

**MIDDLE EAST CONSORTIUM ON INFECTIOUS DISEASE SURVEILLANCE (MECIDS)
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 26TH- 27TH, 2010
JERUSALEM**

- DRAFT AGENDA-

<i>Friday 11th November</i>	
10:00	Meeting in hotel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks – welcoming our participants and partners • Presentation of the participants • Approve agenda • Approve minutes from previous meeting • Report o previous activities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clamedia training (PA) b. Salmonella/Shigella joint training (report from partners) c. Connection with CHORDS d. Introducing Skoll e. Leshmania proposal • SFCG involvement
13:00	Lunch
15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on funding/NTI-World Bank grant extension and other sources of funding (NTI) • ICLS potential Lab. Biosafety Biosecurity of PH laboratories and training • Update on Business Plan
18:30	Meeting adjourns
20:00	Dinner

<i>Saturday 27th November</i>	
	Presentations
9:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Regional Analysis (Dr. Sami) • Grey Water (Skoll/friends of the Earth) • Epi South/ West Nile and relationship on the alert project • CHORDS and MECIDS
13:00	Lunch
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for upcoming activities, workshops and training - MEPIET • Next Steps
18:00	Dinner



EpiSouth-Plus

The Network for the Control of Public Health Threats and other risks in the Mediterranean Region and Balkans

Silvia Declich

*Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy
on behalf of the EpiSouth Plus Partners*

MECIDS EB Meeting - Jerusalem, 26 and 27 November 2010





EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Mediterraneus means
“in the middle of the lands”





The Mediterranean

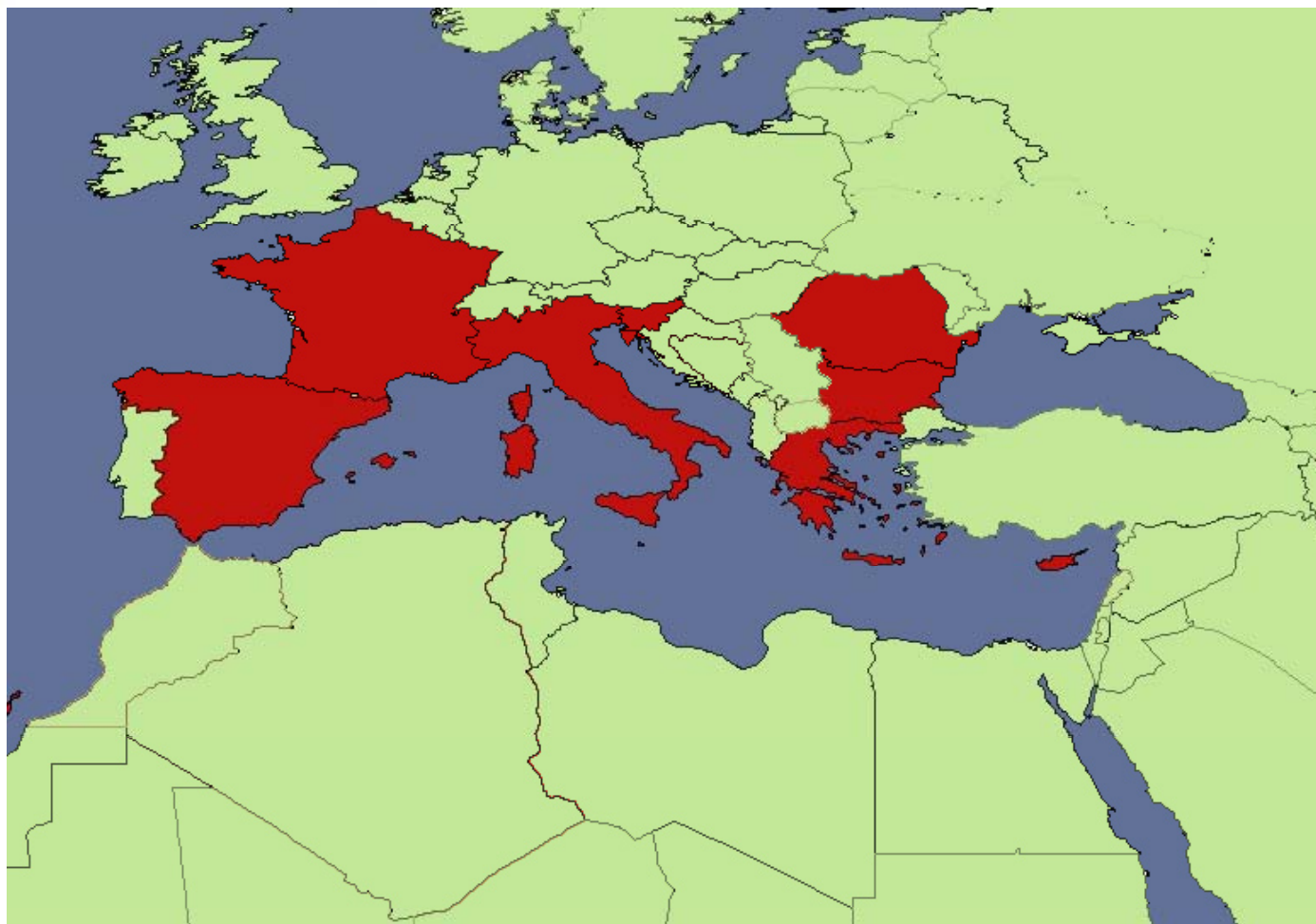
The countries of the Mediterranean region have common sea borders in the remarkable ecosystem of the Mediterranean Sea, and, as a result, they share common public health problems and threats



EpiSouth Project Objective (2006-2010)

Episouth Network aims at creating 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





 EU Countries at the Project starting (Oct 2006)

Main project achievements: Networking I

- ④ Four Project Meetings
- ④ Five Project Steering Committee Meetings
- ④ Three WP Steering Team Meetings & Several teleconferences
- ④ Directory of participating Public Health Institution → [on website](#)





Main project achievements: **Networking II**



A web-based **Network Working Area: a virtualised work environment** where Network participants exchange documents and information in a secure way.

A controlled-access **suite of tools:**

- Meetings and events management
- Document workflow and storage
- Forum for open discussion
- List of contacts
- Data-entry

Document area name	Users	Documents	Visited	Downloaded
ERISA WP1: Coordination - Document Area	68	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Dissemination - Document Area	66	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Evaluation - Document Area	63	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Network - Document Area	59	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Training - Document Area	57	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Epidemiologic Intelligence - Document Area	42	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Vaccines and related - Document Area	59	0	0	0
ERISA WP1: Zoonotic Infections - Document Area	61	1	2	3
STIVA WP1: Coordination - Document Area (1)	28	19	52	28
STIVA WP1: Dissemination - Document Area	28	1	6	5
STIVA WP1: Evaluation - Document Area	28	3	31	15
STIVA WP1: Network - Document Area (1)	12	2	27	21

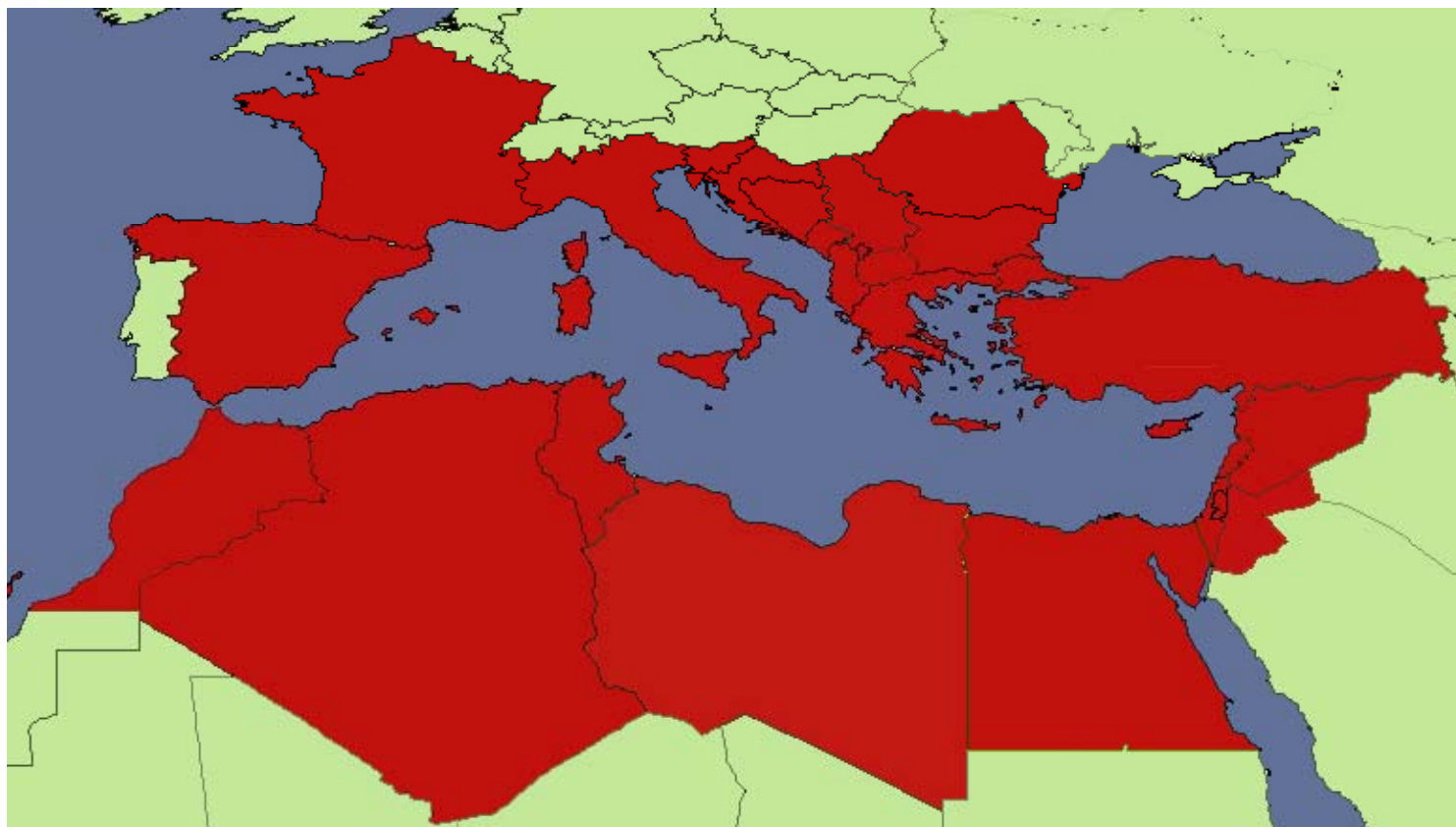


Main project achievements:

Enlargement

from a European Project to a
Mediterranean Project

in line with the EU's external actions of Neighbourhood
Policy and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership



 Countries as per September 2010

Main project achievements:

Training in field epidemiology

- ④ Training needs assessment for all countries (with ad hoc questionnaire) → [Report 6/2008](#)
- ④ First training module (36 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 10-14 September 2007 → [on website](#)
- ④ Second training module (33 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 2-6 June 2008 → [on website](#)
- ④ Third training module (33 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 15-19 2009 → [on website](#)
- ④ Directory of training courses and fellowships → [on website](#)
- ④ Strategic Document on Training → [on website](#)



Main project achievements:



Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence

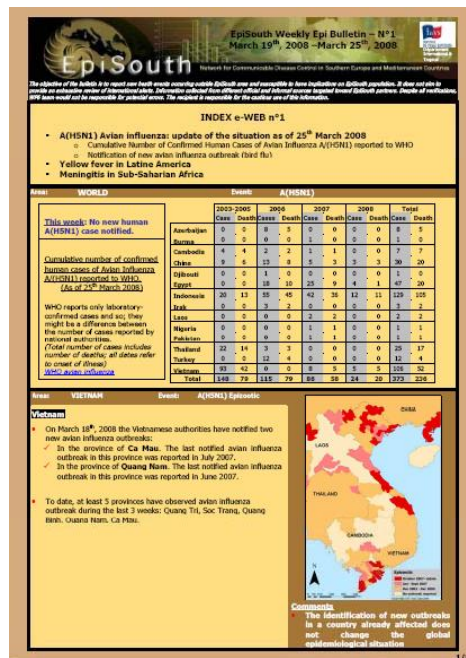
- ① Pilot assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities in participating countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)

→ [Report 5/2008](#)

- ② Epidemic Intelligence weekly bulletins and thematic notes → [on website](#)

- ③ Website secured section on cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners → [on website only members](#))

- ④ Strategic document on Cross-Border Epidemic Intelligence → [on website](#)



Main project achievements:
Vaccine preventable diseases
and migrant populations



- ④ Pilot assessment of vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations in participating countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)
- ④ On-line survey on countries migration status profile and vaccination access of mobile population → [Report 9/2009](#)
- ④ Strategic Document on vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations → [on website](#)

Main project achievements:



Cross-border emerging zoonoses

- ④ Assessment and selection of five zoonoses of priority in the Episouth countries (with ad hoc questionnaire) → [Report 4/2008](#)
- ④ Situation report by country regarding: Brucellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Leishmaniasis, Rabies and West Nile Virus
- ④ On-line questionnaire for contacts of countries Human and Veterinary PH officials
- ④ Directory of Human and Veterinary PH officials → [on website](#)
- ④ Strategic Document on Epidemiology and preparednes to cross-border emerging zoonoses → [on website](#)





Episouth Network Best practices

- the approach based on countries expectations and regional needs has facilitate interest in participation
- the methodology adopted has enhanced the sharing of responsibilities and co-ownership of participant countries
- the presence of international institutions (ECDC, EC, WHO-EURO, WHO-EMRO, WHO-HQ) has allowed sharing views while avoiding overlapping
- the Episouth Network Working Area as provided a permanent communication tool and doc repository





Episouth Network Added Values (in addition to technical deliverables)

- raised awareness on regional and countries cross-border issues
- succeeded in creating trust, cohesion and concrete collaboration among PH officers 26 countries of South Europe, Balkans, North Africa and Middle East
- filled a geographical area with common public health problems (Balkans and Mediterranean Basin) that is not addressed, as a whole, neither by the European Commission nor by WHO
- provides a tool for stability in terms of confidence building and collaborative working relationship among PH professional in the participant countries





EpiSouth Plus Project Objective (2010-2013)

*To increase the health security in the Mediterranean Area and Balkans by enhancing and strengthening the **preparedness to common health threats and other risks** at national and regional levels in the Countries of EpiSouth Network **in the framework of the International Health Regulations implementation.***

*The reinforcement of **relations of trust** in the Region is an objective and an instrument in the scope of project's implementation*





EpiSouth-Plus

Starting: 15 October 2010

Duration: 30 months

Funding:

EU DGSANCO (EAHC)

EU DGAIDCO (Instrument for Stability)

Italian Ministry of Health (Epimed Project)

EU Member States

Non-EU countries





EU Member States Partners in EpiSouth Plus

1. ITALY
 - Institute of Health, Rome;
 - ASLTO1, Turin;
 - General Hospital, Padua;
 - National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Rome;
 - CINECA, Bologna;
2. FRANCE
 - Institute Pasteur, Paris;
 - Institut de Veille Sanitaire, Saint-Maurice;
3. SPAIN
 - Istituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid
4. BULGARIA (National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases, Sofia)
5. CROATIA (Institute of Public Health) as acceding country
6. CYPRUS (Ministry of Health, Nicosia)
7. GREECE (Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, Athens)
8. MALTA (Ministry of Health, Valletta)
9. ROMANIA (Institute of PH, Bucharest)
10. SLOVENIA (Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana)





Non-EU Member States Partners in EpiSouth Plus

1. ALBANIA, Tirana (Institute of Public Health);
2. ALGERIA, Alger (National Institute of Public Health);
3. BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (Ministry of Civil Affairs, Sarajevo; Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Banja Luka, Republic of Srpska; Public Health Institute, Mostar, Federation of B&H);
4. EGYPT, Cairo (Ministry of Health and Population);
5. FYROM-Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Skopje (Institute for Health Protection; Clinic of Infectious Diseases);
6. ISRAEL (Center for Disease Control, Tel Hashomer; Ministry of Health, Jerusalem);
7. JORDAN, Amman (Ministry of Health);
8. KOSOVO UNSCR 1244, Prishtina (National Institute of Public Health);
9. LEBANON, Beirut (Ministry of Public Health);
10. LIBYA, Tripoli (Infectious Diseases Department Tripoli Central Hospital)
11. MONTENEGRO, Podgorica (Institute of Public Health);
12. MOROCCO, Rabat (Ministry of Health);
13. PALESTINE, Ramallah (Ministry of Health);
14. SERBIA, Belgrade (Institute of Public Health);
15. SYRIA, Damascus (Ministry of Health);
16. TUNISIA, Tunis (Ministry of Health);
17. TURKEY, Ankara (Ministry of Health; Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center)



EpiSouth Plus

Main Collaborating Institutions

ECDC, WHO, EU-DGSanco, EU-EAHC, EU-DGAidco, EU Health Security Committee, ...

Main Networks to collaborate with (or deliverables to be used)

Institute Pasteur International Network; EuroNetP4; SHIPSAN; SEEHN; MECIDS; PPRD-Civil Protection Mediterranean Network; CHORDS; ETIDE; ASHT; ETHREAT; REACT; EQADeBa; EMPHIS; ProMed.



Specific Objective (1)

Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories network (WP4)

A network of regional laboratories (including P4 Lab) will be established in order to facilitate common threats detection in the countries involved.

WP leaders: *French Institute Pasteur & Refik Saydam National Hygiene Center, Ministry of Health of Turkey*





Specific Objective (1)

Establishment of a Mediterranean Regional Laboratories network (WP4):

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Lack of cross-border lab facilities services for Med Countries*
- *Strengthening complementary with the vertical and fragmented lab networks presently operating in the area*
- *Overcoming national logistic and legislation constraints*



Establishment of a Mediterranean Reference Laboratories network (WP4): Main Activities (1)

Meeting of experts to set minimum requirements (MRs) needed for Lab of the Network

Meeting with heads of Lab corresponding to the MRs and interested in the approach

Pilot of Lab Network operations and follow up

On the job training and training sessions at Pasteur Institute and Institutes of Pasteur International Network



Specific Objective (2)

Promotion of common procedures in interoperable Generic Preparedness and Risk management for the Countries involved in the Network (WP5)

Specific capacity building measures will address the need of interoperability and intersectoral collaboration of countries' preparedness plans to fit the requirements of the IHR and to ensure multi-country harmonic and prompt response.

WP leaders: *Spanish Instituto de Salud Carlos III & Institut National de Santé Publique of Algeria.*



Specific Objective (2)

Promotion of common procedures in interoperable Generic Preparedness and Risk management for the Countries involved in the Network (WP5)

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Reducing the variability of procedures in the Countries involved*
- *Contributing to enhancing capacity and sharing field experiences*
- *Strengthening cross-border concerted actions*
- *Facilitating national GPP development and communication strategy*



Promotion of common procedures in interoperable Generic Preparedness and Risk management for the Countries involved in the Network (WP5)
Main Activities

Non-EU participants to the ShipSan Training in January 2011

2 one-week Workshops with Capacity building Sessions in Madrid

2 one-week Training sessions in Algeri

1 Cross border Simulation Exercise



Specific Objectives (3)

Enhance Mediterranean Early Warning Systems (EWS) allowing alerts and Epidemic intelligence information sharing among EpiSouth countries and developing interoperability with other European Early Warning platforms (WP6)

Participating countries will share alerts generated by their national EWS with EpiSouth EWS platform, interoperability will be developed by EPIS. Exchange national alerts with cross border potential are determinant to prevent health risk dissemination.

WP leaders: *French Institut de Veille Sanitaire & MECIDS (Middle East Consortium for Infectious Diseases Surveillance, Israel, Palestine and Jordan)*





Specific Objective (3)

Enhance Mediterranean Early Warning Systems (EWS) allowing alerts and Epidemic intelligence information sharing among EpiSouth countries and developing interoperability with other European Early Warning platforms (WP6)

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Enhancing “horizontal” cross-border and inter-countries alerts sharing in the Med Area*
- *Complementing the presently operating EWSs (national > supra-national) with the info from the Med EWS*
- *Optimisation and minimization of duplication of EI activities*



Interoperable Early warning systems (EWS) and alerts' platform able to share info between EpiSouth countries and with other Early Warning platforms and optimization of EI (WP6)

Main Activities

Interoperability of the secure early warning platform

Support at country level on early warning procedures and use of the platform

On the job training at Institut de Veille Sanitaire (InVS)



Specific Objectives (4)

Production of a strategic document, with guidelines, based on assessments and surveys, aimed at facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

In order to support the implementation of IHR, specific surveys and assessments will be conducted among the EpiSouth Countries in order to describe how national plans and legislations can interact/interfere with IHR requirements

WP leaders: *Italian National Institute of Health and WHO-LYO*



Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Specific Objective (4)

Facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

Main needs and gaps to be addressed

- *Define obstacles and constraints which are affecting capacities' assessment and adequacy in the countries involved*
- *Contribute to the definition and implementation of appropriate strategies which facilitate IHR national plans in accordance with the requirements*



Production of guidelines and strategic documents based on assessments and surveys aimed at facilitate IHR implementation (WP7)
Main Activities

To review all available literature on health systems in the EpiSouth Region, with particular attention to aspects such as integrated surveillance (CBRN and epidemiological) and data flows at points of entry, all aspects implicated in core capacity development

To ask Countries to access surveys conducted by WHO to assess the level of implementation of IHR 2005

To perform two surveys:

- To identify aspects in core capacity implementation that could be improved and/or benefit from sharing of experiences developed by individual Countries in the Region;
- To analyse a limited number of them in depth in the context of the structure of health systems within the Region, the level of achievement of the IHR core capacities and of solutions adopted in order to propose procedures to improve performance

To discuss and validate information gathered with participating Countries during two Sub-regional Workshops plus a parallel session at the 1st Project Meeting in Paris



EpiSouth Plus Project organisation

- ④ **Country Focal Points (CFP)**
- ④ **WP Steering Team (WP ST)**
- ④ **WP co-leaders**
- ④ **Project Steering Committee (SC)**





Areas of activities (Work Packages)

- ④ The project is composed by 7 Work Packages (WPs)
- ④ Each WP is co-led by two PH Institutions in EU and non-EU countries
- ④ and developed by a WP Steering Team, constituted by the WP co-Leaders and those countries which have expressed their special interest for the related WP to facilitate participation





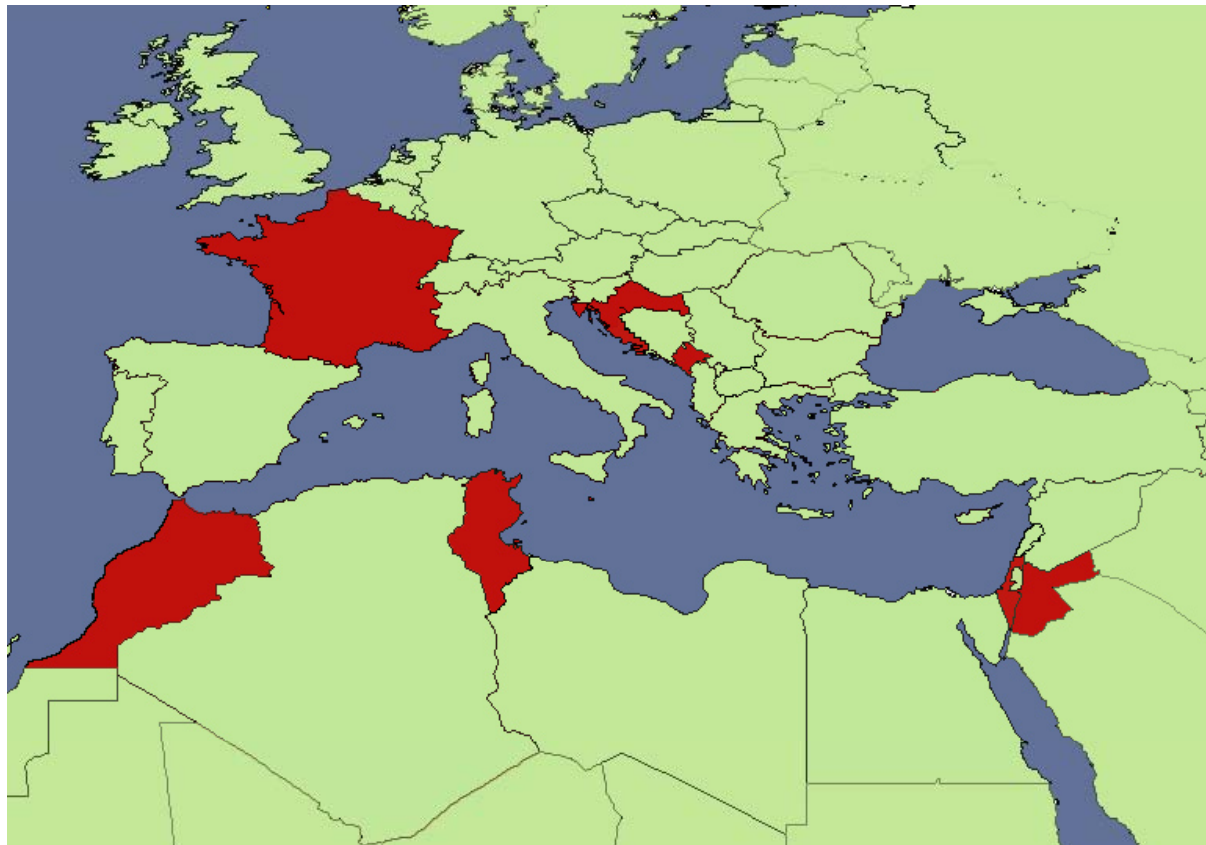
Project Steering Committee

- Project Leader: Declich
- WP1 Leaders: Dente (Italy) & Bejaoui (Tunisia)
- WP2 Leaders: Fabiani/Alfonsi (Italy) & Lausevic (Montenegro)
- WP3 Leaders: Salamina (Italy)
- WP4 Leaders: Victoir (France) & Kalaycioğlu (Turkey)
- WP5 Leaders: Simon Soria/Martinez Pando (Spanish) & Hannoun (Algeria)
- WP6 Leaders: Barboza/Belghiti (France) **& MECIDS (on Rotation basis + fulltime technical person?)**
- WP7 Leaders: Riccardo (Italy) & Nabeth (WHO-LYO)

- plus representatives of ECDC, EC-DGSanco, WHO-Euro, WHO-Emro, WHO-HQ



WP6 Steering Team



- ✓ France
- ✓ Malta
- ✓ Croatia/ Kosovo
- ✓ Morocco
- ✓ Tunisia
- ✓ Israel
- ✓ Jordan
- ✓ Montenegro
- ✓ Palestine



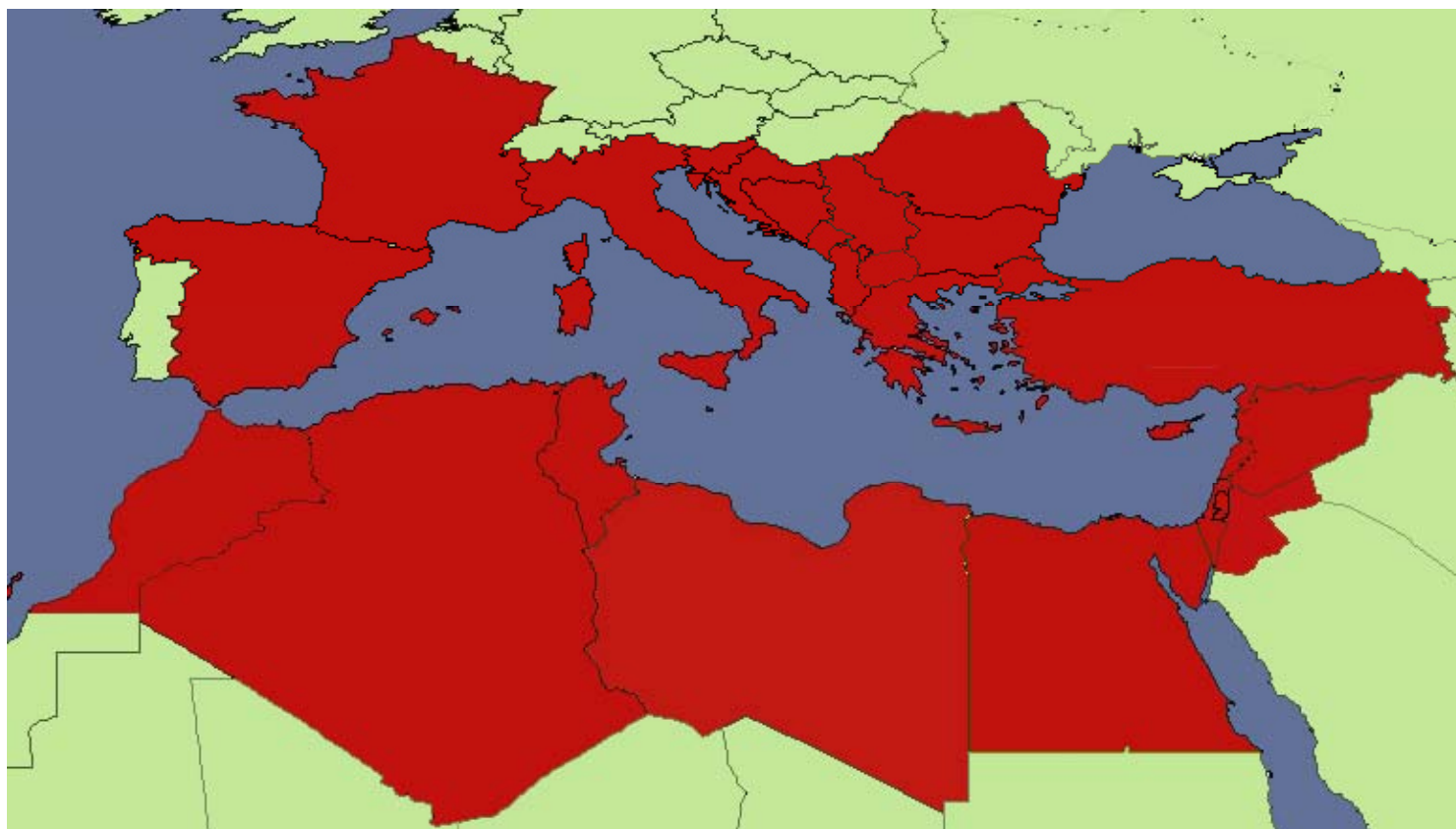
EpiSouth Country Focal Points

Each country has identified and appointed 1 or 2 relevant persons, who act as CFPs of the EpiSouth Network and convey all the communication/information to the relevant officers in their respective countries

plus representatives of ECDC, EC-DGSanco, WHO-Euro, WHO-Emro, WHO-HQ



Countries Focal Points



 Countries as per September 2010



Countries Focal Points harmonisation criteria:

- 1 from NPHI and 1 from MoH (according to countries organization)
- Different from WP leader
- Decision making position
- Access to national EW and surveillance systems data / EWRS Focal Points (for EU countries)/IHR Focal point
- National Reference Laboratory





Countries Focal Points

(for countries that are also co-leading a WP)

- Italy (ISS – MOH - INMI) FP → Maria Grazia Pompa/ Loredana Vellucci (MOH) , Giuseppe Ippolito/Antonino Di Caro (INMI),
- Tunisia (MOH) FP → Mohamed Ben Ghorbal (MOH)? + ???
- Montenegro (IPH / MOH) FP →: Zoran Vratnica (IPH)? + ???
- France (InVS/ Pasteur / MOH) FP → ??? + ???
- Turkey (MOH/ Refik) FP → Aysegul Gozalan (Refik National Centre) + Vedat Buyurgan (MOH)
- Spain (ISCIII /MOH) FP → ??? + ???
- Algeria (IPH/ MOH) FP → Amel Boughoufalah (IPH)? + ???
- Israel FP → Michal Bromberg (ICDC) & Emilia Anis (MOH) ?**
- Palestine FP → Bassam Madi & Basem Rimawi (MOH)?**
- Jordan FP→ Raja Al Haddadin & Sultan Abdallah (MOH)?**





Thank you

