PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

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CYPRUS, Nicosia (Ministry of Health);
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GREECE, Athens (Hellenic Center for Diseases Control and Prevention–HCDCP);
ISRAEL (Center for Disease Control, Tel Hashomer; Ministry of Health, Jerusalem);
ITALY (National Institute of Health-ISS, Rome; Teaching Hospital, Padua);
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ECDC-European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden;
EUROPEAN COMMISSION-DG SANCO Public Health Directorate, Luxembourg;
MOH-Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy;
WHO–EMRO Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean, Cairo, Egypt;
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2° EpiSouth Project Meeting (Athens 2007) 2° EpiSouth Training (Madrid 2008)
Infectious diseases do not have geographical boundaries. Apart from a few for which a valid and efficacious vaccine is available, surveillance is the only instrument that public health (PH) personnel can use to contain the spread of epidemics.

However, in order to translate data into appropriate action, dissemination of information is crucial.

In occasion of the Year of the Mediterranean (2005), a number of countries that share the Mediterranean ecosystem and, as a result, have common public health problems, agreed to develop the project “EpiSouth”, whose aim is to create a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans.

The Project “EpiSouth” started in October 2006 and will end on June 2010.

As per June 2010, Episouth is a Network of 27 countries located in the Mediterranean and the Balkans aimed at controlling communicable diseases in these regions.

Exchange of information between countries on communicable disease dynamics occurs through specific workpackages (WP): Co-ordination (WP1, ISS-Italy), Dissemination (WP2, ISS-Italy) and Evaluation of the project (WP3, Padua Teaching Hospital-Italy), Network of PH institutions (WP4, Padua Teaching Hospital-Italy), Training in field/applied epidemiology (WP5, ISCIII-Spain), Cross-border epidemic intelligence (WP6, InVS-France), Vaccine-preventable diseases and migrants (WP7, NCIPD-Bulgaria), Epidemiology and preparedness to cross-border emerging zoonoses (WP8, HCDCP-Greece).

The main project outcomes are: three Training Modules on Applied Epidemiology; EpiSouth Quarterly Bulletins; Epidemic Intelligence Weekly Bulletins; Pilot secured section website on cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners; Directory of Institutions involved in EpiSouth Network; Directory of Human and Veterinary Public Health officials; Four Strategic Documents on Training, Cross-Border Epidemic Intelligence, Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Migrants, and Cross-border Emerging Zoonoses with focus on Mediterranean Area.