributed to all ST partners and was uploaded on the WEB page of the project (ST WP7 members area) with the aim of discussing it with the ST
3. Pilot survey using the Draft questionnaire for assessment of the access of migrant population to immunizations was organized and performed among WP7 ST countries. A total of 7 questionnaires (ST WP7 members) were collected
4. A preliminary analysis of this provisional assessment survey (within WP7ST, based on the Draft questionnaire) was performed, aiming at an optimization of the final version of the questionnaire

WP8- Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonotic infections

1. Development of the questionnaire for setting priorities regarding zoonoses of interest for all participating in the project countries, under the context of WP8
2. Data entry and analysis of the data collected through “questionnaires of identifying zoonoses of priority”
3. Llist of zoonotic diseases of interest

1.5 Milestones and deliverables achieved

Table 2. Comparison between M & D planned and achieved by each WP

Time Schedule

EPISOUTH

1st year (Months): M&D achieved versus planned

Months		Planned												Achieved											
Original Starting	Actual	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
WP1	1(Oct06)	3(Dec06)	MD1										MD1			M					D1				
WP2	1	3		M	MM					MD5			D5 D6 D7						MM				M		MD5
WP3	1	3			M																M				
WP4	1	3			MD9			M				D10	M								M		M		
WP5	1	3					M	M		D12		M	D13											M	MD12
WP6	1	3	M					D16			M		D17 D19			M									
WP7	1	3			M							M	D20												M
WP8	1	3	M								M		M				M								

M = milestones
D = Deliverables

1.6 Problems encountered and how the problems were resolved

Minor problems were encountered during this 1st year of activities and the majority of them was due to the need of re-organising the project in light of the successful enlargement. The coordination had to be very closed with all the partners involved to ensure the needed collaboration of all the participants.

In addition, as the non-EU countries participation to the activities was possible through the support of TAIEX and the Italian Ministry of Health, different kind of arrangements were requested and carried out.

The enlargement process has caused delay also in the opening of the restricted working area of the project's web site. The two-months gap between the planned date and the achievement date of opening was due to the delayed receipt of the official letter of commitments and nomination of focal points from the authorities of some participating countries. This delay was reduced through frequent telephone calls and e-mails to urge the countries to send the documents needed to release the personal ID and passwords for accessing the restricted working area to the nominated persons.

In relation to data collection and assessments through questionnaires, it has to be reported in same case a poor return rate (for example WP4 questionnaire). Various reminders were made and sent to the participants but some of them were complaining that the time allocated for filling the questionnaires in was too tight comparing to the several engagements also in other activities in their respective institutions.

In other cases (for example WP7) was not so easy the questionnaire design: the diversity of the situation with migrant population in the countries participating in EPISOUTH project and the differences of existing problems, related to different country-specific conditions required several draft versions of the questionnaire.

Efforts to improve the above-reported problems were directed mostly to the strengthening of the members area platform in EpiSouth web site as efficient tool to share working documents and to allow on line compilation of questionnaires.

1.7 Activities planned for the next period

Table 3. Activities planned by each WP for the next period

WP1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation to ESCADE International Conference in Stockholm and coordination meetings with ECDC representatives; • Mission to Athens for coordination and preparation of 2nd Steering Committee and Project Meeting; • 2nd Steering Committee and Project Meeting (Athens); • Final Work-plan 2nd Year; • Coordination missions; • Support to the organisation of the 2nd training session in Madrid; • Intensify contacts among partners promoting exchange of information and data especially through the members area of the project website; • Intensify contacts and concretize collaboration with international institutions
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	<p>(i.e. ECDC, WHO);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with the enlargement to other potential non-EU Countries.
WP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and update of the project's web site (both public and restricted areas Network Working Area- NWA) • Update of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients • Release of the EpiSouth Electronic bulletin • Submission of abstracts and participation to scientific conferences and congresses of interest for the project
WP3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The First Year Evaluation report prepared and disseminated among partners; • The two questionnaires concerning Meeting management and Network development will again be distributed among participants to the Athens conference, the answers analysed and interpreted, and results will be shared with all stakeholders through the web-site; • WPs activities will be monitored through the Network Working Area in the web-site and reminders will be sent to WP leaders if deemed useful; • The WP3 leader will support with the preparation and management of the second and third EpiSouth Meetings.
WP4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in the preparatory meeting of the Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1 and WP8; • Organisation of Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1, WP6, WP7 and WP8; • Preparation of the Project Networking Meeting proceedings; • Preparation of the guidelines for the three strategic documents (WP6,7 and 8) in cooperation with WP1 and related WPs. • Validated questionnaire for the directory uploaded in the Network Working Area of the website to be completed on-line by WP leaders and EpiSouth Focal Points; • Data collection, processing and analysis of questionnaires; • Preparation of the Directory of participant Institutions and made its accessibility on the Web.
WP5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the first training evaluation reviewed by WP5 Steering Team • Report on the Survey on training needs • Collaboration and Link with EPIET & FETPs • Feeding the project web-site with/for training information • Second training module • Teaching material on Second training module • Evaluation of the Second training module • Draft directory of training courses and fellowships • Directory of training courses and fellowships • Collaboration and Link with on-line short training courses of interest
WP6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of ongoing activities (EI bulletin, etc) • Dissemination of Epidemic Intelligence (EI) and Cross Borders (CB) procedures • Finalisation and dissemination of Epidemic Intelligence Bulletin • Elaboration of the Secure Web Site for CB information sharing • Assessment missions to WP6-SG countries
WP7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report with results from the provisional assessment survey will be presented and discussed during the Project Meeting in December, 2007

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Questionnaire “Preliminary Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population” will be distributed to all partners and uploaded on the Network Working Area of the website to be used for on-line data-entry • The final analysis and report about survey data for vaccine preventable diseases and migrant population • Exchange of information on cases/outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases among migrant populations in partner countries (with WP6) • Preparation of draft recommendations for improving the access to immunization and for exchanging data on vaccine preventable diseases and adjusting vaccination plans meeting the EU MS plan's requirements and publication on web-restricted area (Network Working Area)for discussion • Presentation of the Recommendations at the Project Meeting, 2008 • Missions to support Episouth countries in implementing WP7 • WP leader discussions with ECDC and DG-SANCO for the optimization of the results.
WP8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalization of analyzing data collected with Zoonoses Questionnaires and identification of the list of zoonoses of priorities according to the questionnaires' data and other selection criteria • Uploading of the Zoonoses priority list document in WP8 ENWA for comments • Preparation of the 2nd Steering Committee & 2nd Project Meeting (Athens) • 1st Meeting for zoonosis final strategic document preparation • Construction of the questionnaire for HPH and VPH officials in the EpiSouth Area. • Missions to support the implementation of the activities of WP8 • Data base with HPH & VPH Focal Points for a selected list of zoonosis. • Collaboration with existing networks (MZCC, MED-VET-NET)

2. Project Specifications

2.1 Background

The project “Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries (EpiSouth)” is under the DGSANCO Grant Agreement 2005206 which states that the project shall run for 36 months from 01/10/2006 to 30/09/2009.

However, the signed Grant Agreement was received by Istituto Superiore di Sanità (the main beneficiary) on October 20, 2006.

Soon after the project’s activities were started but, especially considering staff recruitment aspects and coordination with the other partners involved, the 1st Steering Committee Meeting foreseen by the original Grant Agreement Schedule for October 2006, was actually held in December 2006 (see related letter annexed to this report).

2.2 General Objective of the Project

The general objective of the EpiSouth project is to create a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries in the area of Mediterranean and Balkans.

2.3 Specific objectives of the project

The following Specific Objectives will be achieved with the development of Work packages:

1. Co-ordination: 1.1) To guarantee a high quality performance of the project ensuring that timetables for the completion of works are set and adhered to; 1.2) To ensure the enlargement of the number of non-EU countries and international partners in the EpiSouth project and establish links with appropriate European and International resources.
2. Dissemination: To disseminate the information produced by EpiSouth within the participating countries and to those who need to know through an ad hoc created web-site, an electronic bulletin, participation to scientific seminars and organization of press coverage of the final conference;
3. Evaluation: To evaluate the project in terms of respect of the scheduled milestones and deliverables; achievements of the stated project indicators, both for quantitative and qualitative aspects; active participation of both associated and collaborating countries;
4. Network of public health institutions: To facilitate the networking process and activities among participants of EpiSouth in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion within the Community by bringing together also the non-EU countries in South of Europe, including Mediterranean bordering ones.
5. Training in field/applied epidemiology: 5.1) To strength the early response capacity of participating countries to health threats and infectious disease spread by organising ad-hoc

short-term training courses; 5.2) to promote the participation to already existing European training courses.

6. Cross-border epidemic intelligence: To establish a common platform on “epidemic intelligence” where participating countries may find broad internationally as well as regionally information.
7. Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations: 7.1) To assess the access to immunisation of migrant population and immigrants; 7.2) To collect data and exchange information on cases/outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases in this target group; 7.3) To provide an overview of existing programmes for monitoring and improving migrant populations immunisation coverage and to formulate recommendations.
8. Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonotic infections: 8.1) To provide a platform for the communication of human (HPH) and veterinary public health (VPH) officials, with accurate contacts; 8.2) To provide indices for the description of epidemiology and monitoring for a selected list of zoonoses, in order to predict risk of cross border transmission and provide alerts.

2.4 Work packages and deliverables

EPISOUTH is organised in 8 work packages linked to the specific objectives of the project as reported in the previous chapter.

In the following table the most important deliverables that each work package will produce are listed.

Table 4. Summary of project deliverables by work packages

Work package	Deliverables
WP 1 Coordination of the project	D1- Work-plans adopted at the 1 st 2 nd and 3 rd Steering Committee meetings for year 1, 2 and 3 D2- Reports of the steering committee meetings D3- 1 st and 2 nd interim technical implementation report, including interim financial report D4- Final technical report of the project, including financial report
WP 2 Dissemination of the results	D5- EpiSouth web-site D6- EpiSouth electronic Bulletin D7- Participations to scientific seminars on EpiSouth issues
WP 3 Evaluation of the project	D8- Final evaluation report
WP 4 Network of public health institutions	D9- Networking plan

	<p>D10- Directory of institutions involved in surveillance in South Europe and Mediterranean area</p> <p>D11- Proceeding of the 3 Network Meetings, including the final Conference</p>
<p>WP 5 Training in the field/applied epidemiology</p>	<p>D12- Teaching material on the 1st training module, validated by peers</p> <p>D13- Directory of training courses and fellowships of interest for the project</p> <p>D14- Teaching material on the 2nd training module</p> <p>D15- Teaching material on the 3rd training module</p>
<p>WP 6 Cross-border epidemic intelligence</p>	<p>D16- Cross border epidemic procedures</p> <p>D17- Section on cross-border epidemic on EpiSouth web-site with alarm posted</p> <p>D18- Final strategic document on cross-border epidemic intelligence (WP 4 and 6)</p> <p>D19- Participations to scientific seminars on cross-border epidemic intelligence</p>
<p>WP 7 Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant population</p>	<p>D20- Report on assessment survey for vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations</p> <p>D21- Recommendations for improving access to immunizations and exchanging data on vaccine preventable diseases</p> <p>D22- Strategic document on vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations (WP 4 and 7)</p>
<p>WP 8 Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonotic infections</p>	<p>D23- Data-base with Human Public Health (HPH) and Veterinary Public Health (VPH) contact points</p> <p>D24- Strategic document on risk assessment methods for cross border zoonoses (WP 4 and 8)</p>

2.5 Time table and overview of the activities

The EPISOUTH project started formally in October 2006. But the actual activities started in December with the 1st EpiSouth Steering Committee held in Venice. The following table summarises the time table of the 8 work packages as foreseen in the Original Grant Agreement

Table 5. Original time table with Milestones and Deliverables by Work Packages

Time Schedule 2005206 EPISOUTH

Months

	Start date	End date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36		
WP1	1	36	MD1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	MD1	1	D2 D3	1	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	MD1	1	D2 D3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	D2 D4	
WP2	1	36	1	M	MM	1	1	1	1	1	MD5	1	1	D5 D6 D7	1	1	D5 D6	1	1	D5 D6	1	1	D5 D6	1	1	D5 D6 D7	1	1	D5 D6	1	1	D5 D6	1	1	D5 D6	1	1	M	D5 D6 D7	
WP3	1	36	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	D8	
WP4	1	36	1	1	MD9	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	D10	M	1	D11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	D11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	D11	
WP5	1	36	1	1	1	1	M	M	1	D12	1	M	1	D13	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	D14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	D15	1	1	1	1	1	
WP6	1	36	M	1	1	1	1	D16	1	1	M	1	1	D17 D19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	M	D18 D19	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	D19
WP7	1	36	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	D20	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	D21	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	D22
WP8	1	36	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	M	D23 D24	

M = milestones
D = Deliverables

In the following table 6. and overview of the activities done by each WP have been reported

Table 6. Overview of 1st year activities

WP	Activities/Tasks ¹	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreemen t	Date foreseen by Approved Work- plan	Date of achieve ment	Level of achieve ment ²	Justification/ Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available ³
WP1	1st Steering Committee Meeting	M	Agenda, list of Participants	Oct 06	Dec 06	Dec 06	100%	The project concretely started at the beginning of December 2006		YES
	1st Project Meeting (Rome)	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	Agenda, list of Participants, Report etc.	NA	NA	March 07	100%	The meeting was organised to facilitate non-EU Countries participation to EpiSouth		YES & CD-Rom
	Contacts with European and International resources of interest	A	No. of European and International resources of interest	All over the project period			100%			YES
	Enlargement of EpiSouth Partners	A	List of Participants/ Official Commitment letters/FPs Nomination Organization Doc	March 08	May 07: 1 st phase of enlargement	May 07	100%			YES

¹ In accordance with the Approved Work-plan and Timetable by WPs of the 1st year (15 May 07)

² Level of achievement measured by each WP leader in the period covered by the interim report

³ See also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website

	Missions for Coordination in EpiSouth Countries	A	Missions Agenda, Related Doc. etc.		October 07	Sept. 07	100%			YES
	Work plan for each year	D1	Workplan	October 06	May 07	May 07	100%	The project workplan was drafted with the contribution of each WP soon after the 1 st Steering Meeting of Dec 06. It was eventually shared and formally approved during the 1 st Project Meeting in Rome (March 07)		YES
	2 nd Steering Committee Meeting (SCM)	M	Agenda, list of Participants, Report etc.	Sept 07	Dec 07			As the 1 st SCM was held in Dec 2006, the 2 nd SCM will be held in Dec 2007.		

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/Deliverables/Milestones/activities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work-plan	Date of achievement	Level of achievement	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP2	Subcontracting CINECA for web site	M	Subcontract with the agency for the web site done	Nov 06	Mar 07	Mar 07	100%			On paper
	Opening of the Restricted area of work on the web site – Member’s private area Network Working Area -NWA (with WP4)	M	Pages available on the restricted area of the WEB site	Dec 06	May 07	July 07	100%	Delayed receipt of the official letters of commitment and nomination of focal points from the authorities of some	Frequent telephone calls and e-mails to urge the countries to send the needed	YES

								participating countries	documents	
	Draft pages web site (Public area)	M	Several pag available in the public area of the WEB site	Dec 06	Mar 07	Mar 07	100%			On paper
	Press coverage of First Episouth Meeting (Rome)	Extra	Press releases available from ISS website	Not foreseen	Mar 07	Mar 07	100%			YES
	Form for receiving the bulletin	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	Form available on the public area of the WEB site	Not specificall y foreseen	Mar 07	Mar. 07	100%			YES
	Final version of the web-site at least quarterly updated	D5	All pages available in the public area of the WEB site	June 07	Sep 07	Sep 07	100%			YES
	Mailing list of Bulletin recipients	I	Availability of the database including information for all people registered to receive the electronic bulletin	Not specificall y foreseen	Sep 07	Sep 07	100%			
	Draft issue of electronic bulletin	M	Issue N. 0 of the Electronic Bulletin sent to all registered people	Jun 07	Sep 07	Sep 07	100%			YES

	Participation to scientific seminars on Episouth issues	D7	Abstract submitted to the ESCAIDE conference	Sept 07	Dec 07	July 07	50%	ESCAIDE Conference planned for October 07		YES
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WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/Deliverables/Milestones/activities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work-plan	Date of achievement	Level of achievement	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP3	Consensus on evaluation criteria, work plan, and form among Steering committee members	A	Evaluation criteria reached, plan designed	Oct 06	Dec 06	Dec 06	100%	The project concretely started at the beginning of December 2006		Power point presentation
	Tools for Meeting Evaluation and Network Monitoring (questionnaires)	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	Questionnaires developed and distributed, answers interpreted and published on the website	NA	Mar 07	Mar 07	100%	None		YES
	1st Project Meeting (Rome)	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	Presentations prepared and given, Meeting facilitator role performed	NA	NA	Mar 07	100%	None		YES
	Evaluation work-plan on NWA of web site	M	Plan on the website	Dec 06	May 07	July 07	75%	None		YES
	Evaluation questionnaire on NWA of web site	M	Monitoring and evaluation tools on the website	Dec 06	May 07	July 07	75%	None		YES
	Partners filling in the evaluation forms on web site	A		Dec 06 - Sept 07	Apr 07- Dec 07		25%			

	Monitoring of partners form for respect of scheduled milestones, deliverables and project indicators		Partners sent info re activities carried out	Mar 07 – Oct 07	Jun 07- Dec 07		25%			
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WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/Deliverables/Milestones/activities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work-plan	Date of achievement	Level of achievement	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP4	Consensus on Network plan during the 1 st Steering Committee	A	Consensus achieved during the meeting	Oct 06	Dec 06	Dec 06	100%	The project concretely started at the beginning of December 2006		Power Point presentation
	Networking work-plan	D9	Networking work-plan	Dec 06	Mar 07	Mar 07	50%			
	1st Project Meeting (Rome)	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	Participation	NA	NA	Mar 07	100%			YES
	WP4 Steering Team (WP4 ST) establishment			NA	April 07	July 07	100%			
	Permanent communication tool: restricted area of work on web site – Member's private area Network Working Area NWA (with WP2)	M	See WP 2	Dec 06	May 07	Jul 07	100%	See WP2	See WP2	See WP2
	Preparation of questionnaire for collecting information for Directory	M	Pre-tested questionnaire uploaded in the web-site	May 07	May 07	Aug 07	100%	The questionnaire was drafted by WP4, amended by WP1 and uploaded by WP2		YES

								after activation of Website Members private area		
Partners filling in the questionnaire for Directory information on web site	A	Questionnaire revised by WP4 ST uploaded in the web-site	May 07	Aug 07		20%		- Poor return rate by WP4 ST members - Website version of the questionnaire to be completed on-line by WP leaders institutions and Focal Points ready on November 07	- More active involvement of WP4 ST members - Stressing WP leaders institutions and Focal Points to complete the questionnaire on-line by Dec 07	
Preparation of Directory to be available on web site (with peoples' consent)	D10	Database	Aug 07	Nov 07		In progress	See the delays reported above		NA	
Link with relevant web-sites (e.g. EU IRIDE project)	A	Link available on the project's web-site	June 07	Sept 07	Sept 07	100%				
Organization of a Plenary Network meeting in Athens (with WP1, WP6, WP7, WP8)	M	Programme, List of participants	Oct 07	Dec 07	NA	NA	As the 1 st Project Meeting was held in March 2007, the 2 nd PM will be held in Dec 2007.			
Minutes of the Plenary Network meeting in Athens	I	Minutes, Report	Oct 07	Dec 07	NA	NA	As the 1 st Project Meeting was held in March 2007, the 2 nd PM will be held in Dec 2007..	NA		

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreemen t	Date foreseen by Approved Work- plan	Date of achieve ment	Level of achieve ment	Justification/ Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP5	Preparation of the questionnaire for the Survey to identify training needs	A	N° of drafts questionnaire s/Final version of the questionnaire	Jan 07	May 07	June 07	100%		No action needed. Questionnaire already finished and sent	YES
	Questionnaire filled by Episouth participants and analysed by the WP5 ST	I	Data base		May 07	Foreseen for Nov 07	80%	Delays in the process of validation and quality control of information was longer than expected. (The countries answered the questionnaire after the deadline. In fact, most of them had sent their responses at the end of august. In addition many of them delivered incomplete responses).	Active validation and quality control. Data base and preliminary data analysis is done. Final results will be available in Nov 07	

Report of the survey on training needs	M	Report	Febr 07	June 07	Foreseen Nov 07	80%	Due to the reasons above explained the database was not available until end of Oct 07 & therefore the analysis and the report are not finalised	Due to the delaying questionnaire response, data were not available on time (see above). The preliminary analysis focussed on few items (flow charts and results in responses from questions 29 to 46) to allow the proper implementation of the 1 st training module	
Collaboration and link with EPIET & FETPs	A	N° of Meetings and coordinated activities ⁴	All over the project period	All over the project period	-	-		No action needed.	
Feeding the project website with/for training information	A	Links in the public area	All over the project period	All over the project period	-	-		No action needed.	YES
First training module	M	First training module carried out/ N° of participants in the first training/Programme	May 07	Sept 07	Sept 07	100%		No action needed.	YES & CD Rom
Teaching materials of the first training module	D12	CD with the contents	May 07	Oct 07	Sept 07	100%			YES

⁴ Including: Dissemination of information of Conference ESCAIDE; Participation of EPIET and FEATP in the training module: Participation of EPIET & FEATP in elaboration of training needs survey

	Evaluation of the first training module	I	Evaluation forms for the training module filled and analyzed	May 07	Sept 07	Foreseen Nov 07	90%	Analysis and evaluation report under review by WP 5 Steering Team		
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WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/Deliverables/Milestones/activities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work-plan	Date of achievement	Level of achievement	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP6	Consensus on criteria for epidemic intelligence (international events) during the 1st Steering Committee	M	1st Steering Committee Meeting	Oct 06	Dec 06	Dec 06	100%	The project concretely started at the beginning of December 2006		Power Point presentation
	WP6 Steering Team (WP6 ST) establishment	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	1st Episouth Meeting Rome		Apr 07	Apr 07	100%			YES
	Collaboration with MedISys and ECDC on epidemic intelligence	A	Meeting Collaboration	n/a	Year round	n/a	100%			
	Monitoring international events and alerts dissemination	A	Pilot bulletin		May 07	Sept 07	80%	Start project delayed December 2006 Recruitment staff longer than anticipated.		Teleconf Material
	Cross border epidemic procedures	D16	Report	March 07	June 07	NA	75%	Time necessary to allow Involvement of WP6 Steering Team		Teleconf. Material
	Assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities in participating countries	A	questionnaire		May-Jun 07	Jul-Sept 07	100%	Time necessary to allow Involvement of WP6 Steering Team		YES

	Mission to support partners in implementation of WP6	A	Report			Year 2	0%	Effective start of the project (May 2007), Missions would be more efficient after the endorsement of procedures		
	Pilot secured section on cross-border epidemic intelligence on website with alerts originating from partners	M	Data base and alerts Web	Jun 07	Nov 07	Year 2	0%	Effective start of the project (May 2007), Missions would be more efficient after the endorsement of procedures		
	Section on cross-border epidemic on EpiSouth web-site with alarm posted	D17	web	Oct 07	Dec 07		NA	The project concretely started at the beginning of December 2006		
	Participation to scientific seminars on cross-border epidemic intelligence	D19	Abstract	Oct 07	Dec 07		50%	Abstract sent and accepted by Sept 07 for the seminar held on Dec. 07		YES

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/Deliverables/Milestones/Activities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work-plan	Date of achievement	Level of achievement	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP7	Contact with national representative persons and networks (ESEN2, VENICE etc.)	A	Database	Oct. 06	March-April 07	April 07	100%			
	WP7 Steering Team (WP7 ST) establishment	A	List of WP7 ST		April 07	April-May 07	100%			
	Questionnaire for collecting information for the survey on situation of vaccine	A	Forms	October-December 06	April – May 07	June 07	100%	The diversity of the situation with migrant population in the countries,	Several versions of the questionnaire were prepared to meet all	YES

preventable-diseases and migrant population among participating countries prepared and discussed							participating in the project and the differences of existing problems, related to different country-specific conditions	requirements. Decision to complete a draft questionnaire by WP7 ST countries as a pilot study.	
Questionnaire distributed to partners	M	Forms	Dec 06	May 07	Sept 07	50%	The questionnaire distributed to all WP7 ST partners to be completed and evaluated.	Proposals from partners for inclusion of additional details received	
Follow-up of response to the questionnaire	A	Database	Dec 06 - March 07	May – July 07	Aug - Sept 07	50%	The questionnaire completed by 7 WP7 ST partners and comments sent		
Data analysis of survey questionnaires	A	Report	March-June, 07	August - Sept 07	Sept – Oct 07	50 %	Preliminary analysis on the basis of 7 WP7 ST partners questionnaires performed.	An updated – Final version of the questionnaire produced	
Provisional survey results on the web-restricted area	M	Report	July, 2007	Oct 07	Nov 07	0%			
Mission to support partners in implementation of WP7	A	Event & Report	During the project time	Nov-Dec 2007					
Report on assessment survey for vaccine-preventable disease and migrant populations presented Project Meeting	D20	Report	September, 2007	December 2007					
Exchange of information on cases/outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases among migrant populations in partner countries (with WP6)	A	Database	No date	December 2007					
Initial discussion at the Project Meeting on	A	Report	September 2007	December 2007					

recommendations on access to immunization, exchanging data and adjusting vaccination plan										
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WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/Deliverables/Milestones/activities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work-plan	Date of achievement	Level of achievement	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP 8	Constitution of the Steering Team (WP8 ST)	M	Constitution of the Steering Team	NA	Apr 07	Apr 07	100%			
	List of zoonotic diseases of interest	A	List of Zoonotic diseases available	Oct 06	Jun 07	May 07	100%			Power Point Presentation in Rome
	Questionnaire for 22 EpiSouth countries aiming at defining five zoonotic diseases	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	Questionnaire uploaded	NA	NA	Aug 07	100%	May 07 sent to WP8 steering team for comments. Jun 07 finalized format. Aug 07 uploaded in STWA and ENWA		YES
	Collaboration and Link with existing networks (MED-VET-NET, MZCC etc.)	A	No. of European and International resources of interest	NA	Continuou s collaborati on	NA	100%	MZCC representative included in WP 8 Working group in Greece		

3. TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

3.1 ACTIVITIES RELATED TO WORK PACKAGES

3.1.1 WP 1 Coordination of the project

This WP1 is linked to all the specific objectives of the action and includes the coordination, management and administration of the project. The WP1 provides an information hub through which general exchanges of information can be co-ordinated.

The objectives directly linked to the WP are:

- guarantying a high quality performance of the project ensuring that timetables for the completion of works are set and adhered to and the aims and objectives of the project are met within the time-frame specified;
- ensuring the enlargement of the number of non-EU countries and international partners participating in the EpiSouth project;
- establishing links with appropriate European and International resources of interest for the project.

In accordance with the objectives set above the following activities were undertaken during the 1st year of project implementation:

1. 1st Steering Committee Meeting (Venice, 11 - 13 December 2006)
2. 1st Project Meeting (Rome, 28-30 March, 2007)
3. Ad hoc meetings with WHO and ECDC representatives
4. Obtainment of formal commitment letter to the project from 12 non-UE countries
5. Coordination mission to Madrid (WP5)
6. Preparation and partners approval of Project Work-plan for the 1st year

Milestones and Deliverables achieved

a) Coordination Meetings

a.1) 1st Steering Committee Meeting (Venice, 11 - 13 December 2006) - M

The meeting was the kick-off meeting of EpiSouth project. The meeting was attended by all members (representatives of the 6 associated partners' leader of a WP, plus 1 person in charge of the WP3-Evaluation and a representative of the EC as observer). ECDC was also present and declare its commitment in becoming involved in all the activities. WHO was invited (EMRO and EURO) but didn't attend. **(for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.1 - Agenda and List of participants to the 1st SC Meeting).**

All Work packages (WP) were presenting contents and point of discussions to be solved.

Overall, it was decided that ISS would inform the Commission about a slight delay in the starting of the meeting due to the late signature of the contract.

Moreover, it was agreed by all that a maximum of effort should be made to include all countries of the Mediterranean area. First step would be to bring people to a starting Project Meeting (as soon as possible) explaining the purpose of EpiSouth and help in identifying the existing needs, and to understand their willingness to participate. Related issues were whether to address Ministry of health or technical people and how to find financial support inviting non-EU countries to the Project Meeting and related future activities.

Further points of agreement were related to:

- a) better define strategic document content, as well as guidelines concept (consensus document);
- b) Identify rapidly gaps / new objectives for project extension and new orientations for the future
- c) Develop contact with other international organisations, that would help networking
- d) Plan the following Project Meetings in Athens for December 2007, in Sofia for December 2008 and the Plenary Meeting and Conference in Rome in 2009
- e) Verify the possibility of two more Meeting on technical & scientific issue related to Vaccine preventable Diseases and Zoonoses for adding visibility in the scientific community

a.2) 1st Project Meeting (Rome, 28-30 March, 2007) – Not foreseen in the Original Grant Agreement

As already reported previously, the ultimate objective of EpiSouth project is to create a working network among the Mediterranean and Balkan Countries. Therefore, once the project had been approved by EU-DGSANCO, the effort done by the EpiSouth Project Steering Committee has been to verify the strategic possibility to involve in the Project all the interested countries of the Mediterranean area.

In this framework, the idea of organising the 1st Project Meeting has emerged during the Steering Committee in order to gather together all the representatives of the Mediterranean and Balkan Countries with the double aim of sharing the EpiSouth project objectives and methodology and of discussing with all the invited countries their willingness and interest to participate to the project.

In addition to the 9 Countries which were involved in the project from the beginning, 13 countries from the Balkans, North Africa and Middle East could participate to the 1st project meeting. Representatives of EU DGSANCO, EU ECDC, and WHO have also jointed the meeting **(for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no.2 – List of participants to 1st EpiSouth Project Meeting).**

During the meeting the objectives and the activities of EpiSouth Project were described in detail as well as the project structure which has been conceived with 8 Working Packages (WPs).

It was reported that 10 Partners were already participating to the project, the WPs leaders (Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy-ISS, Italy-Padua GH and Spain) and the Associated Partners (Cyprus, Malta, Romania and Slovenia), and it was also stressed the importance of extending the participation to the project to other Countries from Balkans, North Africa and Middle East in order to have a relevant presence of Countries of the Mediterranean Basin in the EpiSouth Project.

Therefore, during the meeting the views and comments of all the participating countries regarding their interests and expectations in participating to the Project were shared and commented in plenary and, before the conclusion of the works, each participating country has been asked to express its preliminary intention to participate to EpiSouth Project and its priority Working Package/s to work with. After the Meeting all documents were collected and registered on a CD-rom that was sent to all participants (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.3. – Report of the 1st Episouth Project Meeting**).

In general, the representatives of all the countries expressed their appreciation for the aspects addressed by Episouth project and their interest to participate to the project's activities.

However, several countries have clearly reported their need to share all the aspects related to their potential participation to the project with the governmental/institutional authorities of their respective countries.

Therefore, it was decided that, in order to make the collaboration official, the Episouth leader would have addressed a letter to the interested countries' authorities requesting to reply with an official letter expressing the commitment in the participation to Episouth project and nominating the Focal Points for the Network.

Then, on the basis of what were agreed during the meeting as well as on the basis of the WPs priorities expressed by each country, a proposal on *EpiSouth Project Organization* were outlined and shared with all the participants in few weeks after the closure of the meeting (**for details related to the organisation that the project has endorsed after the 1st Meeting in Rome, please see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.4. – Episouth Project organisation document**).

Here it is worth reporting in brief the main aspects of the project organisation in order to facilitate the understanding of the activities description which will be done here after.

The project is led by the Steering Committee (SC), composed by the 6 WP leaders plus ECDC and EC-SANCO C3 as observers. WHO EURO, WHO EMRO and WHO HQ representatives were also involved in the SC as observers after the Meeting in Rome. All WHO entities agreed also to give inputs in the Work Packages activities.

The participation of the countries to the project foresees three different levels of active involvement:

i-Country Focal Points (CFPs) of the Episouth Network (WP4)

Each country has identified and appointed one or two relevant persons, who act as Country Focal Points (CFPs) of the Episouth Network and who convey all the communication/information to the relevant officers in their respective countries.

Each CFP will directly interact with the project coordinator (Italy-ISS) as well as with all the other CFPs of the Episouth Network.

ii-Work Packages Steering Teams (WPSTs)

Each country has selected one or more WPs in which to be especially active.

In order to facilitate and enhance the work, a Steering Team has been formed for each WP. Each Steering Team is constituted by the WP's Leader, by an Associated Partners and by those Participating Countries which have expressed their interest for the related WP.

The Steering Team will be in charge for identifying the countries' needs, developing the tools and the conducive project environment in accordance with the specific objective and requirements of the related WP.

The guiding documents produced by each Steering Team will be shared with all Country Focal Points (CFPs) before their official adoption in the project's implementation.

iii-Participation to Work Packages' activities

Each participating country can participate to the activities of one up to all the WPs in accordance with their needs and interests. The participation to the activities of WPs not chosen can be requested by the country in the coming years.

In fact, it is worth stressing that, although each country could be in the Steering Team of 1 or 2 WPs, the participation to the activities of the WPs is extended also to the participating countries which are not part of the WPST.

b) Ensure the enlargement of the number of non-EU countries and international partners participating in the EpiSouth project - M -

As reported above, the need of extending to non-EU countries the participation to the EpiSouth network was felt as a priority from the inception phase of the project.

Therefore contacts were started immediately in order to ensure the adequate political and financial support to the participation of non-EU Countries.

The first successful step towards the enlargement has been the organisation of the 1st Project Meeting described in the previous chapter.

The success of this meeting was due also to the collaboration of EC DG RELEX and DG AIDCO-EuropeAid and was organized in cooperation with and partially funded by TAIEX, which has ensured the financial support needed to allow the participation of 13 non-EU Countries to the Meeting.

In addition, the Italian Ministry of Health has jointly developed with the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS), the Epimed initiative which has enhanced the impact of the Episouth project mainly by supporting the participation of non EU Countries in EpiSouth network meetings and training sessions as well as coordination missions of ISS to the non EU Countries.

The enlargement intends to involve several countries of the Mediterranean Basin and, in the period covered by this 1st interim report, out of a total of 16 Non-EU Countries contacted, 13 have replied positively participating to the meeting and are presently actively involved in all the project activities.

Presently 52 Focal Points (27 from EU-Countries and 25 from non-EU Countries) are part of the EpiSouth Network (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no.5. List of Countries Focal Points**).

Although the enlargement could be considered a considerable success for the project, it has had also the effect of delaying the overall schedule of the project activities.

In fact, as reported, the involvement of new countries has implied a re-organisation of the whole project structure (in particular for example the constitution of WP Steering Teams), and the adaptation of the whole project work-plan. What is more, the willingness of each non-EU country of participating has requested the official and formal endorsement of each relevant country authority (which has implied legal official commitment letters and official nomination of project focal points). Finally, the whole coordination has undertaken a big effort to allow the needed exchange of information, data, news, etc. among partners who from 10 became 23 (from 22 countries).

It is possible to say that the great majority of delays related to the implementation of the activities were due to this new re-organisation of the project. However, in short time all the project set up has been revised and upgraded and now the project is on its way of catching up all the time lost and with an impact of increased dimension in terms of entity and quality.

c) Establish links with appropriate European and International resources of interest for the project

Formal request to ECDC, WHO-EURO, WHO-EMRO and WHO-HQ has been sent by the Director of the National Centre for Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Promotion of the ISS and formal nomination of Contact person has been done by each of these Organizations.

ECDC was represented in the Project Steering Committee starting from the 1st Meeting held in Venice. Working relationships and collaborations with this institution were strengthened and enhanced during the whole course of this 1st year of implementation.

Representatives of WHO participated to the 1st Project meeting in Rome where they agreed to become part of the Steering Committee as observers and to give their contribution in WPs development (see the details in the previous chapter). From that moment several contacts have been carried out with them.

Representatives of EpiSouth Project from Italian Institute for Health have participated (with ISS funds) to several events aimed at enhancing the working relations with Mediterranean Countries. In particular:

- i. Public Health Diseases Information Day organized by the Joint Research Center (Ispra, Italy – January 11, 2007) in order to promote coordination in the sector of Epidemic Intelligence of EpiSouth project with the EC tools called MedISys and discussing about “tailorization” of the system for the EpiSouth project covering the countries of the Mediterranean basin.
- ii. Conference for partnership in the health sector with the Mediterranean and Middle East Countries (Italian Ministry of Health and Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Rome, February 8, 2007)
- iii. Coordination Meeting for monitoring and planning health sector for the Joint Italy-Morocco Commission (Italian Ministry of Health – Rome, May 16, 2007)

- iv. Preparation of material for monitoring and planning health sector for the Joint Italy-Algeria Commission (Italian Ministry of Health – Rome, July, 2007)
- v. Joint Italy-Tunisia Commission for monitoring and planning health sector (Italian Ministry of Health – Rome, September 26-29, 2007)
- vi. European Conference organized by the EU Portuguese Presidency on “Health and Migration in EU: Better health for all in an inclusive society”- (Lisbon, Portugal – September 27 and 28, 2007). Since the conference was relevant for the WP7 - VPD and migrants, inputs has been provided to the WP7 leader and WP7ST through the website NWA and all material has been posted in the Public are of the website.

d) Setting up the work plan of the project and assuring that the described objectives are attained – D -

The 1st draft of the Work-plan for the 1st year of activities was elaborated soon after the 1st Steering Committee held in Venice. The final version was shared with all EpiSouth participants during the 1st Project Meeting held in Rome and revised in accordance with the new organisation structure and schedule coming from the enlargement to the new 13 non-EU countries.

The Work-plan schedule differs slightly from the original schedule of the Grant Agreement both because there was some delay in the actual starting of the project (signed Grant Agreement received by ISS on October 20, 2007), and because it was re-formulated in order to ensure the active involvement of all the participants (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no.6 – Project Work-Plan for 1st year**).

e) Other coordination activities

The main beneficiary acted as a contact between the participants and the DG SANCO both for administrative and technical issues. Moreover, it was agreed in the *Project Organization Document* that the project coordinator (Italy-ISS) is informed about all the Steering Teams communications, progress etc. (as cc of each e-mail and later as access in the dedicated area of EpiSouth website members’ area). Therefore feed-back and comments has been provided when needed or requested, which has required a very important workload.

In order to promote coordination the project leader has made a mission to Madrid during the period 9-11 September 2007 in the framework of the 1st training session organised by the WP5. Also WP1 and WP2 leaders have participated to the 1st training session in Madrid supported with funds of Italian Ministry of Health (EpiMed Project).

f) Activities undertaken in relation to other WPs

Since several questionnaires were prepared by the related WPs, as one of the partners of EpiSouth, the WP1 leader, with the constant support of the Project leader, has coordinated the compilation of WP5 questionnaire (evaluation of training’s needs) and WP8 (zoonosis) by ISS.

Problems encountered and solutions

Minor problems were encountered during this 1st year of activities and the majority of them was due to the need of re-organising the project in light of the successful enlargement. The coordination had to be very closed with all the partners involved to ensure the needed collaboration of all the participants.

In addition, as the non-EU countries participation to the activities was possible through the support of TAIEX and the Italian Ministry of Health, different kind of arrangements were requested and carried out.

WP1 full-fledged activities was conditioned by the recruitment of the fulltime coordinator who, due to the late notice concerning the grant agreement and the difficulty to identify adequate candidate, was recruited starting from March 2007. The other two positions planned (Epidemiologist and Technical Assistant) have not been recruited due to a personnel policy of the Italian Government for the year 2007, that restricted the possibility of recruiting people on a short term basis. However, in order to avoid excessive delay, the Project Leader acted as coordinator until March 2007 and the amount of person-days spent by the Project leader, the Statistician and the Data manager as been higher than that planned.

Activities planned for the next period

October 07: Participation to ESCAIDE International Conference in Stockholm and coordination meetings with ECDC representatives;

October 07: Mission to Athens for preparation of 2nd Steering Committee and Project Meeting;

October-November 07: 1st Interim Technical and Financial Report;

December 07: 2nd Steering Committee and Project Meeting (Athens);

January 08 : Final Work-plan 2nd Year;

February- April 2008: Coordination missions;

April – May 2008: Support to the organisation of the 2nd training session in Madrid;

All over the 2nd year:

- intensify contacts among partners promoting exchange of information and data especially through the members area of the project website;
- intensify contacts and concretize collaboration with international institutions (i.e. ECDC, WHO);
- proceed with the enlargement to other potential non-EU Countries.

3.1.2 WP 2 Dissemination of the results

The objective of WP2 is to disseminate the information produced by the EpiSouth Project. In particular, the specific objectives are:

- To create an ad hoc web-site (in English) with a public area and a restricted area accessed by the project's participants by a personal ID and password
- To release an electronic bulletin (in English) to be sent by e-mail to the needed recipients

- to participate to European congresses, conferences, etc. in order to disseminate the results of the Project to a scientific audience
- To organize the press coverage for the final EpiSouth Conference in Rome

The activities carried out during the first year of the project have been related to all these specific objectives. In particular, the activities undertaken have been:

1. Subcontracting CINECA for the construction and maintenance of an ad hoc created web site
2. Opening of the restricted working area of the Web site NWA (Network Working Area) accessed by all the EpiSouth participants by a personal user ID and password
3. Making available draft pages of the public area of the web site
4. Organising the press coverage for the first EpiSouth Meeting held in Rome on 28-30 March 2007 (activity not foreseen in the grant agreement).
5. Preparation of the form to be compiled on-line to receive the EpiSouth Electronic Bulletin
6. Opening of the final version of the public area of the project's web site
7. Preparation of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients
8. Preparation and release of the draft issue of the Electronic Bulletin
9. Preparation of abstract for submission to scientific conferences

Milestones and deliverables achieved

Milestones:

- a) Subcontract with CINECA for the creation and maintenance of the WEB site (March 2007)
- b) Restricted working area of the web site (Network Working Area) (July 2007)
- c) Draft pages of the public area of the web site (March 2007)
- d) Draft issue (Issue N. 0) of the electronic bulletin (September 2007)

Deliverables:

- a) Final version of the web site (September 2007)
- b) Abstract accepted by the ESCAIDE conference, Stockholm, Sweden, 18-20 October 2007 (August 2007)

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

Activity 1: The subcontract with CINECA for the creation and maintenance of an ad-hoc created web site was signed on 28 March 2007.

Activity 2: The restricted working area of the project's web site was opened in July 2007. The restricted area is accessed by all the project's participants by a personal user ID and password. This network working area (NWA) allows the project's participants to share documents and information, to organise meetings and teleconferences and to discuss topics of common interest through a WP-specific forum areas (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.7-Network Working Area**).

Since the opening of the NWA, there have been 36 episouth participants that has accessed to it for a total number of authorised accesses equal to 284 (average: 7.9 accesses for participant).

Activity 3: Draft pages of the web site were made available on-line in March 2007 and presented during the first project meeting held in Rome on 28-30 March 2007.

Activity 4: This extra activity was conducted during the first project meeting held in Rome (28-30 March 2007), which was not foreseen by the grant agreement. The Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy) prepared a press release that has been posted on the ISS Press office website (only in Italian) and has been used by several national newspapers and websites. The project agenda has also been announced in the EC website, on Eurosurveillance Weekly and in several partners' website.

Activity 5: In March 2007, the on-line form for registering to receive the electronic bulletin was finalised and made available on-line at the project's web site (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.8-On-line form for registering to the electronic Bulletin**)

Activity 6: In September 2007, the fully functioning public area of the project's web site was finalised (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.9-Public Area of the Project website**). From the first opening of the web site in March 2007 to September 2007 there have been 1038 visitors for a total of 2393 accesses. Links to the project's web site were made available from web sites of several national and international organizations.

Activity 7: In September 2007, the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients was finalised and recorded into a database. It included 500 persons to whom the issue N. 0 of the electronic bulletin was sent by e-mail.

Activity 8: In September 2007, the draft issue of the electronic bulletin (Issue N. 0) was finalised and sent by e-mail to all people included in the mailing list (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.10-Draft issue of the electronic bulletin**).

Activity 9: In July 2007, an abstract providing an overview of the EpiSouth Project was submitted to the ESCAIDE Conference (Stockholm, Sweden, 18-20 October 2007) (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.11-Abstract accepted for the ESCAIDE Conference**). In August 2007, the conference secretariat communicated the acceptance of the abstract for poster presentation.

Problems encountered and how problems were solved

The only problem encountered was related to the delay in the opening of the restricted working area of the project's web site. The two-months gap between the planned date and the achievement date of opening was due to the delayed receipt of the official letter of commitments and nomination of focal points from the authorities of some participating countries. This delay was reduced through frequent telephone calls and e-mails to urge the countries to send the documents needed to release the personal ID and passwords for accessing the restricted working area to the nominated persons.

Activities planned for the next period (October 2007 – September 2008)

The activities planned for the period October-September 2007 are the following:

1. Maintenance and update of the project's web site (both public and NWA restricted areas)
2. Update of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients
3. Release of the EpiSouth Electronic bulletin
4. Submission of abstracts and participation to scientific conferences and congresses of interest for the project

3.1.3 WP 3 Evaluation of the project

The EpiSouth official planning document specifies completion and acceptance criteria to evaluate the project. The first comprise:

- Deliverables on time and compliant to what was foreseen initially,
- Respect of deadlines by all partners and
- Results measurable and satisfying.

Acceptance criteria at the end of project include:

- Deliverables on time and in compliance with the plan,
- Measurable results,
- Results satisfying in quality, validated and endorsed by peers,
- Web-site with a strategy for sustainability on the long term,
- Progression over the three years of visits to the website, increase of identified partners in the Mediterranean countries (outside EU), increased dissemination of bulletins, increase of the interest /attendees to the training courses,
- Analysis of the profile of users and visitors to the site,
- Content of final report compliant with the whole description of the project and the deliverables mentioned under each work package,
- References to the financial support of the Commission.

WP3 goals are to evaluate EpiSouth in terms of:

- Respect of the scheduled milestones and deliverables according to the project WPs,
- Achievement of the stated project indicators, both for quantitative and qualitative aspects,
- Active participation of both associated and collaborating countries in the project activities.

In order to accomplish the above mentioned goals the activities carried out by WP3 during the first year included the following:

- Criteria for evaluating the quality of the process (activities indicators) and of the outcomes (output indicators) were jointly defined during the first EpiSouth Steering Committee in Venice (December 2006), on the basis of a proposal made by the WP3leader.

- An Evaluation Work-plan was drafted and posted on the Steering Committee section of the web-site and later also on the Network Working Area..

The Evaluation Plan (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.12-Evaluation Plan & questionnaires**) gives attention both to aspects critical for the process of Network building and to specific elements of individual WPs. As far as Network building is concerned the key question to which EpiSouth's evaluation Plan has been designed to answer is: "How far has the project contributed to resources and information sharing among the Network's members?". With regard to the vertical packages the main question will be: "Have specific WP's delivered their products and achieved their objectives ?" The Plan identifies the sources which will be used to assess the project's degree of success, e.g. Key products and Web site frequency of use and customers' satisfaction and spells out the Final evaluation report's outline.

WP3 contributed to the preparation of the First and Second EpiSouth Conferences and actively participated to the former.

Three activities not specifically foreseen by the official agreement were also carried out, i.e. monitoring and evaluation questionnaire were designed to assist in the collection and analysis of information concerning the project's progress, two of these questionnaires were distributed and their results analysed and finally meeting management principles relevant to EpiSouth were made explicit.

More specifically six questionnaires were designed to investigate the project's main aspects. Most questions included in such tools are closed and some are open; such structure will make the process of collection and analysis easier. The questionnaires include the following:

- i) EpiSouth Meeting Evaluation Tool,
- ii) EpiSouth Network Development Monitoring Tool,
- iii) EpiSouth Network Development Evaluation Tool: Framework/ horizontal packages (WP1 to WP5),
- iv) EpiSouth Vertical Packages Evaluation Tools: Cross border epidemic intelligence (WP6),
- v) EpiSouth Vertical Packages Evaluation Tools: Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations (WP7),
- vi) EpiSouth Vertical Packages Evaluation Tools: Epidemiology and preparedness to cross border zoonotic infections (WP8).

The two questionnaires concerning Meeting management and Network development were distributed during the Rome conference, the answers analysed, commented and made available on the project's web-site (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.13-Reports on 1st Project Meeting Evaluation and Network process**).

Meeting management principles were formulated, presented to the first EpiSouth conference in Rome and adopted by the participants.

Activities planned for the next period (October 2007 – September 2008)

- The First Year Evaluation report will be prepared and disseminated among partners;
- The two questionnaires concerning Meeting management and Network development will again be distributed among participants to the Athens conference, the answers

analysed and interpreted, and results will be shared with all stakeholders through the web-site;

- WPs activities will be monitored through the web-site NWA and reminders will be sent to WP leaders if deemed useful;
- The WP3 leader will support with the preparation and management of the second and third EpiSouth Meetings.

3.1.4 WP 4 Network of Public Health Institutions

In order to achieve the specific objectives of the WP4:

“To facilitate the networking process and activities among participants of EpiSouth in order to strengthen solidarity and cohesion within the Community by bringing together also the non-EU countries in South of Europe, including Mediterranean bordering ones” the main activities during the first year of the project have been oriented on data collection and analysis aimed at developing questionnaire on the health institutions involved in the project.

The activities, undertaken during the project’s first year were as follows:

- (M1) The first Steering Committee Meeting was organised in collaboration and under the supervision of Wp1. The meeting took place in Venice on 11th, 12th and 13th December 2006 with the participation of the Steering Committee members and EC and ECDC representatives. The meeting venue was located at *Centro Culturale Don Orione Artigianelli*, where people were accommodated and also facilities for the meeting were available.
- A Network plan draft was illustrated and consensus was reached on the proposal.
- The Steering Committee minutes were collected and submitted to the Coordinator for amendments, final approval and preparation of the Meeting Report.
- (M3) A Networking workplan was prepared on the occasion of the 1st project Meeting in Rome, submitted to the attention of the participants and finally approved.
- In collaboration with WP1, contribution was made to (re)designing the Networking content and process. Since the number of national and international institutions and people invited to attend the meeting was higher than originally expected, it was decided to strengthen the networking through a number of actions, namely: the proposition to some written networking principles to agree with; the enlargement of the Steering Committee by including ECDC, EC-SANCO-E3 observers as WHO representatives; the identification of Country Focal points of EpiSouth Network; the setting up of WPs Steering Teams (participants were left free to join WPs based on their own interests).
- Networking process was facilitated by adopting a participatory approach: consensus about contents and participation during the meeting, rotation in the facilitator and moderator roles.
- (M5) The Wp4 Steering team constituted by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Israel and Kosovo was established.
- (M7) In cooperation with WP2, the permanent communication tool was set up, including a restricted area of work on web-site Members’s private area was created (NWA Network Working Area).

- (M3-M6): A “directory framework” was prepared by WP4 and illustrated during the 1st project Meeting in Rome. This was intended to be a basis for designing a detailed questionnaire. The framework was agreed by all participants.
- A first version of a structured questionnaire concerning partner institutions was prepared and first discussed with WP1 who contributed with comments on structure and content.
- (M7-8) The draft questionnaire was uploaded on the project Web-site (WP4 ST Members Area) for testing the completion. Revision and comments were requested to Steering Team members. No relevant comments were made and the final validated version of the questionnaire was prepared.
- (M9) A draft of web page questionnaire, that was prepared by WP2, was revised and sent to the CINECA web-site administrator in order to make it available on the web for completion by Wp leaders and Country Focal Points.
- (M9) In cooperation with WP2, the link to EU IRIDE project website was also made available in the EpiSouth Website (Section: Relevant Links and documents – *EU Surveillance Networks and Projects*).
- (M9) A participant for WP4, a regional representative, attended the WP5 Training Module scheduled in Madrid from 10th to 14th September 2007.

Milestones and deliverables achieved

M3 Networking plan prepared

M6 Preparation of questionnaire for collecting information for Directory (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.14-Network Institutions Questionnaire**)

M7 Permanent communication tool activated, with WP2

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

- Networking plan prepared

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

- Poor return rate. So far only 2 institutions have filled up the questionnaire and uploaded it on the web site. One institution sent it via email.
- Action taken. Various reminders were made and sent to the participants. Next steps. All Participants in the forthcoming general meeting in Athens will be requested to fill the questionnaire on line in due time (within December 2007). The questionnaires will be included in the Web site and completed by WP leaders and focal Points.

WP4 activities planned for the next period (October 2007 – September 2008)

- Participation in the preparatory meeting of the Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1 and WP8;
- Organisation of Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1, WP6, WP7 and WP8;
- Preparation of the Project Networking Meeting proceedings;
- Preparation of the guidelines for the three strategic documents (WP6,7 and 8) in cooperation with WP1 and related WPs.

- Validated questionnaire for the directory uploaded in the Network Working Area of the website to be completed on-line by WP leaders and EpiSouth Focal Points;
- Data collection, processing and analysis of questionnaires;
- Preparation of the Directory of participant Institutions and made its accessibility on the Web

Other activities, undertaken during the first project year

General Activities related to the organization and performance of the EPISOUTH tasks

- Presentation for the 1-st EpiSouth Steering Committee Meeting in Venice, 11-13 December 2006 and participation at the meeting with presentation of the WP4 (objectives of the WP4, description of the work, activities plan, expected results, etc.)
- Preparation for the First EpiSouth meeting in Rome, 28 - 30 March 2007 and participation at the meeting: preparation of the WP4 presentation “Network of Public Health Institutions” (description of the work activities, plan for the 1st year, selection of the WP partners etc.);
- Acting as facilitator and recorder at the above mentioned meeting in Rome.
- Drafting reports – collecting materials and documents, needed for preparation and submission of the Interim technical implementation report and Financial statement for the period 1 October, 2006 – 30 September, 2007

Activities related to WP2:

- Preparation of appropriate information about WP4 to be used for presentation of the WP on the EpiSouth web page
- Preparing and providing of list with contact details of both experts and organizations in Veneto region to be proposed to receive the EpiSouth electronic Bulletin and other materials and information related to the project.

Activities related to WP5:

- Collecting information at regional level related to the evaluation of the training needs in the field of Public Health and Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases; contacting concerned experts at regional level;
- Filling in and submission of the completed WP5 questionnaire by concerned experts at regional level;
- Participation of one epidemiologist identified by Veneto Region to the 1st Training module in Madrid, Spain 10-14 September, 2007

3.1.5 WP 5 Training in field /applied epidemiology

This technical implementation report summarizes the most relevant achievements reached during the first year of the project and also refers to the difficulties found during the execution and how these have been solved as well as those activities that have been postponed.

Objectives for the WP5

Focused into the main WP5 objectives: strengthen the early response capacity of the participating countries to health threats and infectious diseases spread by:

- i. Identifying training needs related to the vertical WP in participating countries, in particular WP6, WP7; WP8
- ii. Organising short term training courses to comply with identified training needs and other WP objectives
- iii. Promoting the participation to already existing European training courses (to be undertaken during the second year of the project)

Activities undertaken to reach the objectives

- a) A previous activity was done before any training need assessment action or training activity. The Steering Team building, began to carry out during the month of April 2007.

Related the first objective:

- b) Preparation of the questionnaire to identify training needs
 - Discussion with Steering Team members to identify the main topics to take account in the training needs assessment.
 - Searched, reviewed, information regarding needs assessment, skills, knowledge on epidemiology surveillance, early warning response, commonly used tools (e.g. statistical packages), communication systems, dissemination, decision making and other gaps to be detected.
 - Discussion with WP5 Steering Team on topics, reviewed information to draw a preliminary needs assessment questionnaire
 - Drafts questionnaires made
 - Collected comments and drafts reviewed from WP5ST
 - Final version of Questionnaire on training needs surveillance and sent to the WP5ST and the rest of the participating countries in the project (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.15-Training Needs Questionnaire**)
- c) Questionnaire filled by Episouth participants
 - Requested country per country the blank questions
 - Sent request reminder to delayed response countries focal points after the deadline
 - Database created
 - preliminary data analysed

Related the second objective:

- d) Organization of the First Training Module with two parts: Workshop on International Surveillance Systems and a specific training on Over viewing on Analysis of surveillance data (time series and spatial analysis) (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.16-First Training Module**).

Other activities undertaken:

- e) Establishing links with the EPIET and Field Epidemiology Training Programmes in order to open ways to disseminate EPISOUTH Project onto International Scientific forum (as ESCAIDE)

Milestones and deliverables achieved

Milestones are:

- a) Survey report on training needs (to be uploaded in the web site)
- b) First training module carried out

Deliverables are:

c) Teaching materials on the First Training Module sent to all participants on Cd-rom and uploaded in the website (containing Presentations done by experts and participants, temporary series and spacial analysis with their practic exercices; “R” statistical programme, etc)

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

N°⁵	Activity	Indicator	
19	Survey on training needs among Episouth participants	N° of countries answered the survey	18
20		Final report on training need prepared	(to be reviewed by WP5ST and uploaded on the Website)
21	1st Training Module carried out	Done	YES
22		N° of subjects in the training modules developed with other WP	Vaccination and Migrant Population; International Surveillance in France (WP6)
23		N° of participats in the first module:	33
24		Evaluation forms for the training module filled and analysed)	(to be reviewed by WP5ST and be disseminated)

Outputs and indicators

N°⁶	Output	Indicator	
18	Teaching materials from training sessions	First Module available in the web –site	Link on the website will be create by the server interprise

Problems encountered and solutions found

Due to the steering team building process, the survey on training needs was delayed, and therefore the first module was move of date. In addition, the process of coordination with the training Steering Team was slow and difficult. It take more time and effort than it was expected. So we need to detect what kind of difficulties has had each one to work in a real network.

In relation to the survey on training needs, the process of collecting the filled questionnaires was longer than expected. The countries answered the questionnaire after the deadline. In fact, most of them sent their responses at the end of August. In addition many of them delivered incomplete responses, and other countries have not answered the questionnaire at all.

⁵ N° of activity in the Grant Agreement

⁶ N° of output in the Grant Agreement (page 36 –37)

The actions to be taken to solve the difficulties explained above were: active validation and quality control of the data collected.

The report of the survey on training needs is not still available. Due to the reasons mentioned above the database was not achieved until the end of October 07.

Evaluation Report of the first training module is in process of review by WP5 Steering Team. It would be soon uploaded.

Differences between the programme and objectives foreseen and those actually conducted and achieved

The objectives to be reached are the same that were programmed.

Activities planned for the next period

We have included activities from the first workplan as the reports mentioned before.

- Report of the first training evaluation reviewed by WP5 Steering Team
- Report on the Survey on training needs
- Collaboration and Link with EPIET & FETPs
- Feeding the project web-site with/for training information
- Second training module
- Teaching material on Second training module
- Evaluation of the Second training module
- Draft directory of training courses and fellowships
- Directory of training courses and fellowships
- Collaboration and Link with on-line short training courses of interest

3.1.6 WP 6 Cross border epidemic intelligence

To establish a common platform on “epidemic intelligence” where participating countries may find broad internationally and regionally focused information. In particular:

- Monitoring of health events of international importance (e.g. Avian Flu, SARS) through identification of informal signals. After verification, analysis and interpretation, some signals will become genuine alerts that will be disseminated
- Addressing regional cross border issues by implementing a platform allowing participating partners to share national alerts of common interest. The need to share information with non EU neighbouring countries is important to secure public health within EU countries. Thus, Mediterranean countries should be considered as belonging to the same epidemiological group.

Activities Undertaken

Baseline analysis

- In order to provide a baseline, background information was collected. Actives searches were performed to identify available sources allowing detection of health threats that could affect EpiSouth countries.
- During the pilot phase these sources were explored and a number of crude signals corresponding to potential EpiSouth epidemic intelligence criteria were identified, verified and analysed. These data were used to assess the type of information that could be collected and eventually disseminated.
- Contacts have been made with the JRC team in charge of MediSys development. A meeting held in Ispra set the basis for the collaboration and possible developments needed for EpiSouth. Similar contacts and exchange of expertise has been maintained on a regular basis with the ECDC team in charge of epidemic intelligence.

WP6 steering team

- The active implication of participating countries in the development of EpiSouth was confirmed in March 2007, during the first plenary EpiSouth meeting which was held in Rome. During this meeting, countries agreed not only to participate but also to contribute to the construction of EpiSouth through their active participation to WP Steering team (ST).
- For most countries, Epidemic Intelligence (EI) and Cross Border (CB) issues, represented somewhat, the newest, the most complex and possibly the most sensitive concept. To secure participation to the WP6, a bottom up approach was preferred.
- Following Rome's meeting, focal points of countries that had agreed to become member the WP6-ST were contacted.
- Strategic documents were elaborated and disseminated to the WP6 Steering Team in order to define WP6 concepts:
 - **Epidemic Intelligence (EI)**: monitoring of health events occurring **outside** EpiSouth catchments area but that could affect EpiSouth Countries.
 - **Cross border issues (CB)**: Health event occurring within EpiSouth (Early Warning and information sharing).
- The role of WP6 ST has been implicated in the elaboration of WP6 content (selection of criteria strategy etc.):

EI and CB questionnaire

- An epidemic intelligence and cross border questionnaire was disseminated to WP6 ST in July 2007 to help assess perception and expectation of participating countries toward EpiSouth (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.17-Epidemic Intelligence assessment Questionnaire**).
- WP6-ST is made of Croatia, France, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia, and then is considered as representative of the 4 EpiSouth sub-regions Southern EU countries, Balkans, Maghreb and Middle-East.
- The questionnaire was sent back by the WP6-ST. Answers were analysed and feedback was provided to the WP6-ST.

WP6 steering team consensus teleconference

- To allow active contribution of WP6-ST members to the elaboration of EI core components a teleconference has been organised and it will be held on 24th October. This teleconference, initially scheduled earlier, had to be postponed several times due to competing agendas (summer vacations, Ramadan...).
- The main objective of this teleconference is to define EpiSouth EI criteria, supports of communication etc. Information drawn from EI and CB questionnaire will be used as a basis for discussion questionnaire was send to WP6-SG. Answers were analysed and feedback was provided to the WP6-SG (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.18-Epidemic Intelligence report and Teleconference**).
- Criteria, strategy, etc. selected by the steering group will be presented to all participant countries for endorsement to the Athens meeting in December 2007.

Cross Border issue

- Procedures aiming to define information flow from all participating parties (Countries, ECDC, WHO) are under elaboration.
- First drafts will be presented for the plenary meeting in Athens in December 2007.
- Consensus of all concerned parties on cross border issue will be a prerequisite to posting of national alerts on EpiSouth secured Website.

Milestones and deliverables year 1

- **Consensus Meeting:** Done during Venice Meeting in December 2006
- **Pilot secure Web Site :** postponed (see above for details)

Indicators and output

- **Strategic EI and Cross border document posted:** During the first year 18 strategic documents concerning WP6 were posted on EpiSouth website leading to 72 downloads by each of the 11 authorised Users
- **EI and CB Questionnaire:** The WP6 questionnaire was elaborated and disseminated in July 2007, answers were collected in August and analysis completed by early September 2007.
- **Scientific Seminar.** The promotion of EpiSouth EI and CB activities has already been initiated. An abstract submitted in June for a Scientific seminar to be held in December Paris has been accepted for an oral presentation questionnaire was send to WP6-SG. Answers were analysed and feedback was provided to the WP6-SG (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.19-Abstract accepted for the French Conference**).

Main difference between programme foreseen and achieved

Effective start of the project

EpiSouth project was effectively launched in December 2006 with the consensus Meeting held in Venice.

However, implementation of WP6 full-fledged activities was conditioned to the recruitment of the fulltime epidemiologist required to develop EpiSouth related activities. Due to the late notice concerning the grant agreement and the difficulty to identify adequate candidate, this recruitment was only effective in May 2007. Therefore, implementation of WP6 core activities (including milestones and deliverables) had to be delayed accordingly.

Cross border Activities

- Information sharing within EpiSouth countries is, somehow, the most sensitive issue. To prevent confusion between epidemic intelligence and cross border issues it has been decided to clearly separate both issues.
- Priority has been given to implementation of EI that will provide information from EpiSouth to the countries. The provision EI data to the countries *by EpiSouth* should build confidence in the overall project.
- In a second stage cross border issues, that will require countries to provide information concerning national health data *to EpiSouth*, will be developed.
- To prevent duplication and full contribution of main EpiSouth Partners: ECDC and WHO formal procedures have to be finalized and endorsed by all parties.

Missions to participating countries

- Missions to participating countries had to be postponed. First, because of the delay in the effective start of the project (May 2007), but also because these missions would be more efficient after the endorsement of EI and CB procedures. The planned missions have then been postponed to year 2.

Activities planned for year 2

- Continuation of ongoing activities (EI bulletin, etc.)
- Dissemination of EI and CB procedures
- Finalisation and dissemination of Epidemic Intelligence Bulletin
- Elaboration of the Secure Web Site for CB information sharing
- Assessment missions to WP6-SG countries

3.1.7 WP 7 Vaccine Preventable diseases and migrant population

To achieve the specific objectives of the WP7:

- assessing the access of migrant population to immunizations;
- collecting data and establishing a regular exchange of information on cases/outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases among migrant population and immigrants in Mediterranean and Balkan countries;

the main activities during the first year of the project have been oriented to the collection of data necessary to develop a comprehensive questionnaire, including gathering information on country's specificity, related to the migrant population (type of the migrant population, information about immunization programs and its implementation, methods for monitoring and assessment of vaccination coverage, availability of specific programs aimed at ensuring high vaccination coverage of migrant population, monitoring and surveillance of VPD in general and in migrant population particularly).

The activities, undertaken during the first project year were as follows:

- Information (publications regarding definitions for migrant population, legislation, organizations for humanitarian assistance involved etc.), related to the WP7 project topic was collected, reviewed and used for the preparation of the Questionnaire;
- Information for defining migrant groups in the Mediterranean and Balkan countries and for defining the target age groups were collected;
- Information for defining the vaccines to be included in the questionnaire was collected;

- Meetings were held with representatives of international organizations in Bulgaria (WHO, Red Cross, UNDP etc.), regarding issues related to the migration of the population;
- The WP7 Steering Team work was organized: a preliminary discussion was conducted with representatives of countries – possible partners in the WP7; Team structure was elaborated and approved, specific tasks were assigned and action plan was developed. WP7 Steering Team includes experts from: Bulgaria, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Morocco and Lebanon;
- Draft questionnaire “Vaccine preventable Diseases and migrant population” was developed;
- The Draft questionnaire was distributed to all WP7 ST partners and was uploaded on the WEB page of the project (ST WP7 members area) with the aim of discussing it with the ST;
- The Draft questionnaire was corrected according to all remarks received from the partners;
- Pilot survey using the Draft questionnaire for assessment of the access of migrant population to immunizations was organized and performed among WP7 ST countries. A total of 7 questionnaires (ST WP7 members) were completed;
- A preliminary analysis of this provisional assessment survey (within WP7ST, based on the Draft questionnaire) was performed, aiming at an optimization of the final version of the questionnaire;
- Contacts of the WP leader with national representative persons, with representatives of the ECDC and the WHO-EURO to discuss WP7 tasks, emphasize the importance of this topic, along with a lack of sufficient information and the need to include additional questions. Besides, the results from VENICE Survey on immunizations confirmed these observations.

Milestones and deliverables achieved

- Questionnaire for collecting information distributed (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.20-VPD and migrants Questionnaire.**)

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

- The diversity of the situation with migrant population in the countries participating in EPISOUTH project and the differences of existing problems, related to different country-specific conditions
- Several versions of the questionnaire were prepared to meet all requirements

WP7 activities planned for the next period (October 2007 – September 2008)

- Report with results from the provisional assessment survey will be presented and discussed during the Project Meeting in December, 2007
- On the basis of all the comments sent by the partners, the final version of the Questionnaire – “Preliminary Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population” will be produced;
- The Questionnaire “Preliminary Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population” will be distributed to all partners and uploaded on the EpiSouth WEB page to be used for on-line data-entry in the NWA;
- Follow-up of response to the Final questionnaire, including phone survey
- Data analysis and publication on the web-restricted area
- Final analysis and report about survey data for vaccine preventable diseases and migrant population
- Exchange of information on cases/outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases among migrant populations in partner countries (with WP6)

- Preparation of draft recommendations for improving the access to immunization and for exchanging data on vaccine preventable diseases and adjusting vaccination plans meeting the EU MS plan's requirements and publication on NWA web-restricted area for discussion
- Presentation of the Recommendations at the Project Meeting, 2008
- Missions to support Episouth countries in implementing WP7
- WP leader discussions with ECDC and DG-SANCO for the optimization of the results.

Other activities, undertaken during the first project year

General Activities related to the organization and performance of the EPISOUTH tasks at the NCIPD

- Collection of materials for preparing presentation for the 1st EpiSouth Steering Committee Meeting in Venice, 11-13 December 2006 and participation at the meeting with presentation of the WP7 (objectives of the WP7, description of the work, time-table for processing & analysis of collected data, activities plan, expected results, etc.)
- Preparation for the First EpiSouth meeting in Rome, 28 - 30 March 2007 and participation to the meeting: producing and presentation of two presentations (Information about NCIPD and its Department of Epidemiology and surveillance of CD as a partner in EPISOUTH project and Information/Discussion specifically on the WP7 – description of the work activities, plan for the 1st year, selection of the WP partners etc.)
- Permanent technical assistance for organizing and facilitating the participation of the BG experts in all project related activities: literature search, stationary, equipment and technical assistance, drafting and following the correspondence with all project partners, organizing the participation at the meetings etc.
- Participation in drafting of the abstract for the ESCAIDE conference in Stockholm

Activities undertaken in relation to WP2

- Preparation of appropriate information about WP7 to be used for presentation of the WP on the EpiSouth web page
- Preparation and submission of List with WEB addresses of Bulletins and existing surveillance networks, related to the Project Subject and main Objectives
- Preparation and providing of List with contact details of experts and organizations in Bulgaria to be proposed to receive the EpiSouth electronic Bulletin and other materials and information related to the project

Activities undertaken in relation to WP5

- Collecting the specific for Bulgaria information related to the evaluation of the needs of training in the field of Public Health and Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases; conducting working meetings with the representatives of the Medical University in Sofia; assessment of the obtained data on the training in epidemiology
- Filling in and submission of the completed WP5 questionnaire
- Producing of two presentations about the Communicable Diseases Surveillance System in Bulgaria for the First training course in Madrid
- Participation of two junior epidemiologists from the NCIPD in the 1st Training module in Madrid, Spain 10-14 September, 2007

Activities undertaken in relation to WP8

- Collecting information, necessary to answer the questionnaire of WP8 “Zoonoses”
 - Organizing work meeting with representatives of the Head Office of the National Veterinary Service (HO of NVS) of Bulgaria
 - Organizing & Participation in the work meeting with representatives from the NVMD
 - Organizing work meeting with representatives of the Regional Inspectorates for Prevention and Control of Public Health (RIOKOZs,), epidemiologists from the Ministry of Health and experts from the HO of NVS
 - Collecting information on the zoonoses in Bulgaria from: literature search, publications, official national and regional reports of the MoH, the NVS and RIOKOZs
 - Data processing and analysis of the information
- Drafting the answers for the WP8 “Zoonoses” questionnaire and discussion with the experts before sending the filled in questionnaire
- Submission of the final version of the questionnaire

3.1.8 WP 8 Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonotic infections

WP8 aims at providing the following, keeping a focus in the Mediterranean countries and their particular needs:

- a platform for the communication of human (HPH) and veterinary public health (VPH) officials, with listing of accurate contacts for specific diseases
- indices for the description of epidemiology and monitoring in the area of a selected list of zoonoses, with the ultimate purpose of predicting risk of cross border transmission and providing communication

Activities Undertaken

- (Month 1-4) - Forming of the WP8 Working Group (WG) which is composed of the WP8 Leader Dr Rengina Vorou, and the Greek representatives for each Episouth Working Package (WP) along with O.Kalakouta and A. Chatzilouka from Cyprus. Additionally: Ms K. Mellou, Mr G.Dougas, Mr D. Papamichail, Ms K. Golfinopoulou, worked for WP8, S. Tsiodras, Prof N.Kontos, Veterinary Medicine in National School of Public Health, Mr D. Vourvidis, P.Triantafyllou, M.Tzani, Veterinarians from the Hellenic Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food, Mr N.Charisis, MZCC contributed to WP8, H. Maltezou for WP5, WP7 and WP8, Mr S.Patrinou for WP4, Dr A.Pavli and Mr D.Heliopoulos for WP6, K.Mellou for WP5, O.Adrami, T.Panagiotopoulos for WP7, O. Kalakouta and A. Chatzilouka for WP8.

The Greek Group consists of human public health (HPH) and veterinary public health (VPH) officials. The human public health (HPH) officials are representatives from the Hellenic Center for Diseases Control and Prevention and the veterinary public health (VPH) officials are representatives from the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food, from the National School of Public Health the WHO/MZCC.

- (Month 3) Preparation of the Greek presentation on the list of zoonotic diseases of interest for the Episouth kick-off meeting in Venice, Italy on 11-13 of December 2006.
- (Month 3) Participation in the Episouth kick-off meeting in Venice, Italy on 11-13 of December 2006, where it was agreed that:
 - there would be an additional Episouth meeting in March in order to investigate the possible participation of non European countries in Episouth
 - the 2nd Episouth Project meeting will be held in Athens during December 2007
- (Month 4-6) Collaboration of the Greek Episouth WP8 Group with the Episouth colleagues from Cyprus in order to prepare a documented proposal on the list of zoonotic diseases of interest for Episouth.
- (Month 4-5-6) Five meetings of the Greek Episouth WP8 Group in order to identify the existing implicated structures in the field of Zoonoses and investigate the level of collaboration between them in national level and among them and corresponding stakeholders of Mediterranean and Balkan neighborhood.
- (Month 2-10) Studying National Epidemiological data regarding Zoonoses in order to depict the current situation in Greece.
- (Month 3-12) Reviewing International bibliography on Zoonoses focusing on emerging diseases with potential of cross-border transmission and on Mediterranean region.
- (Month 5) Meeting of the Greek Episouth WP8 Group for discussing WP8 activities, workplan, and questionnaire for distribution to EpiSouth countries.
- (Month 5) Participation in the 1st Episouth Project Meeting (28-30/3) in Rome:
 - Presentation during the relevant plenary session of the draft list of zoonoses as well as of the WP8 activities and workplan
 - WP8 steering group proposed the development of a structured questionnaire as a complementary tool for the selection of zoonoses of priority
- (Month 7) Constitution of the WP8 Steering Team in accordance with the First Project Meeting 28-30 March, ISS, Rome, Italy
- (Month 7-12) Working in liaison with the WP8 Steering Team, in which were involved two Focal Points from Albania, Kosovo, FYROM, Jordan, Tunisia
- (Months 6-11) Development of the questionnaire for the setting priorities regarding zoonoses of interest for all participating in the project countries, under the context of WP8:
 - Design from the WP8 Working Group small internal committee of a draft questionnaire taking into account the available literature and internationally accepted criteria defining the emergence of zoonoses.
 - Release on 29/5 of the proposed questionnaire to all WP8 Steering Team's members as well as to the Project Leader and Coordinator, asking for remarks and comments regarding its content and structure.
 - Integration of all WP8 Steering Team's comments in the questionnaire and finalization of its format
 - Sending on 6/7 the questionnaire to all focal points of the Episouth project for completion
 - Collection of data until 30/7
 - Upload on 8/8 of the questionnaire to STWA and ENWA of WP8 in the Episouth web site questionnaire for collecting information distributed (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.21-Zoonoses priorities questionnaire**)
- (Months 11) Data entry and analysis of the collected "questionnaires of identifying zoonoses of priority"

- (Month 12) Producing a report with the results, listing the selected zoonoses of major interest for the participating countries and describing the selection criteria

Activities undertaken in relation to other WPs

- (Month 10) Completion of the questionnaire of WP5 –training under the coordination of Dr H.Maltezou
- (Month 11) Response the WP5 communication by our representatives.
- (Month 8-12) Frequent interactive activities in the EpiSouth NWA and STWA area.
- (Month 12) Inclusion of EpiSouth Project and Bulletin links in the Homepage of the H.C.D.C.P. website.

The difference between the program and objectives foreseen and those actually conducted and achieved is only one: the questionnaire for zoonoses of priority was agreed in Rome (28-30 March 2007). Therefore the HPH and the VPH database questionnaire is under finalization.

Activities planned for the 2nd year

- Finalization of analyzing data collected with Zoonoses Questionnaires and identification of the list of zoonoses of priorities according to the questionnaires' data and other selection criteria
- Uploading of the Zoonoses priority list document in WP8 ENWA for comments
- Preparation of the 2nd Steering Committee & 2nd Project Meeting (Athens)
- 1st Meeting for zoonosis final strategic document preparation
- Construction of the questionnaire for HPH and VPH officials in the EpiSouth Area.
- Missions to support the implementation of the activities of WP8
- Data base with HPH & VPH Focal Points for a selected list of zoonosis.
- Collaboration with existing networks (MZCC, MED-VET-NET)

3.2 ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OTHER ASSOCIATED BENEFICIARIES

3.2.1 Medical and Public Health Services Dept., Ministry of Health , Cyprus

The Department of Medical and Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health of Cyprus participates in the project as an Associated Partner. Three members of the Unit for Surveillance and Control of Communicable Diseases are actively involved in the project:

- Dr. Olga Kalakouta, Senior Medical Officer
- Chryso Gregoriadou, Health Visitor
- Avgi Hadjilouka, Medical Laboratory Scientist

In this report the work undertaken by Cypriot participants and the results obtained during the first year of the project are described.

Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives

The project started in October 2006. Cyprus participants went through the detailed description of the project, sent out by the project coordinators and decided about the procedure (coordination, responsibilities, activities etc.) that was going to be followed, from our site in relation to the project. All administrative obligations were fulfilled and necessary documentation was sent out in November 2006.

Cyprus didn't participate to the 1st Steering Committee meeting, not being a leader of any work package, but the project coordinators kept us informed about the proceedings. Chryso Gregoriadou and Avgi Hadjiloukas participated and presented the Cypriot Network for Surveillance of Communicable Diseases during the 1st EPISOUTH meeting that took place in March 2007. The feedback from that meeting was very positive as many issues related to the organization as well as the aims of the whole project were discussed. Following that meeting the work plan for the first year was agreed and Cyprus has participated in all WP and in the Steering Team of WP 8.

Cyprus team collaborated with the Greek team in finalizing the questionnaire for Zoonosis during the end of May-June 2007 and replied the questionnaire end of July 2007. Beginning of July 2007, following collaboration with the person in charge of the Unit for Surveillance of Communicable Diseases, the WP 5 questionnaire related to training needs was replied.

Since July 2007 the EPISOUTH website has been functioning and Cyprus team is regularly informed about all updates. In September 2007 Dr. Spyros Georgiou MPH, Senior Medical Officer in charge of Polis Chrysochous Area and Mr Solon Atashies, Environmental Health Inspector attended the first training module in Spain.

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

No problems have been encountered during the first year of running the project.

The work programme planned for the following period

Cyprus Team will participate in all planned meetings and specially cooperate in WP8 activities.

3.2.2 Dept of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Malta

Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives.

- Two doctors for the Disease Surveillance Department from the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community care, attended the 1st EPISouth meeting which was held in March 2007 in Rome.
- After the meeting it was decided that Malta would have been included in the steering committee of WP6 – “Cross-border epidemic intelligence”.

- A two part questionnaire was filled in July 2007. This involved:
 - Part 1: International Surveillance.
 - Part 2: Cross-border epidemic intelligence.
- In July, a questionnaire about work package 5, regarding training needs for our country, was filled in.
- We were also required to fill in the questionnaire on zoonoses for WP 8.
- In September 2007, two doctors from the department attended the 1st training module in Madrid.

Consultations with other colleagues from different departments, (eg. Veterinary surgeons) had to be done in order to fill in the questionnaires as comprehensively as possible.

We plan to send two representatives to the second project meeting which is going to be held in December 2007 in Athens.

3.2.3 Institute of Public Health, Romania (IPH/ISPB)

Activities undertaken

On March 28 – 30th two representatives of IPHB (Dr. Adriana Pistol and Dr. Aurora Stanescu) attended the First EPISOUTH Meeting held in Rome. Each participating country presented its potential and its expectations from EPISOUTH Project and the planned activities in all the WPs were presented by the WP leader.

The cost for this participation was supported by TAIEX agency.

In accordance with the project training objective, in the last week of June (25 – 29th) the Romanian team was involved in the development of questionnaire for the survey to identify training needs for implementation of WP5 training module by giving opinion regarding the clarity and the usefulness of the questions proposed by the WP leader. Two members of the project team were involved: Dr. Florin Popovici and Dr. Adriana Pistol.

The final form of the questionnaire for training need evaluation was filled in by the previous mentioned specialists in the first week of July (2 – 6th).

In accordance with the second objective of WP5, 2 persons (Dr. Rodica Popoescu and Dr. Lavinia Zota) were proposed and attended the first module of the Training in epidemiology- held in Madrid on September 10 - 14th. All the costs of the participation were supported from the project.

At the end of July (23 – 30th) the questionnaire for identifying zoonoses of priority (made by WP8 Steering Team) was completed by the IPHB team composed by Dr. Florin Popovici and Dr. Adriana Pistol.

3.2.4 Institute of Public Health, Slovenia(IVZ-RS)

Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives

- in March 2007 dr. Alenka Kraigher, MD, head of centre for communicable diseases, and Nadja Koren, MD, researcher, attended the first project meeting. This meeting was not planned in the beginning, but was a very successful meeting, specifically successful from the point of launching the project (meeting other participants and their expectations, presentation of scientific, technical and other components of the project). Details of coordination of the project.
- in August 2007 Slovenian team participated to the starting of the investigation about surveillance of zoonoses made by medical and veterinary officials. Results are shown in questionnaire about zoonoses, sent in August to project coordinators. From our point of view the questionnaire brought not just overview of different procedures between different countries, but also pointed out weak spots in our national system.
- In September 2007 major work was done to collaborate in preparing questionnaire for WP7 about vaccination of migratory populations.
- In September 2007 dr. Eva Grilc, head of department for surveillance and Veronika Učakar, MD from department of vaccine preventable diseases, participated in training session in Madrid.
- There were also many other activities and milestones in the project in which Slovenian members were not directly involved, but were participating in order to enhance the networking and the exchange of information (Steering Committee Meeting of Venice, Minutes of Project Meeting in Rome, Contact with European and International resources of interest, Enlargement of EpiSouth partners, Work plan for each year, Episouth web page, Planning and development of the questionnaire about zoonoses, Publishing of Episouth bulletin)

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

Due to excellent coordination of the project and all activities done, there were no problems noticed by Slovenian participants.

The work programme planned for the following period

Slovenian members will participate in all planned meetings and specially cooperate in WP7 activities.

4. LIST OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON EPISOUTH WEBSITE

No.	Title	WP	EpiSouth Web Site	
			Public	Private
1	Agenda and list of Participants - 1 st EpiSouth Steering Committee	WP1		X
2	List of participants to 1 st EpiSouth Project Meeting	WP1	X	X
3	Report of the 1 st Episouth Project Meeting	WP1	X	X
4	Episouth Project organisation document	WP1		X
5	List of Countries Focal Points	WP1		X
6	Project Work-Plan 1 st year	WP1		X
7	Network working area	WP2		X
8	On-line form for registering to the electronic bulletin	WP2	X	
9	Public area of the project's web site	WP2	X	
10	Draft issue of the electronic bulletin	WP2	X	X
11	Abstract accepted for the ESCAIDE Conference	WP2		X
12	Evaluation Plan & Questionnaires	WP3		X
13	Reports on 1 st Project Meeting Evaluation and Network process	WP3		X
14	Network Institutions Questionnaire	WP4		X
15	Training Needs Questionnaire	WP5		X
16	1 st Training Session Module	WP5	X	X
17	EI assessment questionnaire	WP6		X
18	EI report, Teleconference material & draft bulletin	WP6		X
19	Abstract accepted for the French Conference	WP6		X
20	VPD & Migrants questionnaire	WP7		X
21	Zoonosis priority questionnaire	WP8		X

5. LIST of TABLES

Table 1. Activities undertaken by each WP

Table 2. Comparison between M & D planned and achieved by each WP

Table 3. Activities planned by each WP for the next period

Table 4. Summary of project deliverables by work packages

Table 5. Original time table with Milestones and Deliverables by Work packages

Table 6. Overview of 1st year activities

Rome, 29 November 2007

Project Leader
Silvia Declich

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