



Network Working Area

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

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Questionnaire about Institutions partners

SECTION 1

Official name¹

¹ Provide the name of the organization such as the Ministry of Health or Public Health Institute to which your unit belongs.

Hellenic Center for diseases Control and Prevention, Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity

Unit²

² Department/Unit within the institutions involved in the Network, in charge of the surveillance of communicable diseases (especially in early warning and response system, vaccine preventable diseases and zoonotic infections).

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SECTION 2

Mandate³ as described in the regulation enacting your organization

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The Hellenic Center for Infectious Diseases Control (H.C.I.D.C) was founded in 1992 and in 2005 was renamed as the Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (H.C.D.C.P), functioning as a Legal

³ *The mandate defines the main functions of an organization and derives from outside and above an organization.*

SECTION 3

Describe your unit position within the organizational chart (organigram)⁴ of the larger institution you belong to

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

⁴ *An organizational chart for a whole organization shows the units who make up such organization and the relationships between them. Relationships refer to authority and communication lines.*

Upload a file for further informations:

SECTION 4

Describe your unit's organizational chart (organigram)⁵

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

⁵ *An organizational chart for a unit shows the managers and main professional roles who make up such unit and the relationships between them.*

SECTION 5

Illustrate the main roles and activities carried out by your organization in the field of infectious diseases prevention and control, specifically in the following areas:

a) Surveillance of infectious diseases

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

Entity covered by Private Law. It is a nonprofit organization, headquartered in Athens (having also departments at Salonica Nafplio Rhodes), operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Health & Social Solidarity. The H.C.D.C.P objectives include: 1. Functioning as Advisory Body to the Ministry of Health & Social Solidarity regarding Public Health policies 2. Conducting epidemiological surveillance and intervention 3. Implementing programs for the dissemination of information, nursing and psychological support of infected individuals (HIV/AIDS) 4. Conducting research 5. Collaborating with Greek and foreign State Services, research foundations and other public health organizations 6. Organizing scientific and informative activities related to its objectives 7. Rendering opinions on matters of ethics and of practices related to its scopes 8. Informing the public and especially the high-risk groups by all expedient means 9. Offering psychological support by special centers on various locations.

The HCDPC is managed by a Management Board, under which falls the Presidents Office and the General Directors Office. A number of departments refers to them, each one operating several offices. The Unit for Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases (Unit directly involved in the EpiSouth Project) is actually an inter-departmental unit that conceptually belongs to the Department of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention.

Detailed informations are available in the organigram attached

The Unit for zoonoses and foodborne diseases is schematically divided into three sections, one concerning the foodborne diseases surveillance and control, one concerning the zoonoses surveillance and control and one concerning education on zoonoses and foodborne diseases. The scientific personnel of the office consists of three nurses, with public health post-graduate studies, and one veterinary doctor. The three sections are operating under the management of a medical microbiologist, with a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, also trained in epidemiology. There is also one person, responsible for the administrative support of the Unit.

The surveillance of infectious diseases is performed via the Mandatory Notification System (MNS), the Primary Health Care Sentinel System (PHCSS), the Laboratory-based System (LS), the Hospital Infection Surveillance System (HISS) and several clinical-laboratory systems for specific pathogens (such as AIDS-HIV infection, Jacobs disease, poliomyelitis, etc). The MNS is monitoring air-borne diseases and diseases transmitted by droplets (legionellosis, meningitis, meningococcal disease, SARS, tuberculosis), diseases preventable by vaccination (influenza, diphtheria, congenital rubella syndrome, measles, pertussis, mumps, tetanus), acute viral hepatitis (A, B, C), food and waterborne diseases and zoonoses (see section 5, d), serious imported diseases/diseases related to bioterrorism (malaria, arbo-viral encephalitis, smallpox, viral hemorrhagic fevers, melioeidosis/glanders, plague, tularaemia, cholera) and other diseases (unusual event: cluster or single case). The PHCSS consists of three networks: 1) private health sector physicians, 2) primary health care centers physicians and 3) Social Insurance Foundation Health Units physicians. The diseases monitored by PHCSS are: respiratory infection with fever, influenza-like syndrome, gastroenteritis, varicella, pertussis, rubella, measles and mumps. The LS is a system collecting data from selected laboratories across the country, concerning enteropathogens and pathogens responsible for respiratory diseases.

b) Epidemic Intelligence⁶

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

⁶ Please, see: C. Paquet, D. Coulombier, R. Kaiser, M. Ciotti, *Epidemic Intelligence: a new framework for strengthening disease surveillance in Europe in Eurosurveillance*, 2006; 11 (12): 212–4.

c) Monitoring of services delivery, including immunization of migrant populations

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

d) Zoonosis

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

e) Diagnostic services

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

f) Emergency preparedness

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

g) Training and education

A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The Risk Assessment Office on Public Health Threats that comes under HCDPCs Emergency Operations Center is responsible for the collection, filtering and validation of event-based information that is derived from a number of different sources, such as international alert systems (EWRS), direct notifications (clinicians or public health personnel that can report abnormal health events on on-call numbers, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), inter-sectoral communications (public health and veterinary directorates of the countrys prefectures, ministries, the National Health Operation Center, which is the competent body for the management of crises in the sector of public health, etc.), international watch (ECDC, WHO, CDC, OIE, Hedis, PROMED, MediSys, etc), media watch (media review and web scanning). This event-based information is combined on a daily basis with information derived from the established epidemiological surveillance systems and all the produced possible signals are evaluated in order to decide whether there is need for action.

The Migrant Populations Office organizes public health interventions at the site of the arrival of illegal immigrant populations, aiming at the protection and promotion of public health. In addition, it plans and implements public health interventions to ROMA camps (vaccination, screening, etc), in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity. On the other hand, the Office for Nosocomial Infections, in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity, is in charge of organizing and enforcing the influenza vaccination in Health Services. It also offers scientific support (edition of guidelines and booklets) concerning the implementation of measures of hygiene and of prevention of transmission of infections within hospitals territory, as well as on the problem of the increase of antimicrobial resistance.

The Unit for Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases is in charge of the surveillance of: salmonellosis, shigellosis, campylobacteriosis, trichinosis, typhoid fever, EHEC, brucellosis, anthrax, malaria, echinococcosis, leptospirosis, Q fever, rabies, leishmaniasis, West Nile Virus disease, Creutzfeldt–Jacobs disease and Avian flu. The mandate of the unit is the analysis and interpretation of data derived from the surveillance systems, as well as the investigation of outbreaks or isolated cases of special public health interest (foodborne and zoonotic). In addition, the Unit is responsible for training activities and for editing material for Health Education of the general public or of targeted high risk groups for the diseases under its competence. In the context of its mission, the Unit is collaborating with other national public health competent bodies, such as the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food, the Hellenic Food Authority, the Health Directorates and the Veterinary Directorates of the Prefectures. Finally, it participates in International networks (EFSA) and exchanges information with European and International Organizations (ECDC, WHO, MZCC).

The Central Laboratory of Public Health, as well as several national reference laboratories and collaborating centres are functioning under the auspices of HCDCP.

HCDCP is operating an on call system that follows a cyclic schema and involves all of its public health personnel. Every week two public health professionals are on call, meaning that in case of a public health emergency they are primarily responsible for its investigation. The Emergency Operations Center, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, provides all the necessary back-up – technical and scientific – to these emergency response teams.

Training and education activities are performed under HCDPCs Office for Training. Its activities include: – Planning and implementation of educational seminars on several subjects: i.e. Training of Trainers in the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STDs (Peer education method). – Planning of programs and informative

expeditions appointed both to the general population (students, armed forces, parents) as well as to special demographic populations (i.e. men having sex with men {MSM}), concerning infectious diseases and more specifically STDs. – Realization of informative events and organization of meetings, lectures and speeches. – Publication and dissemination of scientific and other printed material. – Recovery of educational programs in Greece or abroad. – Investigation of the educational needs of HCDPCs personnel. – Co-ordination of educational activities with all other Departments of the Centre. – Planning and preparation of the European Congress on the subject: Scientific Advice, Crisis Management and Media, during the Greek Presidency in the European Union (June 2004)

– Travel Medicine Office: 1) Evaluation of the quality of services provided by the Hellenic travel medicine infrastructure 2) Delineation of the Greek traveller epidemiological profile – Office for Hepatitis B and C: national cohort study of chronic Hepatitis B and C – Office for Nosocomial Infections: 1) Study of Streptococcal pharyngitis in children and antibiotics consumption 2) Factors influencing influenza vaccine uptake among healthcare workers in Greece 3) Positive blood cultures as a nosocomial infection index – HIV/AIDS Office: screening test for the estimation of a) HIV infection incidence in neonates and b) HIV infection maternal prevalence – Unit for Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases: 1) echinococcosis incidence in Greece, 2007 2) brucellosis findings in herds of infected human cases – Department of Epidemiologic Surveillance and intervention – Greek national study of childhood vaccination coverage – Greek national study of tuberculosis infection in children

h) Research
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

SECTION 6

Describe the alert procedure adopted by your organization and the conditions to which applies paying special attention to infectious diseases.
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

The alert procedure adopted by HCDPCs Department of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention, along with the National Health Operation Center, uses a number of alert criteria, depending on the disease. For arbo-viral encephalitis, smallpox, viral hemorrhagic fevers, melioeoidosis/glanders, plague, tularaemia, cholera, malaria and also for the congenital infections, alert is triggered with the notification of a single case. For the other notifiable communicable diseases, the alert criteria are either comparison of the number of cases during the week of analysis with the mean number of cases during the 3 last weeks, or comparison of the mean weekly number of cases for the month of analysis with the mean weekly number of cases for the month preceding the month of analysis, either for the whole country or for a specific prefecture. On both occasions, alert arises when the number of cases of the disease exceeds the 50% of the number of cases with which it is compared. It is planned for the near future that a 5 year mean value of retrospective surveillance data will be used for comparison.

SECTION 7

Provide a brief account of your unit's professional staff mix⁷
⁷ The categories are mutually exclusive: please, assign only one profile to each unit's professional staff.

Staff mix	Senior	Junior	Total
Epidemiologists	0	0	0
Infectious diseases specialists	0	0	0
Statisticians	2	0	2
Microbiologists	0	0	0
Biologists	0	0	0

Laboratory technicians	0	0	0
Information Technology Managers	0	0	0
Others (please, specify) <i>Medical Doctors 6, Registered Nurses 5, Health Visitors 2, Health Inspectors 3, Laboratory Scientific Officers 2, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine 1, Administrative personnel 5</i>	24	0	24

SECTION 8

Describe the content of and time span covered by the databases related to infectious diseases your organization manages.

Please select the number of databases you want to describe, insert their descriptions, and leave the drop-down menu with the number of databases you have compiled.

Number of databases:

2

Data-base	Content	Time span	Brief description
Mandatory Notification Diseases Database	Mandatory Notification Diseases System Data	1998–today	It is a case-based database, containing data on demographics, risk factors, clinical features, laboratory findings of every single case of the diseases that are monitored with the mandatory Notification System in Greece.
Sentinel Database	Primary Health Care Sentinel System (PHCSS) data	1998–today	It is a database that contains aggregate data for the diseases monitored through the PHCSS system

SECTION 9

Exemplify the main publications produced by your organization during the last three years.

Please select the number of publications you want to describe, insert their descriptions, and leave the drop-down menu with the number of publications you have compiled.

Number of newsletters:

0

Number of bulletins:

0

Number of reports:

0

Number of research:

2

Title	Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)	Web link (if available)
Maltezou HC, Maragos A, Halharapi T, Karagiannis I, Karageorgou K, Remoudaki H, Papadimitriou T, Pierroutsakos IN. Factors influencing influenza vaccination rates among healthcare workers in Greek hospitals	Publication (original research) in JHosp Infect 2007; 66: 156–9.	
Maltezou HC, Maragos A, Raftopoulos V, Karageorgou K, Halharapi T, Remoudaki H, Papadimitriou T, Pierroutsakos IN. Strategies to increase influenza vaccine uptake among health care workers in Greece Scand J Infect Dis.	Publication (original research) in J Hosp Infect 2008;40(3):266–8.	

Others: 4

Title	Description	Web link (if available)
Vorou RM, Papavassiliou VG, Pierroutsakos IN. Cowpox virus infection: an emerging health threat	Review Publication in Curr Opin Infect Dis. 2008 Apr;21(2):153–6.	

Vorou RM, Papavassiliou VG, Tsiodras S. Emerging zoonoses and vector-borne infections affecting humans in Europe

Review Publication in Epidemiol Infect. 2007 Nov;135(8):1231-47.

Vorou R, Remoudaki HD, Maltezou HC. Nosocomial scabies

Review Publication in : J Hosp Infect. 2007 Jan;65(1):9-14. Epub 2006 Nov 30. Review.

Vorou R, Pierrotsakos IN, Maltezou HC. "Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever"

Review Publication in :Curr Opin Infect Dis 2007 Oct;20:495-500

SECTION 10

Identify your main collaborating partners in each area.

Number of partners:

8

Partner name	Location	Surveillance of infectious diseases	Epidemic Intelligence	Monitoring of s. delivery	Zoonosis	Diagnostic Services	Emergency preparedness	Training and education	Research
<i>ECDC</i>	<i>Internat.</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
<i>WHO</i>	<i>Internat.</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Reference Laboratories</i>	<i>National</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>
<i>Regional Laboratories</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>			
<i>Veterinary Reference Laboratories</i>	<i>National</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>			
<i>Prefectures</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>		<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Infection control nurses of public hospitals</i>	<i>Regional</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>			<i>Yes</i>	<i>Yes</i>

DEPARTMENTS, UNITS AND OFFICES OF HCDCP:

- Department of Community Intervention

- Psycho-social support office
- Counseling Service and Emergency Helpline
- Office of Peripheral Units: Piraeus psycho-social support Guest House
- Volunteers' office

- Department of Intervention in Health Care Facilities

- HIV office
- Viral Hepatitis office
- Office for Nosocomial Infections, Microbe Resistance and Rational use of Antibiotics
- Travel Medicine office

- Emergency Operations Center

- Risk Assessment Office on Public Health Threats

- Department of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention

- Unit for Zoonoses and Foodborne Diseases (Inter-departmental unit)
- Office for Tuberculosis
- Office for Respiratory Infections
- Office for Coordination of Surveillance Systems (it is operating under two authorities: Department of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention and Unit of Biostatistics and Research)

- Directing Management Department

- Central Secretariat
- Personnel office
- International and Public Relations Office
- Re-assignments Office
- H.C.D.C.P. Thessaloniki outlier
- Migrant Population Office

- Finance Department

- Equipment and Materials Maintenance office
- Financial Management office
- Payments office
- Commissions office

- Education Department

- Infectious Disease Briefing office
- Personnel Training office

- Unit of Biostatistics and Research

- Office for Cancer Registration (National Cancer Registry)
- Office for Coordination of Surveillance Systems (it is operating under two authorities: Department of Epidemiological Surveillance and Intervention and Unit of Biostatistics and Research)

Note:

The offices that, due to their importance and nature of work, report and collaborate directly with the President's and the General Director's Office, are:

- Strategic Planning and Associated Services Office
- Legal Issues Office
- Ethics and Practices Office
- Press Office
- Telecommunications and Informatics Office

Unit's organizational chart

The Unit for zoonoses and foodborne diseases is schematically divided into three sections, one concerning the foodborne diseases' surveillance and control, one concerning the zoonoses' surveillance and control and one concerning education on zoonoses and foodborne diseases. The scientific personnel of the office, consists of three nurses, with public health post-graduate studies, and one veterinary doctor. The three sections are operating under the management of a medical microbiologist, with a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, also trained in epidemiology. There is also one person, responsible for the administrative support of the Unit.

