

## EpiSouth Electronic Bulletin Issue 4 – November 2008



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### EpiSouth Events

The EpiSouth activities on International and Cross-Border Epidemic Intelligence were presented at the Workshop on Early Warning Function under the framework of the International Health Regulations (IHR) (Copenhagen, 16-18 June 2008).

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The EpiSouth project was presented at the Open Days 2008 - Health Village Workshop "Community programmes in the field of health" held in Brussels, Belgium, on 7 October 2008.

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The EpiSouth project was presented at the EuroMeSCO annual conference held in Amman, Jordan on 16-17 October 2008.

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### EpiSouth Activities

The thematic note developed in collaboration with WHO-EURO "Epidemiology of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kosovo, Russian Federation, Turkey" is available on-line

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The thematic note "A(H1N1) virus resistance to *Osetamivir* in the southern hemisphere – 2008 influenza season" is available on-line.

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### The EpiSouth Network

Starting as an EU project, EpiSouth struggled to develop its Mediterranean vocation. From an initial involvement of 5 countries (Italy, Spain, France, Greece, and Bulgaria), it includes now partners from collaborating institutions and 26 countries from Southern Europe, Balkans, Middle East, and Northern Africa.

[Participating Countries](#)

[Collaborating Institutions](#)

### Focus Topic

WHO announced the new self-learning course available on the International Health Regulations training site "Introduction to the International Health Regulations". This course is tailored to the needs of national officers supporting IHR implementation and any other interested professionals. The course is currently available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. It will be soon available also in Russian (December 2008) and Arabic and Chinese (February 2009).

Learning objectives are:

- ▶ To explain the main criteria to be used to determine whether or not a public health event should be notified to WHO according to the decision instrument described in Annex 2 of the IHR;
- ▶ To understand the main legal procedures under the IHR for notification of a public health event to WHO;
- ▶ To describe specific aspects of IHR communications, including the role of (i) the National IHR Focal Point, (ii) the WHO IHR Contact Point, and (iii) the WHO Country Office; and
- ▶ To describe the timeline for implementing the core capacities required under the Annex 1 of the IHR.

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