

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*

Second Interim Report

01/10/2007 – 30/09/2008



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:	01/10/2007 – 30/09/2008

Main partner:	ISS – Istituto Superiore di Sanità (Italy)
Number of associated partners:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1-Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Italy 2-Azienda Ospedaliera di Padova (Padua GH), Veneto Region, Italy 3-Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain 4-Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVS), France 5-National Center of Infectious & Parasitic Diseases (NICPD), Bulgaria 6-Hellenic Center for Infectious Diseases Control (HCIDC/KEEL), Greece 7-Ministry of Health (MOH CY), Cyprus 8-Ministry of Health (MOH MT), Malta 9-Institute of Public Health (IPH/ISPB), Romania 10-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
Second prefinancing payment:	257,854.90 Euro
First interim financial report:	524,010.23 Euro (of which 306.841,91 from EC funding)
Second interim financial report:	576,729.54 Euro (of which 331,636,92 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.

However, although the 3-month delay in the actual starting, the project has kept a good pace during the 1st and 2nd years of activities achieving many of the planned outcomes.

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 and the following project's developments.

In fact, beside the EU-Countries partners of EpiSouth Project, 16 non-EU Countries from the Mediterranean Basin were invited to Meeting in Rome, 13 participated and expressed their general interest in the project confirmed by their official request and selection of countries Focal Points.

After the 2nd Project Meeting, held in Athens on 10-12 December 2007, other four countries progressively officially joined the project.

As per September 2008, EpiSouth Network includes 26 Countries (9 European Union-EU and 17 non-EU), 61 Focal Points and 6 Collaborating Institutions (ECDC, EC-DGSanco, WHO-Euro, WHO-Emro, WHO-Lyo/HQ and Italian MOH).

As already described in the 1st interim report, the project relies on an articulated organisation that has ensured on one side the effective management and backstopping of the activities and on the other side the constant enhancing of active participation of all the involved countries.

The project is led by the Steering Committee (SC), composed by the 6 WP leaders plus ECDC, EC-DGSANCO, WHO EURO, WHO EMRO, and Italian Ministry of Health representatives as observers.

The participation of the countries to the project has been ensured mainly through the following strategic approaches:

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 directly interacts 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 are 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.

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. Preparatory Meeting for the 2nd Project Meeting (Athens, 12-13 October 2007) 2. 2nd Steering Committee Meeting (Athens, 10 and 12 December 2007) 3. 2nd Project Meeting (Athens, 10-12 December, 2007) 4. Contacts with WHO, ECDC, EC and Italian Ministry of Health representatives 5. Obtainment of formal commitment letters to the project from 5 non-UE countries 6. Coordination mission to Athens (WP8) and Madrid (WP5) 7. Coordination meetings with WPs teams in Rome (WP4/WP3 and WP6) 8. Preparation and partners approval of Project Work-plan for the 2nd year 9. Preparation and periodic updating of project's outline, leaflets and organisation document 10. Support to the preparation of Monitoring and Evaluation Tools (with WP3) 11. Activities monitoring through constant contacts with WPs leaders
<p>WP2- Dissemination of the results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance and updating 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 2. Maintenance and updating of the public area of the project's web site 3. Updating of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients 4. Preparation and release of the 1, 2 and 3 issues of the Electronic Bulletin 5. Preparation of abstracts, posters and presentations for scientific conferences 6. Preparation of scientific articles 7. Support to WP3, WP4, WP7 and WP8 for the on-line data collection questionnaires 8. Support to WP6 for the on-line secured platform for information and alerts exchanging 9. Activation of EpiSouth link in the website of Public Health Institutions and EpiSouth announcement in EuroSurveillance website 10. Press release on EpiSouth activities in October 2007
<p>WP3- Evaluation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final Evaluation Work-plan available in the Network Working Area- NWA 2. Evaluation Report on 1st and 2nd Project Meetings 3. Evaluation Report on Networking Development 4. On-line evaluation questionnaire to monitor progresses of WP1, WP2, WP3, WP4 and WP5 5. Monitoring sheets for WPs activities progresses (with WP1)
<p>WP4 – Network of Public Health Institutions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2nd Project Meeting co-organisation 2. Preparation of the outline to guide the preparation of the WP6, WP7 and WP8 strategic documents 3. 2nd Project Meeting Proceedings

<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Draft of Networking work-plan5. Validation of on-line questionnaires compiled by partners for collecting information for Directory6. Draft of the on-line Directory
<p>WP5 – Training in field/applied epidemiology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Report on the Survey to identify training need2. Collaboration and link with EPIET & FETPs3. Second training module4. Teaching materials of the second training module
<p>WP6 – Cross border epidemic intelligence</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collaboration with MedISys and ECDC on epidemic intelligence2. EpiSouth EI procedures shared at 2nd Project Meeting (Athens)3. Monitoring international events: 1st EpiSouth weekly e-web bulletin issued in April 084. Thematic notes on Epidemiology of : i) Crimean–Congo haemorrhagic fever virus; ii) Monkey Pox; iii) Yellow Fever5. Report on the assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities in participating countries6. 1st prototype of the on-line secured platform for information and alerts exchanging7. Participation to scientific seminars on cross-border epidemic intelligence
<p>WP7- Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Migrants</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Report on the analysis of the pilot assessment survey (within WP7ST, based on the Draft questionnaire), aimed at optimizing the final version of the questionnaire2. On-line final questionnaire on “Assessment of Countries Migration Status Profile & Vaccination Access of Migrant Population”3. Participation to scientific seminars on Vaccine preventable Diseases and mobile population4. Survey to assess the Roma minority immunization coverage and timeliness of immunizations in Bulgaria
<p>WP8- Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonotic infections</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Report on the assessment aimed at identifying zoonoses of priority for the EpiSouth Network2. Organisation of the 2nd EpiSouth Project Meeting3. Collection of basic information from the EpiSouth Countries regarding the 5 zoonoses of priority4. Finalisation of the on-line questionnaire for collecting data on Human and Veterinary Public Health Officials for the 5 zoonoses of priority

1.5 Milestones and deliverables achieved

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

Time Schedule EPISOUTH

2nd year (Months): M&D achieved versus planned

	Planned												Achieved													
	Oct 07	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Oct 07	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
WP1			D3	M		D2/D1	M									D3	M		D2/D1	M						
WP2		D7		D7	D5/D6			D5/D6			D5/D6				D7		D7	D5/D6			D5/D6			D5/D6		
WP3						M	M	M											M				M/M			
WP4				M	D11	D9	D10											M		D11						
WP5					M		M	D13	M/D14										M				M/D14			
WP6		D19	D19	D19		D16/D18				M		D17			D19	D19	D19/D18								M	
WP7					M	M				M	D20								M						M	
WP8			M			M											M								M	

M = milestones
D = Deliverables

1.6 Problems encountered and how the problems were resolved

Minor problems were encountered during this 2nd year of activities and the majority of them was related to the complexity of the organisation due to the considerable number of participants involved in the Network after the successful enlargement to the non-EU countries of the Mediterranean Basin.

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 some delay especially in those activities which have requested the collection of data and information from all the Countries involved and, even if the return rate is satisfactory, it is not deniable that big and time demanding efforts have been done to ensure proper replies from the majority of the partners involved.

In addition, it should be considered that the design of tools, like questionnaires for data collection, is often a complex task that has to consider high variability among the Countries in terms of data availability, sources, internal existing problems, different country-specific conditions, languages barriers, etc.

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 EU Open Days in Bruxelles (6-9 October 2008) • Participation to EuroMesco International Conference in Amman (16-17 October 2008) • 3rd Steering Committee Meeting in Bruxelles (30-31 October 2008) • Participation to EuroMed International Conference on Health in Cairo (16-17 November 2008) • Mission to Sofia for coordination and preparation of 4th Steering Committee and 3rd Project Meeting (13-14 January 09) • 4th Steering Committee and 3rd Project Meeting (Sofia, 30 March – 1 April 09) • Final Work-plan 3rd Year • Coordination missions • Support to the organisation of the 3rd training module 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 (i.e. ECDC, WHO)
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WP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation to the preparatory meeting of the third project network meeting (Sofia, March 2009) in cooperation with WP1, WP4 and WP7. • Maintenance and quarterly update of the project's web site (both public and restricted areas) • Update of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients • Release of the EpiSouth Electronic bulletin • Support to WP3 for the creation of the on-line questionnaire and data analysis • Support to WP4 for finalising the on-line directory of partners' institutions • Support to WP5 for developing the on-line directory of training courses and fellowships • Support to WP6 for finalising the electronic platform for cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners • Support to WP7 for analysis of data collected through the on-line questionnaire on migrant status and vaccination access • Support to WP8 for the creation of the on-line directory of HPH and VPH officials in EpiSouth countries • Submission of articles and abstracts and participation to scientific conferences and seminars of interest for the project
WP3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The First Evaluation report prepared and disseminated among partners • The two questionnaires concerning Meeting management and Network development will again be distributed among participants to the Sofia 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 Monitoring Form and reminders will be sent to WP leaders if deemed useful • the evaluation questionnaires for WP6, WP7 and WP8 progresses monitoring will be available on-line
WP4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First version of Directory of participant Institutions made accessible on the Web • Validation of remaining questionnaires and update of the Directory • Participation in and contribution to the Steering Committee meeting in Brussels on 30th-31st October 2008 • Participation in the preparatory meeting for the organization of the Project Networking Meeting in Sofia in cooperation with WP1 and WP7 • Organisation of Third Project Networking Meeting in Sofia in cooperation with WP1, WP6, WP7 and WP8 scheduled in March 2009 • Preparation of the Third Project Networking Meeting proceedings • Support to the preparation of the first draft of the three strategic documents (WP6, 7 and 8) in co-operation with WP1 and related WPs.
WP5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the first and 2nd training evaluation reviewed by WP5 Steering Team • Collaboration and Link with EPIET & FETPs • Feeding the project web-site with/for training information • Third training module • Teaching material on the Third training module

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the Third training module • 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 Cross Borders (CB) EI procedures • Finalisation of the Secure Platform for CB information sharing • Evaluation of pilot phase • Assessment missions to WP6-SG countries
WP7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of data collected with the on-line questionnaires • Final report with results from the countries-based assessment • Organisation and implementation of the 3rd Project Meeting in Sofia • 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, 2009 • 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"> • Missions to support the implementation of the activities of WP8 • Finalisation of the Directory on the basis of the information on HPH & VPH Focal Points for the selected list of zoonosis collected through the on-line questionnaires • Collaboration with existing networks (MZCC, MED-VET-NET) • Draft of strategic document to be discussed in the 3rd Project Meeting

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.

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	1	M	1	D11	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	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	M	1	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 2nd year activities

WP	Activities/Tasks ¹	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	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	1° interim technical & financial report	D3	Report	Nov 07	Nov 07	Nov 07	100%			YES
	Organisation of 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting (Athens)	A	Agenda, list of Participants	Oct 07	Dec 07	Dec 07	100%			YES
	Organisation and participation to the 2 nd Project Meeting (Athens)	A	Agenda, list of Participants, Report etc.	Oct 07	Dec 07	Dec 07	100%			YES & CD-Rom
	Minutes of the 2 nd Steering Committee Meeting	D2	Report	Dec 07	Feb 08	Feb 08	100%			YES
	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 2 nd phase	M	List of Participants/ Official Commitment letters/FPs Nomination	March 08	May 08	May 08	90%	Portugal & Libya were contacted but presently are not part of EpiSouth Network		YES

¹ In accordance with the Approved Work-plan and Timetable by WPs of the 2nd year (15 February 08)

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

			Organization Doc							
	Missions for Coordination in EpiSouth Countries	A	Missions Agenda, Related Doc. etc.		April & June 08	October 07 and June 08	100%	- Preparatory Meeting for 2 nd Project Meeting (Athens, 12-13 Oct 2007) - Coordination meetings during the 2 nd Training Module (Madrid, 2-6 June 2008)		YES
	Work plan for each year	D1	Workplan	October 07	February 08	February 08	100%	The 2 nd project workplan was drafted with the contribution of each WP and formally approved during the 2 nd Project Meeting in Athens (December 08)		YES
	Coordination meetings with WPs teams in Rome (WP4/WP3 and WP6)	A	Meetings minutes	----	-----	January and April 2008				YES
	Preparation and periodic updating of project's outline, leaflets and organisation document	A	Documents							YES
	Activities monitoring through constant contacts with WPs leaders	A	e-mails, monitoring sheets							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
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WP2	Participation to the preparatory meeting of the Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1, WP3, WP4 and WP8	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	Agenda of the 2 nd Project Meeting	Not foreseen	Oct 07	Oct 07	100%			YES
	Maintenance and quarterly update of the EpiSouth web site (both public and restricted areas)	D5	Pages available on both public and restricted areas of the WEB site	Dec 07, Mar 08, Jun 08, Sep 08	Jan 08, Apr 08, Jul 08	Jan 08, Apr 08, Jul 08	100%			NO
	Updating of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients	I	Availability of the database including information for all people registered to receive the electronic bulletin	Not specifically foreseen	Jan 08, Apr 08, Jul 08	Jan 08, May 08, Jul 08	100%			YES
	Quarterly electronic bulletin	D6	Issues N. 1-3 of the electronic bulletin sent to all registered people	Dec 07, Mar 08, Jun 08, Sep 08	Jan 08, Apr 08, Jul 08	Jan 08, May 08, Jul 08	100%			YES
	Support to WP3 (on-line monitoring forms)	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	Form available for data collection	Not specifically foreseen	Apr 08	Jun 08	100%	Delay in the definition of the criteria to be used to draft the form		YES
	Support to WP4 (Directory of partners' institutions to be available on web site)	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	Directory available in the public area of the web site	Not specifically foreseen	Apr 08	Sep 08	80%	Delay in the completion of the on-line questionnaire by participating countries and in defining the	Frequent contacts with the WP4 leader and CINECA	NO

								criteria for the on-line directory (draft web pages are available for testing)		
	Support to the WP5 (Draft and Final Directory of training courses and fellowships)	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	Directory available in the public area of the web site	Not specifically foreseen	Apr 08		0%	List of training courses and fellowship and criteria for the on-line directory not yet provided		NO
	Support to the WP6 (Pilot secured section on cross-border EI on website with alerts originating from partners)	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	On-line platform to enter and share alerts originating from partners	Not specifically foreseen	Jun 08	Sep 08	80%	Delay in developing the draft version of the platform	Frequent contacts with CINECA to facilitate the draft version of the on-line platform	NO
	Support to the WP7 (on-line questionnaire on migrant status and vaccination access)	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	On-line questionnaire available for data collection in the restricted area of the web site	Not specifically foreseen	Mar 08	Sep 08	100%	Delay in developing the final version of the questionnaire for the on-line compilation		YES
	Support to WP8 (questionnaire on HPH and VPH officials on line)	A (not specifically foreseen in the grant agreement)	On-line questionnaire available for data collection in the restricted area of the web site	Not specifically foreseen	Mar 08	Sep 08	100%	Delay in developing the final version of the questionnaire for the on-line compilation		YES
	Submission of abstracts and posters, scientific articles and participation to scientific conferences and congresses of interest for the project	D7	Submitted abstracts and articles	Not specifically foreseen	Oct 07, Dec 07	Oct 07, Dec 07, Apr 08, Jun 08, Jul 08	100%			YES

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	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 Annexes Available
WP3	Participation in the preparatory meeting of the Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1, WP2, WP4 and WP8		Actual participation accomplished	June 07	Oct 07	Oct 07	100%	None		YES
	Evaluation Plan & evaluation Questionnaires (horizontal & vertical WPs) presented to the 2 nd Project Meeting		Eval. Plan and questionnaires developed and discussed		Dec 07	Dec 07	100%	None		YES
	Analysis and Reports of Meeting & Networking Evaluation Questionnaires filled in at 2 nd Project Meeting	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	Reports completed and available on the web site	NA	Feb 08	Mar 08	100%	None		YES
	Final Version of Evaluation Plan on web site	M	Agreed plan on the website		Feb 08	June 08	100%	None		YES
	Final Version of evaluation Questionnaires (Overall Project & horizontal WPs) filled in by FPs	M			Mar 08	Sept 08	100%	EpiSouth Focal Points compiled the evaluation forms posted in the members area of the web site		YES

	Monitoring sheets on web site (with WP2)	M	Monitoring and evaluation tools on the website		Mar 08	June 08	75%	Final version of forms has been developed but not made available on the web site because of technical difficulties: The sheets were compiled by each WP leaders and sent by e-mail		YES
	1 st Evaluation Report		Report ready and on web site		Apr 08		50%	Draft to be shared with the WP3 ST		NO

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	Participation in the preparatory meeting of the Project Networking Meeting in Athens (with WP1, WP6, WP7, WP8)	A	Participation Organisation schedule	Not foreseen in the original Project Plan	Oct 07	Oct 07	100%			YES
	Organisation of Project Networking Meeting in Athens	A	Participation	Sept. 07	Oct-Dec 07	Oct-Dec 07	100%	As the 1 st SCM was held in Dec 2006, and the 1 st Project Meeting in March 2007, the 2 nd SC and Project Meetings were held in Dec 2007.		
	Preparation of the 2nd Project Networking Meeting proceedings (Athens)	D11	Proceedings issued	Nov 07	Feb 08	Mar 08	100%	Meeting proceedings documents collection and preparation requiring more time than expected. A		YES (CD-rom)

								public version of the meeting report was uploaded in the website. A CD-rom with meeting proceedings was produced and sent to all participants and project Focal Points.		
Networking work-plan 2008	D9		Dec 07	Mar 08		80%	Time needed to understand network development and evolution, usefulness and use of the available networking tools.		YES (draft networking plan uploaded in the members area 2008)	
Validated questionnaire for the directory uploaded in the ENWA	M	On-line questionnaire uploaded	NA	Jan 08	Jan 08	100%				
Partners filling in the questionnaire for Directory information on web site	A	Number of questionnaires uploaded by partners, revised and validated	Apr.-May 07	Jan-Mar 08	Mar-Sept. 08	53,33%	In progress. Acceptable return rate by participating institutions.	Regular reminders sent by WP4 team.		
Preparation of Directory to be available on web site in collaboration with WP2 (with people's consent)	D10	First version of directory uploaded in the public area	Jun-Aug 07	Apr 08	Jun-Sept. 08	75%	In progress. Delays occurred due to technical issues.	The directory will be finalised with validated available questionnaires, widened with compiled new questionnaires and updated.		
Coordination Work with WP6-WP7-WP8 for drafting the 3 strategic documents (i.e. Preparation of the guidelines for the three	A		NA	Oct 07-Sept 08	Oct 07-Sept 08	30%	The coordination work will be enhanced starting from October 2008 in order to consolidate the drafts for the 3 rd Project	More and better information will be available after the third networking meeting in Sofia.	YES (Parallel sessions outlines)	

	draft of the strategic documents (WP6,7 and 8) at the 2 nd Project Meeting								Meeting (March 2008)	Strong coordination and exchanges foreseen in Year III.	
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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
WP5										
	Report of the survey on training needs	M	Report	Febr 07	Feb 08	Febr 08 (1 st version) August 08 (final version)	100%	Once the final report was finished, one lost questionnaire was detected. This obliged us to re-enter data, analyse them with new one and do the correction corresponding.	Not action needed	YES
	Evaluation of the first training module	I	Evaluation forms for the training module filled and analyzed	May 07	Sept 07	Foreseen Nov 08	95%	Analysis and evaluation report under review by WP 5 Steering Team		
	Collaboration and link with EPIET & FETPs	A	N° of Meetings and coordinated activities ⁴	All over the project period	All over the project period	-	-			YES
	Feeding the project website with/for training information	A	Links in the public area	All over the project period	All over the project	-	Just WP5 info in			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

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foresee n by Approv ed Work- plan period	Date of achieve ment	Level of achieve ment	Justification/ Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
							ENWA			
	Second training module	M	Second training module carried out/ 28 participants /Programme	June 08	June 08	June 08	100%			YES
	Teaching materials of the second training module	D14	CD with the contents	May 08	June 08	June 08	100%			YES
	Evaluation of the Second training module	I	Evaluation forms for the training module filled and analyzed	May 08	June 08	Foresee n Dec 08	90%	In elaboration	To be finished and reviewed by WP 5 Steering Team	
	Directory of training courses and fellowships	D13			May 08		0%	In elaboration		
	Abstracts for ESCAIDE sent and accepted		Abstract	All over the Project Period	-	July 08	100%		Present the Poster in ESCAIDE Nov 08	

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foresee n by Appro ved Work- plan	Date of achieve ment	Level of achieve ment	Justification/Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP6	2 nd consensus on criteria for epidemic intelligence (international events) during the Athens meeting	Part of D18	Athens report	Oct 07	Dec 07	Dec 07	100%	Use face-to-face meeting to have the approval of all EpiSouth participant countries		YES (minutes)
	WP6 Steering Team (WP6 ST) Teleconferences	Not foreseen in the original Project's Plan	1 st and 2 nd WP6 teleconferences		Oct 07 July 08	Oct 07 July 08	100%	2 teleconferences organised with the members of WP6 ST for decision, consensus and validation of WP6 activities		YES (minutes)
	Collaboration with MedISys and ECDC on epidemic intelligence	A	Meeting Collaboration	n/a	Year round	n/a	100%			YES (invitation)
	Monitoring international events and alerts dissemination	A	eWEB bulletins and thematic notes		Feb 08	April 08	100%	Start project delayed December 2006 Recruitment staff longer than anticipated.		YES (eWEB uploading)
	Reporting of epidemic intelligence assessment (activities in participating countries)	A	Interim report		June 08	June 08	100%	An analysis of all data collected among countries was provided		YES (rWP6 report)
	Mission to support partners in implementation of WP6	A	Report			Year 3	50%	Contact with selected countries established: Mission in Morocco in November 2008	Long procedures with countries	
	Pilot secured section on cross-border epidemic intelligence: electronic platform on website with alerts originating from partners	M	web		May 2007	June 08	Year 3	30%	Meeting performed in April 2008 in Roma (ISS); Maquette provided by CINECA;	Need of prioritisation for CINECA

	Participation to scientific seminars on cross-border epidemic intelligence	D19	Abstract	n/a	Year round	n/a	100%			YES (slides)
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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 achievem ent	Justification/ Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP 7	Data analysis of the provisional assessment survey (pre-tested questionnaire)	A	Report			Oct-Nov 07	100%			YES
	Provisional assessment survey (pre-tested questionnaire) results on the w-restricted area	A	Report		Feb 08	Feb.08	100%			YES
	Discussion at the Project Meeting on recommendations	A	WP7 parallel session minutes		(Dec.07)	Dec.07	100%			YES
	Report with results from the provisional assessment survey (pre-tested questionnaire)	M	Report		M 17 (Feb.08)	Feb.08	100%	On the ground of the results from the provisional assessment survey (pre-tested questionnaire) was taken the decision to elaborate a new Questionnaire "Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population" and to involve all participating countries to fill in the new		YES

								questionnaire.		
	Follow-up of response regarding changes of the pre-tested questionnaire and proposed new Revised questionnaire	A				(Feb-May,08)	100%	Finalisation of the new revised questionnaire "Assessment of Countries Migration Status Profile & Vaccination Access of Migrant Population"		YES
	Questionnaire on web site (with WP2)	A	Forms		(March 08)	(Sept.08)	100%			YES
	Revised questionnaire compiled on-line by all partners	M	Database		(Apr.08)	Pending		Deadline for partners – 31 October2008		
	Follow-up of response to the questionnaire	A	Database		(Apr.08)	Pending				
	Data analysis of survey questionnaires	A	Report		(May.08)	Pending				
	Preliminary Survey results on the w-restricted area	M	Report		(June.08)	Pending				
	Final Report on survey for vaccine-preventable disease and migrant	D20	Report		(July.08)	Pending				
	Exchange of information on cases/outbreaks in partner countries (with WP6)	A	Database		(June.08)	M 21 (June.08)	100%			YES
	Preparation of draft recommendations	A	Report		(Jan-Sept)		50%	To be finalised on the basis of the results from the Final Report on survey for vaccine-preventable disease and migrant in all participating countries		
	Survey to assess the Roma minority immunization coverage and timeliness of	A	Report			Nov.07-May08	100%	A study, conducted to obtain an updated and clear idea about WP7 specific objectives – the		YES

	immunizations							problem with migration and immunizations of mobile populations (Roma people in Balkans) and to evaluate the feasibility of this kind of surveys for the purposes of the WP7.		
	Joint ECDC / WHO Workshop “ Key topics on migrants and hard to reach populations health in central-eastern Europe: advocating and promoting immunization” organised and hosted at the NCIPD (information uploaded in the NWA)	A	Event/Report			Feb.08	100%			YES

WP	Activities/Tasks	Outputs/ Deliverables/ Milestones/ac tivities	Indicators	Date foreseen by Grant Agreement	Date foreseen by Approved Work- plan	Date of achieve ment	Level of achievem ent	Justification/ Problems encountered	Action to be taken to overcome the problem	Related Doc Available
WP 8	Analysis of data collected with Zoonosis Questionnaires and the list of zoonoses of priorities	A	List of Zoonotic Diseases Available	Not Foreseen	Oct 2007	Oct 2007	100%	NA	NA	YES
	Uploading of the Zoonoses priority list document in WA	A	List of Zoonotic Diseases Available	Not Foreseen	Nov 2007	Nov 2007	100%	NA	NA	YES
	Preparation of the 2nd SC & 2nd Project Meeting (Athens)	A		Not Foreseen	Oct-Nov 2007	Oct-Nov 2007	100%	NA	NA	YES

Zoonosis draft strategic document preparation/2 ND Project Meeting	M		M12	Dec 2007	Dec 2007	100%	NA	NA	YES
Collaboration and Link with existing networks (MED-VET-NET, MZCC etc.)	A					80%	MED VET NET appears not to be available, MZCC is under change	We will continue the efforts	NA
Finalisation of the questionnaire for HPH and VPH officials on web site (with WP2)	M	Questionnaire prepared	M9	Feb – Mar 2008	Feb 2008	100%	On 08/02/08 we uploaded in ENWA the final HPH VPH with a deadline end of February for comments and we asked from Cineca to foresee for an electronic version that would also be a search machine		YES
On line Data Collection				Apr – Aug 2008	In progress		The technical aspects of this electronic version did not let CINECA to deliver the electronic version of the data base but on 27 th of May with a deadline to approve it until the end of June. We approved it on the 24 th of June.	On 10 th of September 2008 the electronic version was uploaded to be compiled until the 31 st of October 2008.	YES
Work with the ST for drafting zoonosis strategic document (i.e. countries doc on 5 zoonosis of priority)				Jan – Sept 2008	Jan– Sept 2008	100%		YES	YES

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 2nd year of project implementation:

1. Preparatory Meeting for the 2nd Project Meeting (Athens, 12-13 October 2007)
2. 2nd Steering Committee Meeting (Athens, 10 and 12 December 2007)
3. 2nd Project Meeting (Athens, 10-12 December, 2007)
4. Contacts with WHO, ECDC, EC and Italian Ministry of Health representatives
5. Obtainment of formal commitment letters to the project from 5 non-UE countries
6. Coordination mission to Athens (WP8) and Madrid (WP5)
7. Coordination meetings with WPs teams in Rome (WP4/WP3 and WP6)
8. Preparation and partners approval of Project Work-plan for the 2nd year
9. Preparation and periodic updating of project's outline, leaflets and organisation document
10. Support to the preparation of Monitoring and Evaluation Tools (with WP3)
11. Activities monitoring through constant contacts with WPs leaders

Milestones and Deliverables achieved

a) Coordination Meetings

a.1) 2nd Steering Committee Meeting (Athens, 10 & 12 December 2007) - M

The meeting was attended by all members (representatives of the 6 associated partners' leader of a WP, and representatives of the EC, ECDC and WHO as observer (**for further details see**

also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.1 - Agenda and List of participants to the 2nd SC Meeting).

All Work packages (WP) were presenting contents and point of discussions to be solved according to related WP Background Memos prepared and shared in advance with all the SC Members.

In particular the following issues were discussed in detail:

- i) Achievements of the 1st year of project activity (realised versus planned), issues in need of discussion, consensus and actions;
- ii) Managing sensible information and data sharing among EpiSouth Partners (limits and rules for transferring/communicating data & information). Countries authorisation regarding the confidentiality of data collected through questionnaires and the possibility to see individual country data;
- iii) The migrant populations of EpiSouth network countries: definition of migrants and selection of VPDs;
- iv) The priority zoonoses of EpiSouth network countries (criteria for selection and list of diseases) and the organisation of the HPH and VPH directory;
- v) Managing and presenting data on private/public website: databases, analysis, information, documents etc. ;
- vi) Contents, issues, participants profile (ex. same participants or different for each module), external experts etc. of next training modules;
- vii) Role and tasks of Episouth Focal Points, Networking, NWA of EpiSouth Web site as Networking tool;
- viii) Project evaluation plan and related evaluation forms;
- ix) EpiSouth editorial policy: logos utilisation, visibility, authorship, presentation to national/international conferences/journal etc.;
- x) Administrative aspects: project funds utilization; EpiMed funds;
- xi) The role ECDC and WHO can play in the EpiSouth during its lifetime: concrete proposal on technical and funding aspects;
- xii) Sustainability of the Episouth after the end of the project.

a.2) 2nd Project Meeting (Athens, 10-12 December 2008) M

The 2nd Episouth Meeting took place in Athens from 10th December to 12th December 2007. The meeting was hosted by the Hellenic Center for Diseases Control and Prevention (H.C.D.C.P.), leader of WP8- Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonoses.

All the twenty-one countries involved in the Network (plus Tunisia that was in progress with its official commitment to EpiSouth at that time), were present, including EU and non-EU partner countries. Among them, 9 were from Southern Europe (Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia and Spain), 6 from Balkans (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Kosovo and Serbia), 3 from North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco) and 4 from the Middle East (Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey). Egypt, Montenegro, Palestine and Syria were represented and invited as potential partners.

As for the 1st Project Meeting, participation of non-EU partner countries representatives was made possible by EC EuropAID and EC DG ENLARG through TAIEX facility.

International Organisations (i.e. ECDC, WHO-EURO, WHO-EMRO and WHO-LYO/HQ) were present and actively involved; TAIEX office was also represented. Guest scientists from Greece, France and Italy had been invited.

After the first meeting in Rome (28-30 March 2007), the Athens meeting represented a further occasion in which all project partners could meet and discuss on relevant project issues.

This second Episouth meeting was meant to consolidate the cooperation among the countries that formally agreed to take part in the Network as well as to further extend the Network to invited countries that could be part of it. It also represented the occasion to work and agree on contents and procedures in order to start a concrete collaboration on the specific project thematic issues (Epidemic Intelligence, VPD and Migrants, Zoonoses). In fact, by the end of the project period, three Strategic Documents will be available to guide and support the Mediterranean Countries on critical aspects and operational standards related to the three specific issues addressed by the project.

The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

- To discuss activities done since March 2007
- To work together on the development of the three thematic issues
- To strengthen and further extend the Network of EpiSouth
- To agree on next year plan and activities.

This was expected to be achieved through three meeting approaches:

- *WP Steering Teams*, restricted and focused on the Project Work Packages objectives;
- *Parallel Sessions*, focused on the thematic issues of WP6, 7 and 8;
- *Plenary Sessions*, open to the meeting audience with contribution of invited experts.

For further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.2 – List of participants to 2nd EpiSouth Project Meeting and no.3 – Report of the 2nd Episouth Project Meeting.

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

The first successful step towards the enlargement has been the organisation of the 1st Project Meeting in Rome described in the 1st Interim Report.

Starting from April 2007 the non-EU Countries started to send official request of participation to EpiSouth and progressively 13 and 4 countries during the 1st and 2nd year respectively were involved in the Network.

It is worth stressing that the enlargement was concretely possible thanking EC DG RELEX and DG AIDCO-EuropeAid, which, through TAIEX have ensured the financial support needed to allow the participation of non-EU Countries to the 1st and 2nd Project Meetings.

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 training modules as well as coordination missions of ISS to the non EU Countries.

Presently 61 Focal Points (28 from EU-Countries and 33 from non-EU Countries) are part of the EpiSouth Network (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.4. 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, delay has been reported especially in those activities which have requested the collection of data and information from all the Countries involved and, even if the return rate is satisfactory, it is not deniable that big and time demanding efforts have been done to ensure proper replies from the majority of the partners involved.

In addition, it should be considered that the design of tools, like questionnaires for data collection, is often a complex task that has to consider high variability among the Countries in terms of data availability, sources, internal existing problems, different country-specific conditions, languages barriers, etc.

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

As reported in the 1st interim report, 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.

In particular, the ESCAIDE Conference, held in Stockholm on 18-20 October 2007, was a fruitful occasion for meeting representatives of ECDC in their own offices.

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) and also to the 2nd Project Meeting in Athens. From that moment several contacts have been carried out with them.

EpiSouth Project has been also presented by the project leader at the thematic session on communicable disease of EuroMed Conference on Health organized by the EU Portuguese Presidency (Brussels, 4-5 December 2007).

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 2nd year of activities was elaborated with the support of the WPs leaders, discussed during the 2nd Steering Committee held in Athens and shared with all EpiSouth participants during the 2nd Project Meeting.

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.5 – Project Work-Plan for 2nd 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.

To facilitate the preparation of the 2nd Project Meeting in December 2007, a coordination mission in Athens was carried out by the project coordination in October 2008.

In order to promote coordination the WP1 leader has made a mission to Madrid during the period 2-6 June 2008 in the framework of the 2nd training session organised by the WP5.

To facilitate the dissemination of EpiSouth preparation and periodic updating of project's outline and leaflet were done and uploading of updated versions was made in the public area of EpiSouth website (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.6. Project's outline and no. 7. Project's leaflet**).

The project's organisation document was prepared to facilitate the management and interactions among Steering Teams and it was regularly updated (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 8. EpiSouth Project organisation document**).

Monitoring of the project's activities was regularly done through constant contacts with WPs leaders and compilation of Monitoring Sheets (prepared on the basis of the Yearly Project's Work Plan).

f) Activities undertaken in relation to other WPs

During this 2nd year, the on-line questionnaires related to evaluation (WP3), networking (WP4), VPD and Mobile Populations (WP7) and Directory for zoonoses of priority (WP8), were prepared and made available for the on-line compilation. This work was done in coordination with the related WPs leaders and the WP2 leader.

In order to better coordinate the activities two meetings were held in Rome between coordination team and:

- i) WP4 and WP3 team (18 January 2008)
- ii) WP6 team and CINECA (15 April 2008)

Problems encountered and solutions

Minor problems were encountered during this 2nd year of activities and the majority of them was due, as already reported, to 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.

As reported in the previous report, the recruitment process of the fulltime coordinator was finalised in March 2007. So, during the 2nd year the Project leader, the Statistician and the Data manager could reduce their support to the project management in terms of total days worked as reported also in the financial report.

Out of the other two positions planned, the position for the full-time Technical Assistant was finally posted and selection made with the starting of the contract on 10 June 2008.

The other position planned (Epidemiologist) has been posted and the selection process has been concluded in September 2008.

Activities planned for the next period

- Participation to EU Open Days in Bruxelles (6-9 October 2008)
- Participation to EuroMesco International Conference in Amman (16-17 October 2008)
- 3rd Steering Committee Meeting in Bruxelles (30-31 October 2008)
- Coordination mission in the framework of the WP6 Steering Team Meeting, Marrakech (3-4 November 2008)
- Participation to EuroMed International Conference on Health in Cairo (16-17 November 2008)
- Final Work-plan 3rd Year
- Mission to Sofia for coordination and preparation of 4th Steering Committee and 3rd Project Meeting (13-14 January 09)
- 4th Steering Committee and 3rd Project Meeting (Sofia, 30 March – 1 April 09)
- Coordination missions
- Support to the organisation of the 3rd training module 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 (i.e. ECDC, WHO)

3.1.2 WP 2 Dissemination of the results

Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives

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 mean of 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 second year of the project have been related to all these specific objectives plus others that were not specifically foreseen. In particular, the activities undertaken have been:

1. Participation to the preparatory meeting of the project network meeting (Athens, 10-12 December 2007) in cooperation with WP1, WP3, WP4 and WP8.
2. Maintenance and quarterly update of both the public and restricted areas of the EpiSouth web site.
3. Updating of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients.
4. Release of the quarterly electronic bulletin.
5. Support to WP3 for the preparation of the on-line evaluation questionnaires.
6. Support to WP4 for designing the on-line directory of the partners' institutions.
7. Support to WP6 for designing the on-line cross-border epidemic intelligence platform with alerts originating from partners.
8. Support to WP7 for the preparation of the on-line questionnaire "Assessment of Countries Migration Status Profile & Vaccination Access of Migrant Population".
9. Support to WP8 for the preparation of the on-line questionnaire for the Directory on Human Public Health (HPH) and Veterinary Public Health (VPH) officials.
10. Preparation and submission of posters and abstracts for scientific conferences.
11. Preparation and submission of scientific articles.

Deliverables achieved

- a) Maintenance and quarterly update of the web site

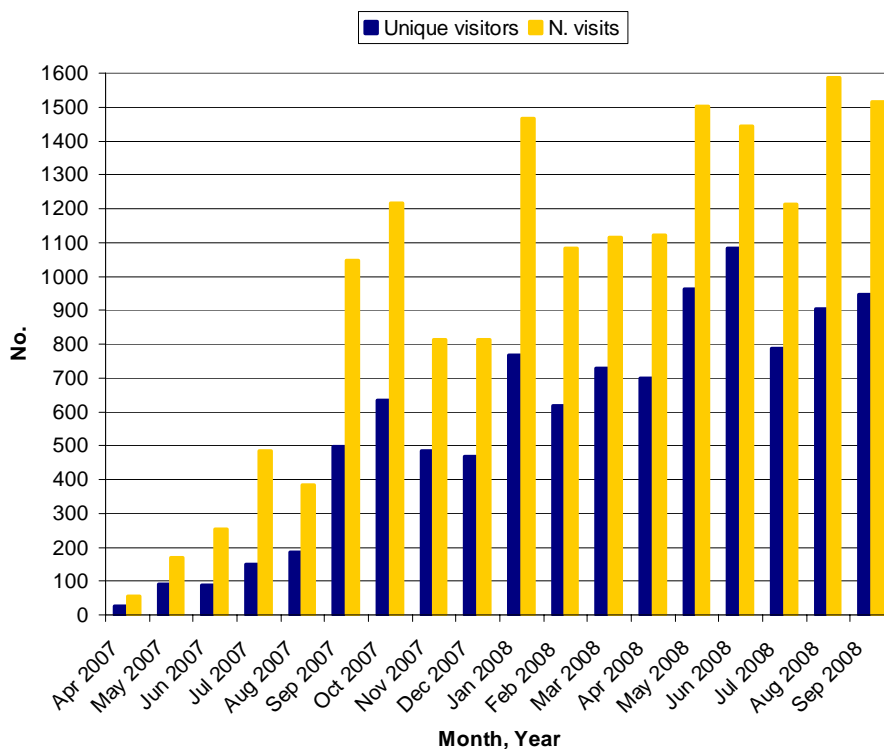
Release of the issues n. 1, n.2, and n. 3 of the quarterly electronic bulletin (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.9. Bulletin Issues 1, 2 and 3).**

- b) Article published in the Journal edited by the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS); article submitted to *Eurosurveillance*; poster presented to the ESCAIDE conference (Stockholm, 18-20 October 2007), EuroMed Workshop (Brussels, 4-5 December 2007), and SANIT conference (Rome, 23-25 June 2008) (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.10. and no.11.).**

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

Activity 1: In October 2007, the programme and agenda of the 2nd project meeting were drafted, discussed and finalised during a preliminary meeting held in Athens in cooperation with WP1, WP3, WP4, and WP8.

Activity 2: Both the public and restricted areas of the project's web site were maintained and updated at least quarterly. During the second year of activities, there have been 9079 different visitors for a total of 14895 visits to the public area of the web site. An increase in the number of monthly visitors and visits has been observed since April 2007, when the public area of the web site was first opened (see figure). The restricted Network Working Area (NWA) has been visited by 60 different episouth participants in the period October 2007 – September 2008.



Activity 3: The mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients has been quarterly updated including all people who registered to receive the bulletin through the on-line form. The number of recipients increased from 501 in September 2007 (date of release of the issue n.0) to 592 in July 2008 (date of release of the issue n. 3).

Activity 4: The issues n. 1, 2 and 3 of the electronic bulletin were released and sent to all people included in the mailing list in January, May and July 2008, respectively.

Activity 5: The questionnaire for evaluating WP1-WP5 progresses has been prepared in collaboration with WP3 and compiled on-line by the Project's Focal Points

Activity 6: In January 2008 the questionnaire for collecting information on the Institution Partners was finalised and uploaded in the EpiSouth Members area for the on-line compilation (in collaboration with CINECA and WP4). In September 2008, a draft of the directory of the partners' institutions to be made available in the public area of the web site has been prepared in collaboration with WP4. It includes the possibility to search for specific institutions using keywords. The draft version is currently available in the test area of the project's web site.

Activity 7: In the period April-September 2008, the criteria for developing the platform for cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners were identified in collaboration with WP6. A draft of the platform has been prepared and is currently available in the test area of the project's web site.

Activity 8: In September 2008, in collaboration with WP7, the questionnaire on migrant status and vaccination access was finalised and made available for on-line data-entry to all the project's focal points.

Activity 9: In the period August-September 2008, the questionnaire aimed at creating the directory of HPH and VPH officials in the EpiSouth participating countries was finalised in collaboration with WP8. The questionnaire was made available for data-entry to all the project's focal points.

Activity 10: In October and December 2007 and in June 2008, posters providing an overview of the EpiSouth Project were submitted and presented to the ESCAIDE Conference (Stockholm, Sweden, 18-20 October 2007), the EuroMed Workshop (Brussels, 4-5 December 2007) and the SANIT Conference (Rome, 23-25 June 2008), respectively. In April 2008, an article describing the project has been published in the Journal edited by the Italian National Institute of Health. Finally, in July 2008, another article has been submitted and is currently under consideration for publication in *Eurosurveillance*.

Activation of EpiSouth link in the website of Public Health Institutions was activated and EpiSouth announcement in EuroSurveillance website was realised.

Press release on EpiSouth activities realised in October 2007 (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no. 12.**)

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

According to the workplan of the second year, some activities have been delayed but, with the exception of the support for the creation of the on-line directory of partners' institutions, the creation of the on-line directory of training courses and fellowships, and the creation of the electronic platform for cross-border epidemic intelligence, all of these were completed within the 2nd year of activities.

In particular, the updating of the mailing list of recipients and the release of the issue n. 2 of the electronic bulletin was postponed by one month due to the unavailability of the documents/materials for its editorial contents; the finalisation of the questionnaire in collaboration with WP3 was slightly delayed waiting for the final definition of the criteria to

be used to draft it; the on-line directory of the partners' institutions, in collaboration with WP4, has been only partially developed because of the delay in the completion of the on-line questionnaires by focal points (the draft directory is available in a restricted area for testing); the directory of training courses and fellowship to be made available on-line has not yet been realised because of the delay in identifying the courses to be included and the criteria to develop the on-line directory; the electronic platform for cross-border epidemic intelligence, in collaboration with WP6, has been only partially developed because of the delay in arranging a prototype needed to discuss its further implementation with the WP6 steering team (a draft version of the platform is available in a restricted area of the web site for testing); the support to both WP7 and WP8 for the creation of the on-line questionnaires was postponed because of the delay in developing their draft paper copies. In all these cases, the action taken to overcome the problem consisted in frequently contacting by telephone and e-mail the reference WP leaders and partners in order to jointly solve the problems and to accelerate the activities.

Activities planned for the next period (October 2008 – September 2009)

The activities planned for the next period are the following:

1. Participation to the preparatory meeting of the third project network meeting (Sofia, March 2009) in cooperation with WP1, WP3, WP4 and WP7.
2. Maintenance and quarterly update of the project's web site (both public and restricted areas)
3. Update of the mailing list of the electronic bulletin recipients
4. Release of the EpiSouth Electronic bulletin
5. Support to WP3 for the creation of the on-line questionnaire and data analysis
6. Support to WP4 for finalising the on-line directory of partners' institutions
7. Support to WP5 for developing the on-line directory of training courses and fellowships.
8. Support to WP6 for finalising the electronic platform for cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners.
9. Support to WP7 for analysis of data collected through the on-line questionnaire on migrant status and vaccination access
10. Support to WP8 for the creation of the on-line directory of HPH and VPH officials in EpiSouth countries.
11. Submission of abstracts and participation to scientific conferences and seminars of interest for the project and preparation of articles for scientific journals.

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 second year included the following:

- Support to the preparation of the Project Networking Meeting in Athens in cooperation with WP1, WP2, WP4 and WP8
- Evaluation Plan & evaluation Questionnaires (horizontal & vertical WPs) developed and discussed during 2nd Project Meeting
- Analysis and Reports of Meeting & Networking Evaluation Questionnaires filled in at the 2nd Project Meeting (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no.13.**)
- Final Version of Evaluation Plan on web site (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no.14**)

- Final Version of on-line evaluation questionnaire (Overall Project & horizontal WPs) filled in by FPs
- Monitoring sheets prepared and sent to WPs leaders for compilation (with WP1)

Some of the above mentioned activities were not specifically foreseen by the official agreement but were considered useful to the completion of WP3 mandate and more in general to EpiSouth success.

WP3 third year (October 2008 – September 2009)activities will include:

- The Second evaluation report will be prepared and disseminated among partners;
- The questionnaires concerning Meeting management and Network development will again be distributed among participants to the Sofia 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 monitoring sheets to be sent to the WPs leaders and reminders will be sent if deemed useful;
- The Final Version of on-line evaluation questionnaire for WP6, WP7 and WP8 progresses monitoring will be uploaded in the Members Area to be filled in by FPs

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 second year of the project have been oriented to the development of the following: to organize the second networking meeting and produce the related proceedings; to prepare the directory of participating public health institutions; to draw up the guidelines for the three strategic documents; to design the networking workplan 2008.

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

- (M13) The preparatory meeting of the Second Project meeting was attended in Athens to discuss the tentative agenda for the 2nd EpiSouth Steering Committee, to define working timetable, roles, responsibilities as well as organisational aspects in cooperation with WP1, WP2, WP3 and WP8.
- (M13-M15) Contribution was given to the organisation of the Second Project meeting by finalizing the meeting agenda and approaches in strict coordination with WP1 and WP8. Exchanges of views and relevant meeting documents for consensus among WP leaders and ST members took place before the meeting.
- (M14-M15) Guidelines draft for the three strategic documents were prepared and agreed in cooperation with WP6,7 and 8 to be discussed during the meeting and particularly during the parallel sessions time.

- (M15) The WP4 took actively part in the meeting by supporting WP1 and WP8, introducing working procedures and outputs for the 3 parallel sessions and facilitating the work in cooperation with WP6,7 and 8. During the plenary sessions partners were informed about the future availability of the on-line version of the WP4 questionnaire useful for the preparation of the Directory of institutions. The meeting was fundamental to understand the network evolution, orientate the design of the Networking plan as well as for the strategic document evolution.
- The meeting minutes were collected and submitted to the Coordinator for amendments, final approval and preparation of the Meeting Report.
- (M15-M18) Second Project Networking meeting proceedings were prepared in cooperation with WP1. The meeting report summarising the meeting outcomes was prepared, submitted to the project coordinator for revision and uploaded in the NWA for comments and contributions. The final agreed version was finally uploaded in the public area of the project website. Meeting proceedings documents were included in a CD-Rom and sent to all meeting participants and absent Focal Points.
- (M23-24) Networking workplan 2008 was designed by taking into account the evolution of the EpiSouth network and the availability of common communication tools. Networking objectives, activities, different levels of responsibility, networking tools and information management were defined. Written networking principles were submitted to the coordinator for comments and supervision. The prepared version of the networking plan will be uploaded in the NWA for consensus and finalisation.
- (M16) Validated on-line questionnaire for the directory was uploaded in the website Members' area. Preparation and revision was made in cooperation with WP2 and CINECA. Technical details were finalised. Contribution was given for data entry document preparation. Instructions on how to fill in the on-line forms were sent to all Focal Points.
- (M18-M24) All partners were requested to fill in the questionnaire regarding the directory information on the website. The questionnaire was completed and uploaded in the website by a number of partners. Questionnaires were revised and validated by the WP leader. Regular communications and reminders inviting all the project Focal Points to compile the questionnaire were sent.
- (21-24) In cooperation with WP2 and WP1 as well as with CINECA, a first version of the directory of institutions to be available on the web site was designed. The directory will be made of validated available questionnaires, widened with compiled new ones and regularly updated. Delays occurred in the preparation and publication due to technical reasons.

Milestones and deliverables achieved

- **M15** Second networking meeting in Athens organised
- **M16** On-line questionnaire for collecting information for Directory available in the website (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no.14.**)
- **M18** Proceedings of the Second Project Meeting prepared (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 3.**)
- **M24** Draft Networking plan 2008 prepared (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 16.**)
- **M24** First version of Directory of participating institutions prepared

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

- N. 84 attendees in the Second networking meeting in Athens
- N. 16/30 on-line questionnaires uploaded and validated
- Minutes of the Second Project Meeting prepared and included in the meeting proceedings
- N. 106 CD-Roms including Second Project meeting proceedings prepared and sent to meeting participants and project Focal Points
- Draft Networking plan 2008 prepared
- First version of Directory of participating institutions prepared
- 53,33% of participating institutions included in the Directory first version

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

- WP4 questionnaire return rate. So far 16 institutions among 30 have filled up the questionnaire and uploaded it on the web site.
- Action taken. Various reminders were made and sent to the participants. Next steps: regular reminders will be sent to Focal Points representing missing institutions in order to complete the Directory and have all countries represented. Focal Points of institutions already included in the Directory will be invited to update the data, if necessary.

WP4 activities planned for the next period (October 2008 – September 2009)

- First version of Directory of participant Institutions made accessible on the Web;
- Validation of remaining questionnaires and update of the Directory;
- Participation in and contribution to the Steering Committee meeting in Brussels on 30th-31st October 2008;
- Participation in the preparatory meeting for the organization of the Project Networking Meeting in Sofia in cooperation with WP1 and WP7;
- Organisation of Third Project Networking Meeting in Sofia in cooperation with WP1, WP6, WP7 and WP8 scheduled in March 2009;
- Preparation of the Third Project Networking Meeting proceedings;
- Support to the preparation of the first draft of the three strategic documents (WP6, 7 and 8) in co-operation with WP1 and related WPs.

3.1.5 WP 5 Training in field /applied epidemiology

This report describes the most relevant activities done and achievements reached during this second year of the project. It 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

Strengthen the early response capacity of the participating countries to health threats and infectious diseases spread by:

- Identifying training needs related to the vertical WP in participating countries, in particular WP6, WP7; WP8 (Done during the first year)
- Organising short term training courses to comply with identified training needs and other WP objectives
- Promoting the participation to already existing European training courses (not yet realised)

Activities undertaken to reach the objectives

The activities done have been jointly decided within the Steering Team.

Related the first objective :

2. a) Discussion with WP5ST, collected comments and drafts reviewed from WP5ST in addition of elaboration of the final report on the training needs assessment carried out during the first year of the project.

2.b) An article on Training Needs Assessment in EpiSouth community has been published in a turkey Journal of Health

Related the second objective:

2. c) Discussion with WP5 Steering Team on the participants' profile for the Second Training Module

2.d) Discussion with WP5ST the topics and experts for the training module

2.e) In coordination with WP1, various organizational activities (e-mails, faxes and telephone calls for participants, experts, embassies for getting visas, registration forms for the module, etc). Other activities undertaken by ISCIII: elaboration of the training materials, work sessions, focus group and case study for workshop, etc.

2.f) Second Training Module with two parts: Workshops on *Epidemic Intelligence and Risk Assessment. IHR*; and *Limitation for emerging infectious diseases control at national level*. And a specific training on *Risk assessment* and an Over view on *Modelling Infectious Diseases Introduction to models and dynamics*.

2.g) Training materials, diplomas and CD's (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 17**).

Other activities undertaken:

a) 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)

b) Explored funding possibilities: mainly FM7 and Spanish Cooperation Agency

Milestones and deliverables achieved

3. a) Survey report on training needs (for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 17).

3. b) Second training module carried out (for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 18).

The deliverables are:

3.c) Teaching materials on the Second Training Module (containing Presentations done by experts and participants, Modelling on Infectious Diseases with their practice exercises; Berkeley Madonna demo- programme, etc)

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

N° ⁵	Activity	Indicator	
19	Survey on training needs among Episouth participants (Done during the first year)	N° of countries answered the survey	18
20	Report finished during the second year	Final report on training need prepared	Reviewed by WP5ST and uploaded on the Website
21	2nd Training Module carried out	Done	YES
22		N° of subjects in the training modules developed with other WP	2 subjects: Vaccination (WP7) & International Surveillance (WP6)
23		N° of participants in the first module	28
24		Evaluation forms for the training module filled and analysed (to be finished and reviewed by WP5ST)	(to be reviewed by WP5ST and be disseminated)

Outputs and indicators

N° ⁶	Output	Indicator	
15	Directory of training courses and fellowship	Directory prepared (in draft version) but not yet shared with WP5ST	To be shared and reviewed by S Team and made operational
18	Teaching materials from training sessions	Second Module available in the web – site	Link on the website created

⁵ N° of activity in the Grant Agreement

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

Problems encountered and solutions found

Some delays and constraints were encountered during this second year.

Related to the survey on training needs, once the report was uploaded in the website, it was detected that one country, despite having fully filled the survey questionnaire, it had not been included nor in the analyses neither in the report because of an error. This circumstance obliged us to insert the lost data, re-doing the analyse and reviewing the final report before uploading the final version. At this time, the activities for the training module were already begun, so the report reviewing took more time than initially expected.

Finally both activities were undertaken, but prioritizing the training module tasks. The database was also sent.

Both reports of training modules evaluation are about to be finished and uploaded.

For making the directory training courses we found more complex than expected to concretize the ideas in a web format.

The process of coordination and communication with the training Steering Team have not been so smooth as wished. People involve (FPs) have many other priorities and pressures for sending feedback. We could need to carry out some motivating activities to facilitate them the access and real participation

Activities planned for the next period

The activities planned for the period October 08-September 09 are the following:

- Reports of the first and second training evaluations reviewed by WP5 Steering Team
- Collaboration and Link with EPIET & FETPs
- Feeding the project web-site with/for training information
- Third training module
- Teaching material on third training module
- Evaluation of the third 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
- Actions related to the sustainability of the Network after the Project's end.

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.
- The first year of EpiSouth project, particularly for the “Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence” (CBEI) work package was dedicated to the implementation of CBEI activities.
- Cross-border epidemic intelligence WP due to its specificity is somehow a very sensitive WP. To prevent confusion between Epidemic intelligence and cross-border, the 1st part was mostly developed last year.
- Regular contacts and exchange of expertise have been maintained on a regular basis with the ECDC and MediSys JRC team in charge of epidemic intelligence.

WP6 steering group: Parallel session during Athens meeting

- During the second plenary EpiSouth meeting which was held in Athens in December 2007, 4 new countries expressed their desire to integrate the EpiSouth project: Egypt, Montenegro, Palestine and Syria. During this Athens meeting, parallel sessions were organised on the specific vertical workpackage: WP6, WP7 and WP8.
- 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.
- As a consequence a specific parallel session for Epidemic Intelligence was organised, during Athens meeting, including: a “training” part on WP6 concepts and, a “case-study” part. This WP6 parallel session was very fruitful as we succeed to have consensual decisions from EpiSouth participating countries about the main orientations and activities of the WP6.
- Strategic documents were elaborated and disseminated to the WP6 parallel session participants in order to confirm and report WP6 decisions taken in Athens. Minutes of the WP6 parallel session are available in the Members Area of EpiSouth website.

Epidemic intelligence (EI) and cross-border (CB) report

- Epidemic intelligence, the 1st part, was mostly developed last year. Baseline background information was collected among countries. Actives searches were performed to identify available sources allowing detection of health threats that could affect EpiSouth countries.
- Using the CBEI questionnaire (last July 2007), an interim report was sent to all participant countries in order to share the analysis of WP6 questionnaire answers. It helped to assess perceptions and expectations from participating countries towards EpiSouth.

WP6 steering team (ST) consensus teleconferences and preparation of the face-to-face meeting

- WP6- steering team is composed by 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. In 2008, 2 additional countries integrated the WP6 steering team: Montenegro and Palestine. Both countries were mostly welcomed and working time was spent for them in order to provide WP6 background and facilitate their integration in the WP6.

- To allow active contribution of WP6-ST members regarding the elaboration of EI core components, a first teleconference was held the 25th of October 2007. This teleconference, initially scheduled earlier, had to be postponed several times due to competing agendas.
- The main objective of this teleconference was to define EpiSouth EI criteria, supports of communication etc. Information drawn from EI and CB questionnaire was used as a basis for discussion.
- Criteria, strategy, etc. selected by the steering group have been presented to all participant countries for endorsement to the Athens meeting in December 2007.
- A second teleconference was held in July 2008, including the 2 new country members: Montenegro and Palestine. The objectives of this 2nd teleconference were the determination of EI activities to be developed during the 2nd semester 2008, of the eWEB bulletin pilot phase ending and the organisation of WP6 ST face-to-face meeting.
- For the WP6 ST face-to-face meeting, 2 countries were volunteers to host the steering committee: Jordan and Morocco. The preparation of the WP6ST started from the WP6 second teleconference performed in July 2008 where all members agreed on the dates for the meeting.

EpiSouth Epidemiological Weekly Bulletin (eWEB) and thematic notes

- One of the objectives of the WP6 in terms of Epidemic Intelligence (EI) is to implement and elaborate a tool for the communication of public health events that are of interest for the whole EpiSouth community. The edition of a weekly epidemiological bulletin providing information about international outbreaks occurring outside EpiSouth countries was planned for the year 2 after a good understanding of EI concepts.
- A pilot format of this weekly bulletin was proposed to all countries during Athens meeting last December 2007 for suggestion and comments.
- The EpiSouth Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin (eWEB) is distributed every Thursday and covers the previous period from the Wednesday morning to Tuesday evening.
- The first eWEB bulletin was produced and distributed to all participating countries on 27th March 2008. The 1st edition covered so the period from Wednesday 18th March to Tuesday 26th March 2008.
- A pilot phase of several months was dedicated for fine-tuning and adjustment regarding the format and the contents.
- Every week, the eWEB bulletin is archived in a database hosted in the secured EpiSouth website (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no. 19).**
- With CINECA partner, we elaborated a tool for interactive data queries in order to perform multicriteria researches on all bulletins. Multi criteria research could be done on 3 key points: the disease, the geographic area and the date.
- In addition to weekly epidemiological bulletin, thematic note were also produced. The objective of the thematic note is to develop deeply a complex epidemiological situation which needs further analysis and background.
- The 1st thematic note was edited on 3rd of April 2008 on Yellow Fever in South America (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on EpiSouth website: no.20).**

- At 30th September 2008, 27 eWEB bulletins and 5 thematic notes were edited and distributed.

Cross Border issue: the development of the secured platform

- Procedures aiming to define information flow from all participating parties (Countries, ECDC, WHO) are under elaboration.
- Consensus of all concerned parties on cross border EI procedures will be a prerequisite to posting of national alerts on EpiSouth secured Website.
- CB activities would be operational once the secured platform will be shared with the WP6 steering team
- In April 2008, WP6 team had a meeting with CINECA partner and WP1 and 2 in Roma, in order to agree about the elaboration of the Cross-border alert system platform. A pilot model was supposed to be delivered during the summer. Actually, a first version was available by the end of September and is currently under assessment.
- The CB alert platform functionalities will be discussed with the WP6 steering team in November 2008.
- The finalisation of this alert system is planned for the year 3.

2) MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES Year 2

- Consensus Meeting: Done during Athens Meeting in December 2007 + 2 WP6 steering team teleconferences + preparation of WP6 face-to-face meeting
- Pilot secure Web Site: meeting with CINECA and joint collaboration with WP1 and 2.
- eWEB bulletin production and communication to all EpiSouth network
- Questionnaires contributions and compilation for: WP4 – 7 – 8
- French participation in the Madrid training module
- Continuation of activities initiated during year 1

3) DESCRIPTION OF INDICATORS OF ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

- **Strategic EI and Cross border document posted:** From the beginning, 51 strategic documents concerning WP6 were posted on EpiSouth website leading to 1022 visits, 962 downloads by one of the 51 authorised users among which 33 documents and 890 download for 2008.
- **An interim WP6 report:** A WP6 report was written and distributed in May 2008 providing an analysis of Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence situation in EpiSouth countries and a summary of needs and expectations regarding this specific workpackage (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 21**).
- **Scientific Seminar.** The promotion of EpiSouth EI and CB activities (already initiated last year) was done in a French public conference (JVS) in Paris in November 2007. In addition, EpiSouth was presented also in another scientific symposium (EPITER) in Paris in March 2008. An abstract was also submitted for ESCAIDE seminar in July 2008 (**for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 22**).

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND HOW PROBLEMS WERE RESOLVED

- **The WP6 steering committee meeting was initially planned in Jordan:** During Athens meeting, last December 2007, several countries from the WP6 steering team proposed to host the meeting and finally Jordan was chosen. Due to the political context in the Middle-

East area, the possible welcome in Jordan was not possible. As, the second option was Morocco, the WP6 steering team meeting will be organised in Marrakech on 3-4 November 2008.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PROGRAMME AND OBJECTIVES FORESEEN AND THOSE ACTUALLY CONDUCTED AND ACHIEVED

The implementation of WP6 full-fledged activities was conditioned by the recruitment of the fulltime epidemiologist which was effective last year in May 2007. However all required activities related to Epidemic Intelligence were accelerated and developed as much as possible. Unfortunately, at this date, the delay is still consequent and mainly regarding:

- the development of evaluation missions in participating countries,
- The development of the secured web site platform on cross-border alert sharing.

• Missions to participating countries

Evaluation missions in participating countries were proposed in priority to countries which are members of the WP6 steering team as it appeared important to begin with countries which are very actively involved in the “Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence” work package. It has been considered that these missions would be more efficient after the endorsement of EI and CB procedures. Their approval also delayed the missions. For this year (2008), 2 missions were planned in Morocco and in Israel which were volunteers. The major difficulty is the specific context of Middle-East which remains sometimes delicate and improbable.

• Cross border (CB) Activities

The development of cross-border issues was intentionally planned in a second stage (second year) as these cross border issues are sensitive. This part requires specific tools and, moreover, confidence of the different participants regarding the overall project as EpiSouth countries are supposed to share confidential information about their own national public health events. The CB platform is supposed to be developed thanks to a collective effort from the WP6 steering team which has already worked through 2 teleconferences. This work will be continued during a face-to-face meeting that will be performed in Marrakech next November 2008.

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YEAR 3

- Continuation of ongoing activities
- Continuation of eWEB bulletin dissemination
- Dissemination of EI and CB procedures
- Test of the secure Web site for CB information sharing
- Regular use of the secured web site for CB sharing among all participating EpiSouth countries
- Continuation of assessment missions into WP6-ST countries

3.1.7 WP 7 Vaccine Preventable diseases and migrant population

To achieve the specific objectives of the WP7, the main activities during the second year of the project have been oriented on the elaboration of a new final version of the questionnaire in line

with all received recommendations and based on the additionally obtained information on the methods for monitoring and assessment of vaccination coverage and VPD surveillance in general and in migrant population particularly.

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

- The WP7 Steering Team structure was updated and at present the WP7 Steering Team includes experts from: Bulgaria, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Serbia, Morocco, Lebanon, Algeria and Palestine; the communication between ST members was significantly improved during the great number of discussions on the final version of the questionnaire;
- Additional information regarding definitions for migrant population, data on the EU legislation etc., related to the WP7 project topic was collected and used for the preparation of the final version of the questionnaire;
- Participation in the Second Steering Committee & Project meeting, 10-12 December 2007, Athens, Greece:
 - Preparation of materials and presentations for the Second EpiSouth Steering Committee and Project Meeting – development of a draft for Group discussion on "Migrants & immunizations"; preparation and conducting discussion with WP7 ST, focussing on the requested changes of the WP7 Questionnaire
 - WP7 First year summary and WP7 Parallel session minutes has been published at the NWA (Members Area of EpiSouth website) in January 2008
- The results from the pilot survey based on the first draft questionnaire, completed by the WP7 ST countries were summarized and the analysis was published on the website of the project;
- After following up all the comments and advices, sent by the partners and based on the analysis of results obtained from the Draft questionnaire (filled by the WP7 ST), a new, final version of the Questionnaire “Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population” has been produced. The questionnaire was uploaded on the WEB page (ST WP7 members area) and discussed one more time by the ST. Revision and preparation of the final version of the WP 7 Questionnaire: "Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population" has been completed in June 2008 and after the approval of the WP7 ST the questionnaire was submitted to the WP2 team. Meanwhile the word format of the questionnaire was uploaded in the member's area of EpiSouth web page to facilitate the Focal Points and contacts to become familiar with all the questions and to start collecting the data. CINECA finalised the preparation of the on-line version of the questionnaire, it was tested and made available in the official web site of the project in September, 2008.
- The analysis of the data from the new questionnaire, completed by all participating countries and reporting survey results remains to be done.
- Contacts of the WP leader with representatives of the ECDC and the WHO-EURO to discuss WP7 tasks emphasized on the importance of this topic, and a decision was taken to organize a workshop in Sofia, to discuss the problem with experts, representing the WP7ST, Balkan and CEE countries.
- A Joint ECDC / WHO Workshop “Key topics on migrants and hard to reach populations health in central-eastern Europe: advocating and promoting

immunization” was organised and hosted at the NCIPD on 11-12 February, 2008 (information uploaded in the NWA)

- Dissemination of information related to the EpiSouth project and the results obtained up to now:
 - A presentation about EpiSouth project was prepared and presented at the VI National Congress of clinical microbiology and infectology, Bulgaria, Plovdiv 5-7 April, 2008;
 - Preparation and submission of an abstract for presentation of the EpiSouth WP7 at the EUPHA pre-conference (2008): "*EpiSouth Project: assessing migrants' profile and migrants access to immunisation service in the countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans (www.episouth.org)*"
- As a supplementary (not included in the plan) activity, however closely related to the rest of WP7 activities, a specific survey on the performance of the National immunization program in infants of Roma and Bulgarian origin, born in 2006 in Sofia region, was conducted. The aim of the study was to compare the immunization coverage and timeliness of immunizations of children of Roma and Bulgarian origin and to evaluate the feasibility of this kind of surveys for the purposes of the WP7. The results obtained are very useful, especially for the preparation of the planned *Recommendations facilitating the evaluation and improvement of immunizations among migrant population*. The preliminary results of the study were presented at:
 - Joint ECDC/WHO Workshop "Key topics on migrants and hard to reach populations health in central-eastern Europe: advocating and promoting immunization" hosted by the NCIPD, 11-12 February, 2008
 - National Epidemiology meeting (May, 2008);
 - Poster "*Survey on the performance of the National immunization program in infants of Roma and Bulgarian origin in Sofia region*" was accepted for presentation at ESCAIDE (2008)

Milestones and deliverables achieved

- Report with results from the provisional assessment survey, (pre-tested questionnaire within WP7 ST countries) **for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 23.**

Description of indicators of activities and outputs

- Report with results from the provisional assessment survey was presented and discussed during the Second Project Meeting in December, 2007
- The final version of the questionnaire was submitted in June 2008 and CINECA make it available on-line to be filled in by all partners in September 2008. **(for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 24).**
- The rest of the planned activities will be implemented after the final questionnaire will be completed by all partners.

Problems encountered and how problems were resolved

- Several versions of the questionnaire were prepared to meet all requirements before finalization of the "Assessment of countries migration status profile and vaccination access of migrant population", because of the diversity of the situation with migrant

population in the countries, participating in EPISOUTH project and respectively the differences of existing problems, related to different country-specific conditions

- Lack of enough and adequate information about the immunization coverage of migrant population and methods for its monitoring and evaluation

WP7 activities planned for the next period (October 2008 – September 2009)

1. Questionnaire compiled on-line by all partners
2. Follow-up of response to the questionnaire
3. Data analysis of survey questionnaires
4. Preliminary Survey results on the w-restricted area
5. Final Report on the survey for vaccine-preventable disease and migrant
6. Preparation of draft recommendations for improving monitoring and access to immunizations and exchanging data on vaccine preventable diseases
7. Feedback from partners about draft recommendations
8. Recommendations posted on web-restricted area
9. Preparation of Draft strategic document
10. Draft strategic document posted on web-restricted area
11. Final strategic document on vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations (with WP4)
12. Dissemination of results – Participation in conferences: EUPHA conference/oral presentation; ESCAIDE conference/poster presentation etc.
13. Preparatory phase of the 3rd Project Meeting in Sofia (with WP1)
14. Conducting the 3rd Project Meeting in Sofia
15. Exchange of information on cases/outbreaks in partner countries (with WP6)
16. Missions to support partners

Other activities, undertaken during the second project year

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

- Preparation and participation at the Second EpiSouth meeting in Athens, December 2007
- 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.
- Drafting reports – collecting materials and documents, needed for preparation and submission of the Second Project Year Interim technical implementation report and Financial statement for the period 1 October, 2007 – 30 September, 2008

Activities related to:

WP3

- Comments and proposals on the documents about the EpiSouth Evaluation and Monitoring Tools and specifically for Evaluation Tool of the EpiSouth Network – Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant populations (WP7)

- Collected information and completed the WP3 Questionnaire the "Monitoring Tool of the EpiSouth Network"
- Submission of data for the monitoring of implementation of the Project Work-plan and Timetable by the WP7 (Monitoring sheet for quarterly monitoring of project implementation)

WP4

- The data related to the institutional profile, National Surveillance System and existing Databases was collected and online-WP 4 "Questionnaire about Institutions partners" was completed

WP5

- Participation of two young epidemiologists, working in the NCIPD at the Second EpiSouth training course in Madrid;
- Preparation of country presentation for the training course

WP6

- Preparation of analysis and report for CCHF cases in Bulgaria in 2008 and CCHF Epidemiology in Bulgaria (published EpiSouth CCHF_08_08_2008) "Epidemiology of CCHF: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Isl. Rep of Iran, Kosovo, Russian federation, Turkey"

WP8

- Collection of information needed for the construction of a Directory with Human PH and Veterinary PH specialists related to the WP8 activities and for filling in the Questionnaire:
 - An official letter requesting to appoint the contact persons was sent to the National veterinary service;
 - HPH experts, working in the NCIPD (epidemiologist and laboratory expert) were nominated

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

- (November 2007) Uploading of the Zoonoses priority list document in ENWA.

- (October-November 2007) Preparation of the 2nd SC & 2nd Project Meetings (Athens)
- (December 2007) Conduction of the 2nd SC & 2nd Project Meeting (Athens)
- (December 2007) The 1st Meeting for zoonosis final strategic document preparation was held in the context of the Project Meeting. It was decided that participating countries would have contributed with a 3-5 pages document, comprising information about the epidemiology and the existing strategies/policies/programs for control and prevention of the selected zoonoses of priority in their countries, describing the routes of collaboration between VPH and HPH officials, stating needs/problems in this field and making suggestions for improvement.
- (March 2008) “*Selection of zoonoses of priority in the Episouth countries: final report on the assessment conducted in July 2007*” (for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 25).
- (January-April 2008) Collection and review of the 3-5 pages contribution documents (processing of their content for incorporation in the WP8 strategic document).
- (October 2007-September 2008) Collaboration and link with existing networks (MED-VET-NET, MZCC etc.), through repeated communications from WP8 Greek Team, where the mission and objectives of the EpiSouth project, as well as the need for exploring a field of combined action were stated. MED VET NET appears not to be available, MZCC is under a re-organisation phase.
- (March-June 2008) Finalisation of the questionnaire for HPH and VPH officials and uploading on the web site (in collaboration with WP2) for on line compilation. On 08/02/08 we uploaded in ENWA the final HPH VPH with a deadline end of February for comment.
- (August-October 2008) on line data collection. After several revisions the online version of the questionnaire was made ready by CINECA in May. We approved it on the 24th of June. On 10th of September 2008 the electronic version was uploaded to be compiled until the 31st of October 2008 (for further details see also § 4. List of documents available on Episouth website: no. 26).
- (May 2008) On line compilation of the WP4 Questionnaire.
- (November 2008) On line compilation of the WP7 Questionnaire.
- (January – September 2008) Work with the Steering Team for drafting zoonosis strategic document (Annex VII).

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, Senior Health Visitor
- Avgi Hadjilouka, Medical Laboratory Scientist

As well as Yiola Mpargouli, Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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

➤ **Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives, milestones and deliverables achieved, indicators of activities and outputs**

The project continued between October 2007 end September 2008. End of October 2007 and beginning of November 2007 the 1st Interim Report was prepared, approved and subsequently submitted to the project coordinators.

The Epidemic Intelligence Questionnaire was duly compiled and submitted on the 10th of December 2007

Chryso Gregoriadou and Avgi Hadjiloukas participated to the 2nd EPISOUTH meeting that took place in Athens 10th-12th December 2007. The feedback from the meeting was very positive as the project seemed to be advancing smoothly and networking among the countries participating was well advanced.

Yiola Mpargouli, Veterinary Officer, joined officially the team in March 2008.

The Zoonoses Strategic document contribution of Cyprus was prepared and submitted in June 2008. The document really assisted in mapping already existing strategies and collaboration of the two Services in the areas of specific zoonoses that were prioritized during a different procedure in the first year of the project.

The Questionnaire for the assessment of countries migration status profile and vaccination access of mobile population was coordinated and completed in collaboration with the Migration Department and the Statistical Service of Cyprus.

Also the questionnaire for constructing the Directory for Human Public Health and Veterinary Public Health contacts for selected zoonotic diseases was compiled in September 2008 and submitted in October 2008.

Between 2-6 June 2008, Drs E. Englezaki and N. Theologos participated to the Madrid training. The training was very interesting and useful for two doctors involved with outbreaks of communicable diseases in the periphery.

The weekly EPI Bulletin is very interesting and useful.

➤ **Problems encountered and how problems were resolved**

No problems have been encountered during the second year of running the project

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

There were no differences

➤ **Activities planned for the next period**

Cyprus team will proceed with the planned activities, guided by the project coordinators

Cyprus team

Dr. Olga Kalakouta

Chryso Gregoriadou

Avgi Hadjilouka

Yiola Mpargouli

3.2.2 Dept of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Malta

Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives.

- Participated in the teleconference on epidemic intelligence on 25/11/07.
- A questionnaire on work package 7 was filled in (deadline 29/10/07).
- A questionnaire on work package 6 was filled in (deadline 23/11/07).
- A questionnaire on work package 4 was filled in (deadline 26/02/08).
- A questionnaire on work package 3 was filled in (deadline 29/04/08).
- Participated in a teleconference with WP6 on 08/07/08.
- Two doctors from the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit from the Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention attended the 2nd project meeting held in Athens from 10-12th December 2007.
- Two of the staff of the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit attended the 2nd training module in Madrid between the 2-6th June 2008.

Consultations with other colleagues from different departments (including Veterinary surgeons, Immunization Unit, National Office of Statistics, Immigration Services, laboratory staff and medical colleagues) had to be done in order to fill in the different questionnaires as comprehensively as possible.

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

Activities undertaken

WP 1: Coordination of the project

Activities done by IPHB

On December 10 – 12th three representatives of IPHB (Dr. Adriana Pistol, Dr. Aurora Stanescu and Dr. Roxana Serban) attended the Second EPISOUTH Meeting held in Athens. The Romanian team attended to the parallel sessions of the meeting: WP 6 – Dr. Adriana Pistol; WP 7 – Dr. Aurora Stanescu and WP 8 – Dr. Roxana Serban (working procedures and outputs). The costs for this participation were supported by the project.

WP5: Training in epidemiology

Activities done by IPHB

2 persons (Dr. Rodica Popescu and Dr. Radu Cucuiu) were proposed and attended the second module of the Training in epidemiology- held in Madrid on June, 02 - 06th. All the costs of the participation were supported by the project.

WP 7: Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant population

Activities done by IPHB

Data and information for the questionnaire *Assessment of countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population* have been collected and will be inserted as soon as the on-line version will be available by the IPHB team (members for this issue is composed by Dr. Adriana Pistol, Dr. Aurora Stanescu).

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

Activities done by IPHB

On February 14th it was completed and sent to the leader of WP8 the report on zoonoses for Romania.

On April 22th was completed and sent to the leader of WP8 the questionnaire for five zoonosis (strategic document).

The IPHB team was composed by Dr. Roxana Serban (behalf 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 this report we describe work carried out by Slovenian participants and the results obtained during the 2nd year of activity (from 1st October 2007 to 30th September 2008) and state in particular:

Activities undertaken in relation to the objectives, milestones and deliverables achieved, indicators of activities and outputs:

- In October 2007 1st interim report for Episouth is done by Slovenian participating members.
- In November 2007 the continuous work and collaboration was going on in preparing questionnaire for WP7 – Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant population. The participants from IVZ RS Slovenia (Alenka Kraigher, MD and Veronika Učakar, MD) are members of the Steering Committee for the WP7.
- In December 2007 Nadja Koren, MD, Veronika Učakar, MD and Mateja Blaško attended the Second Project Meeting in Athens (10th-13th December 2007). Meeting was very successful, there was the presentation of the outcomes of the 1st year of the project for the WP2-WP8 (done, to be done, results, problems, proposed actions, lessons learned). There was also the Steering team meeting for the WP7, in which Slovenia is more deeply involved. Here the agenda and the working plan for the WP7 were discussed and also the main objectives. In the Parallel session for the WP7 was even more discussion about questionnaire for collecting the important information from the participating countries about outline for the strategic document, integration with other WP and work plan for the 2nd year.
- In February 2008 the collection of information was going on for the questionnaire about Institutions partners, the final version of the questionnaire describing the Slovenian Institute for Public Health was uploaded to the EpiSouth web page at the end of this month.
- In April 2008 the collection and gathering the information about selected zoonoses for the questionnaire for WP8 was going on. Regarding collecting this information there was a lot of collaborations with the Slovenian veterinary service. The final version of the questionnaire describing the selected zoonoses in Slovenia was uploaded to the EpiSouth web page at the end of this month. 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 May 2008 the focal points from Slovenia participated in web based survey – internal monitoring tool of the EpiSouth Network, which investigated the overall project and the framework for WP1-WP5.
- In June 2008 Veronika Učakar, MD from Department of vaccine preventable diseases and Zoran Simonović, MD from regional Institute for Public Health Maribor participated in Second Training Module in Madrid.
- In June 2008 we were dealing with the final version of the questionnaire for the WP7 - Vaccine preventable diseases and migrant population. The approval of final version of this questionnaire was also send to the WP7 leader in Bulgaria.
- In August and September 2008 we started to collect and gather the information about vaccine preventable diseases, vaccination and different migrant populations in Slovenia. We also started to build up the Directory with human public health and veterinary public health contacts for selected zoonotic diseases for Slovenia.
- In October 2008 the 2nd interim report for Episouth is done by all Slovenian participating members.
- There were also many other activities and milestones in the project in which Slovenian members were not directly involved, but were important for process (Steering Committee Meetings (Venice), Minutes of Steering Committee Meetings (Venice, 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.
 - o 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:
 - o 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 – 2 nd EpiSouth Steering Committee	WP1		X
2	List of participants to 2 nd EpiSouth Project Meeting	WP4	X	X
3	Report of the 2 nd EpiSouth Project Meeting	WP4	X	X
4	List of Countries Focal Points (2008 updated version)	WP1		X
5	Project Work-Plan 2 nd year	WP1		X
6	Project's outline	WP1	X	X
7	Project's leaflet	WP1	X	X
8	EpiSouth Project organisation document (2008 updated version)			X
9	Issues of the electronic bulletin	WP2	X	X
10	Poster for the ESCAIDE Conference	WP2	X	X
11	EpiSouth Presentation to EuroMed Conference	WP2	X	X
12	Press Releases on EpiSouth Project	WP2	X	
13	Final Evaluation Report <i>“Monitoring Tool of Network Development: results from the questionnaire distributed during the Second Project Meeting (Athens, 10-12 December 2007)”</i>	WP3	X	X
14	Evaluation Plan	WP3		X
15	Network Institutions Questionnaire	WP4		X
16	Draft Networking Plan	WP4		X
17	Report on Training Needs Survey	WP5		X
18	Teaching material of the 2 nd Training Module	WP5	X	X
19	EI e-web bulletins	WP6		X
20	Thematic Notes	WP6	X	X
21	Cross-Border Epidemic Intelligence evaluation: <i>“Results from the questionnaire on countries' needs and expectations”</i>	WP6	X	X

22	Abstract and presentations for International Conference	WP6	X	X
23	Report on Pilot Assessment on "Countries migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population"	WP7		X
24	On-line questionnaire for countries based assessment on "migration status profile & vaccination access of migrant population"	WP7		X
25	<i>"Selection of zoonoses of priority in the Episouth countries: final report on the assessment conducted in July 2007"</i>	WP8	X	X
26	On-line questionnaire for HPH and VPH officials Directory	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, 28 November 2008

Project Leader
Silvia Declich