





## *EpiSouth-Plus*

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

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on behalf of the EpiSouth Plus Partners*

*Visit of the Minister of Health of Egypt – ISS, Rome, 19 October 2010*





EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

*Mediterraneus* means  
“in the middle of the lands”





Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

## ***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)***

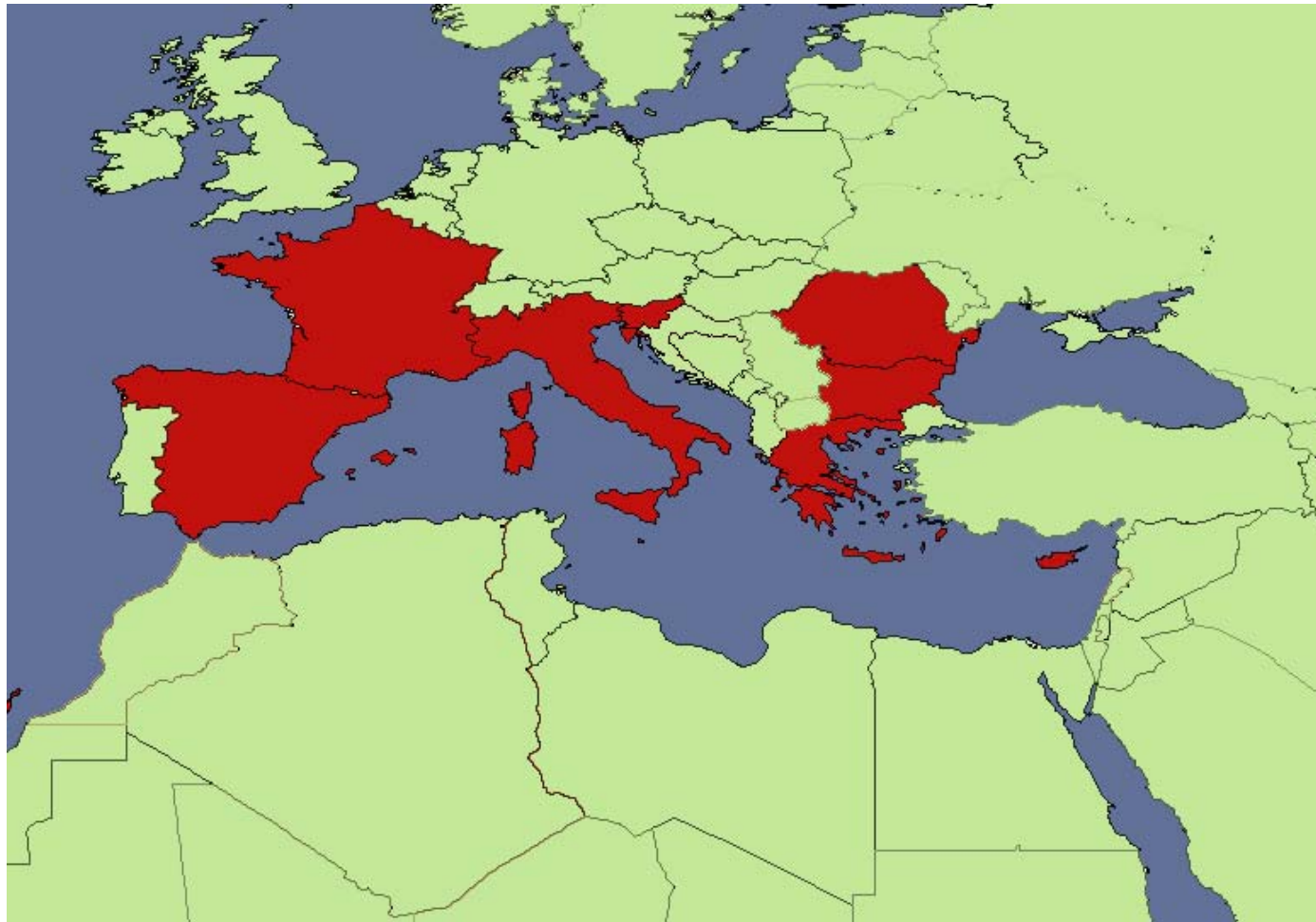
Episouth Network aims at creating  
a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues  
in order to improve communicable diseases  
surveillance, communication and training across the  
countries in the area of Mediterranean and Balkans





# EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



 EU Countries at the Project starting (Oct 2006)

## ***Main project achievements: Networking I***

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







*Main project achievements:*

## ***Enlargement***

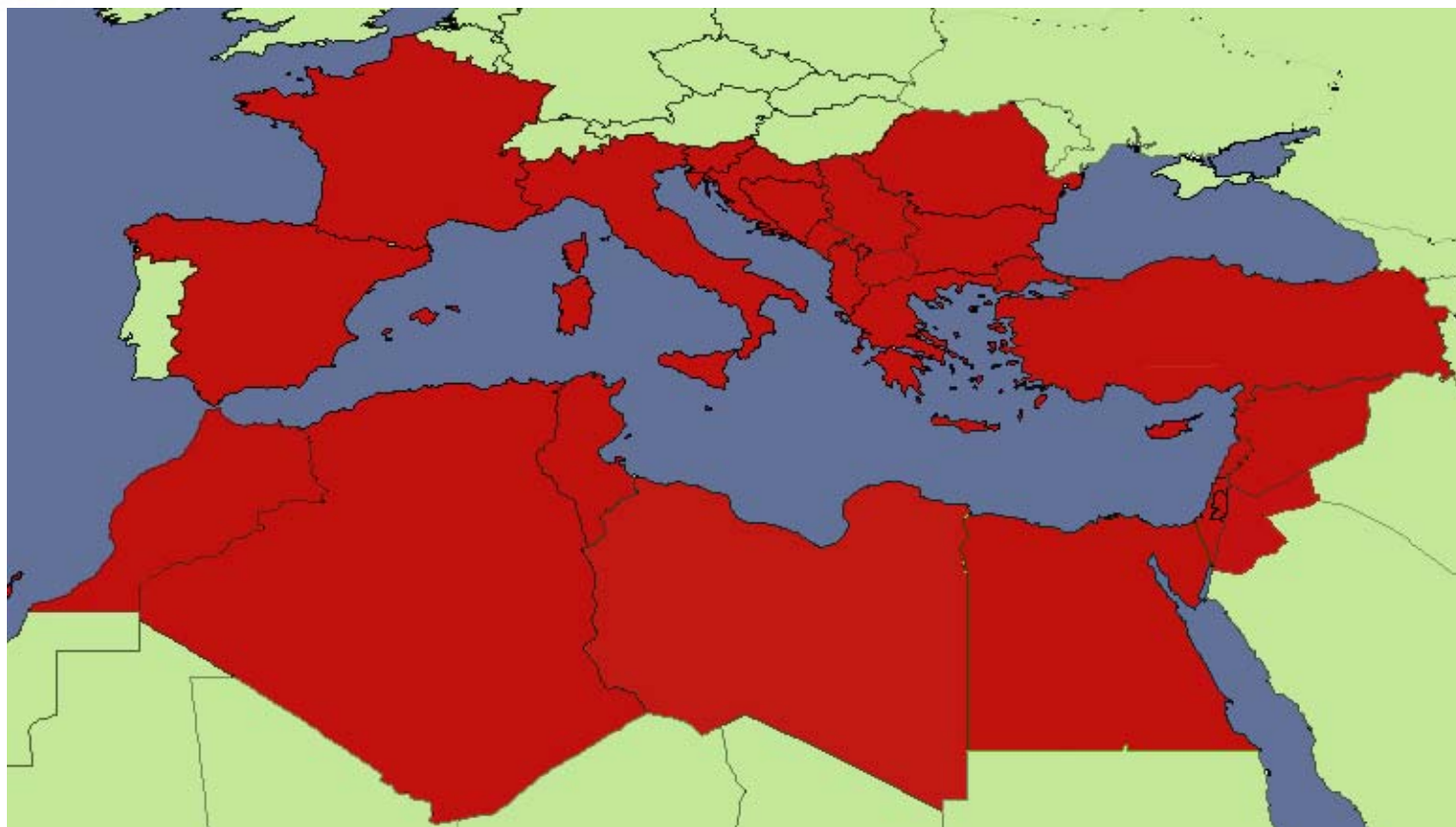
from a European Project to a  
Mediterranean Project

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



# EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



 Countries as per September 2010



Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

## ***Main project achievements: Training in field epidemiology***



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





Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

## Main project achievements:

# Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence



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

→ [Report 5/2008](#)

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

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

EpiSouth Weekly Epi Bulletin - N°1  
March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 - March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

INDEX e-WEB n°1

- A(H5N1) Avian influenza: update of the situation as of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008
  - Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO
  - Notification of new avian influenza outbreak (see file)
- Yellow fever in Latin America
- Meningitis in Sub-Saharan Africa

Country	2002-2005		2006		2007		2008		Total	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths		
Azerbaijan	0	0	8	5	0	0	0	0	8	5
Burma	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Cameroon	4	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	7	7
China	8	6	23	8	5	3	3	3	39	20
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	0	0	28	10	25	0	4	1	67	20
Indonesia	20	13	88	45	42	36	12	11	129	105
Italy	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2
Malawi	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Pakistan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Thailand	22	14	7	3	5	0	0	0	28	17
Turkey	0	0	12	4	0	0	0	0	12	4
Vietnam	93	42	0	0	0	0	3	3	108	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>228</b>

**Vietnam**

- On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Vietnamese authorities have notified two new avian influenza outbreaks:
  - In the province of **Ca Mau**. The last notified avian influenza outbreak in this province was reported in July 2007.
  - In the province of **Quang Nam**. The last notified avian influenza outbreak in this province was reported in June 2007.
- To date, at least 5 provinces have observed avian influenza outbreak during the last 3 weeks: Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Ca Mau.

**Comments:** The identification of new outbreaks in a country already affected does not change the global epidemiological situation.



***Main project achievements:***

***Vaccine preventable diseases  
and migrant populations***



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

**Main project achievements:**



**Cross-border emerging zoonoses**

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





Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

## ***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*

Planned Starting: 15 October 2010

Duration: 30 months

Funding:

EU DGSANCO (EAHC)

EU DGAIDCO (Instrument for Stability)

Italian Ministry of Health (Epimed Projects)

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

- Instituto 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 be involved (or deliverables to be use)**

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*



## 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*



## 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*



## 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*



## **Specific Objective (4)**

**Production of a strategic document, with guidelines, based on assessments and surveys, aimed at 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*



Thank you

