Questionnaire about Institutions partners

SECTION 1

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

Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU), (formerly known as the Disease Surveillance Unit)

Phone
Fax
E-mail address
Website address

EpiSouth Focal Points:

a) Institution
E-mail

b) Institution
E-mail

c) Institution
E-mail

SECTION 2

Mandate
as described in the regulation enacting your organization
A maximum of 200 words is allowed

Mission Statement TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE ON THE MALTESE ISLANDS
Objectives: – Empowering individuals to adopt healthier lifestyles – Advocating the creation of supportive
SECTION 3
Describe your unit position within the organizational chart (organigram) of the larger institution you belong to.
A maximum of 200 words is allowed.

Upload a file for further informations:

SECTION 4
Describe your unit's organizational chart (organigram).
A maximum of 200 words is allowed.

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

b) Epidemic Intelligence
A maximum of 200 words is allowed


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

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

environments conducive to health – Carrying out effective surveillance and control of communicable diseases – Developing strategies for reducing the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases

The Department of health promotion and disease prevention which is under the directorship of Dr C Gauci is divided into 3 units. A. Infectious disease prevention and control unit composed of 7 physicians, 2 nurses and a health inspector. B. The health promotion unit, a multidisciplinary team made up of 10 members including 1 health promotion officer. C. Non-communicable disease prevention and control unit.
related to food-borne illnesses and water-borne diseases such as Legionnaire’s. All other samples, including virology samples are sent to the Pathology Dept. at Mater Dei hospital, the island’s only acute care hospital. Diagnostic services are also available in the private sector. In fact we also receive notifications from the private labs. Certain facilities are not available locally, therefore we have an agreement with reference labs. abroad to perform these tests. Agreements were also done with labs. abroad on studies eg. ISS in Rome.

The unit has an on call system 24 hours 7 days a week, whatever the emergency is. The director will be informed. Then other doctors in the department will deal with the situation as well. Examples of a situation are: an outbreak, bioterrorism, avian/pandemic influenza. The doctor would need to wear personal protective equipment accordingly. A risk assessment of the situation is done. Contact tracing is done, information is provided to the general public, media and other health care professionals. If more staff is needed, health inspectors from the environmental health department can help. The unit has preparedness plans for Avian influenza outbreak, Pandemic flu, Biological agents, some chemical agents, infectious diseases outbreaks.

Our department organises in-house training as a series of lectures on topics of public health interest. The Association of Public Health Medicine also organises CPD (continuous professional development) lectures on a regular basis. There is also structured training within the department by specialised trainees for junior staff. All this training is a prerequisite for specialist recognition. Staff are given the opportunity to attend to EPIET, to courses organised by ECDC and WHO.

A number of studies were carried out in the past and a number of studies are being carried out at present as well. These include a study on chlamydia, a study on rotavirus in children and a study on influenza vaccination.

The unit receives alerts from abroad and from the local scenario. From abroad we receive alerts from EWRS, RAS BICHAT, IHR. E-mails are checked by the contact points morning and evening. Locally, alerts are received via phone, fax or e-mail. The doctors at the unit deal with the alert. They investigate the cases, and do contact tracing. Samples are taken when necessary. Information is disseminated to doctors working in hospitals, health centres, paediatricians according to the type of infectious disease. Information is sent to ECDC, WHO, and member states.

SECTION 6

Describe the alert procedure adopted by your organization and the conditions to which applies paying special attention to infectious diseases.

SECTION 7

Provide a brief account of your unit’s professional staff mix

The categories are mutually exclusive: please, assign only one profile to each unit’s professional staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff mix</th>
<th>Senior</th>
<th>Junior</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiologists</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infectious diseases specialists</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statisticians</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbiologists</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biologists</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory technicians</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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: **4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data−base</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Time span</th>
<th>Brief description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDCU database</td>
<td>personal details, demographic data &amp; lab results</td>
<td>since 1999. A new database which would be continuous from year to year.</td>
<td>The software used for the database is Microsoft Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis database</td>
<td>personal details, demographic data &amp; lab results</td>
<td>since 2000</td>
<td>The software used for the database is Microsoft Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza sentinel database</td>
<td>aggregate data collected from a small number of GPs</td>
<td>since 2004</td>
<td>The software used for the database is Microsoft Access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandemic Influenza database</td>
<td>data collected re patients swabbed, positive cases and patients hospitalised</td>
<td>July 2009</td>
<td>The software used for the database is Microsoft Access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: **4**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)</th>
<th>Web link (if available)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Il– Gardjola</td>
<td>The newsletter is being published bi−annually. The first one was about influenza</td>
<td><a href="http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm">http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il– Gardjola</td>
<td>The second one was about Food− borne illnesses</td>
<td><a href="http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm">http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il– Gardjola</td>
<td>The third one was about sexually transmitted illness</td>
<td><a href="http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm">http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il– Gardjola</td>
<td>The last one was about Hepatitis A</td>
<td><a href="http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm">http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/newsletter/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of bulletins: **1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.)</th>
<th>Web link (if available)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>these are published as necessary, to keep the public informed about major public health risks.</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/index.htm">http://www.health.gov.mt/dsu/index.htm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of reports: **2**
Title Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.) Web link (if available)

**Monthly report**
- Monthly

**Annual report**
- Yearly

Number of research: 1

Title Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.) Web link (if available)

**Continuous basis. Published in local and foreign journals**

Others: 1

Title Description Frequency (Yearly, monthly, etc.) Web link (if available)

**Information leaflets and booklets**
- Total of 9

**SECTION 10**

Identify your main collaborating partners in each area.

Number of partners: 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Surveillance of infectious diseases</th>
<th>Epidemic Intelligence</th>
<th>Monitoring of s. delivery</th>
<th>Zoonosis</th>
<th>Diagnostic Services</th>
<th>Emergency preparedness</th>
<th>Training and education</th>
<th>Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Health Lab</strong></td>
<td>National</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pathology Lab</strong></td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immunisation services</strong></td>
<td>National</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Health</strong></td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>