

West Nile virus circulation in the EpiSouth countries and neighbouring areas (Hungary and Russia) Update 6th of October 2010

This document was elaborated with the information provided by National EpiSouth Focal Point and the contribution of work packages on Zoonoses and coordination

- Since the beginning of August 2010, **8** EpiSouth countries have reported West Nile (WN) outbreaks.
 - ✓ 350 human WN infections have been reported in 6 countries: Greece, Israel, Italy, Romania, Spain & Turkey. For Greece and Turkey, these WN human infections are the first ever reported in the country.
 - ✓ 4 countries reported equine WN cases: Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Morocco and Spain.
- Among the 27 EpiSouth countries **24** provided information regarding the current epidemiological situation and or their WNV Surveillance system.
- Of 23 who provided information on their **West Nile surveillance system**:
 - ✓ 12 countries have permanent **human surveillance system** and 5 have seasonal surveillance system.
 - ✓ 11 countries maintain permanent **equine surveillance** system and 3 have seasonal surveillance
 - ✓ For **bird surveillance**, only 1 maintains a permanent surveillance and 3. have seasonal surveillance:
 - ✓ 5 countries have **neither human nor equine surveillance**. To date, these countries never reported West Nile cases (cf. Table 1, Map 2).
- **Areas at risk.**
 - According to information provided, areas considered at risk for West Nile within each EpiSouth country vary.
 - Areas at risk for WN virus are those located on main migratory routes (cf. [eWEB n°127](#)).
 - For instance, areas considered at risk can be:
 - The whole country (e.g. Israel, Palestine, Cyprus, ...)
 - Areas located on the Mediterranean shore (e.g. the Eastern part of Tunisia (Sousse and Gabès), South-East of France, North of Libya, some areas of Italy, Bulgaria, etc.)
 - Areas bordering major river / wet area (e.g. for Romania, districts bordering the Danube river).
- **Capacities laboratory** (cf. Table 1). Among the 23 responding countries,
 - 15 have a national referent laboratory.
 - 6 have identified a reference laboratory but that is not yet in the position to perform West Nile testing (PCR or serology)
 - 1 has not identified a reference laboratory
 - 1 has an external reference lab
- Given the current situation and the intensification of West Nile virus circulation in neighbouring areas, some countries (Malta, Serbia and Syria) are considering the implementation of an epidemiological surveillance.

| | Countries | Endemic (areas or whole country) | N Human cases (death) | N Equine cases (death) | WNV Human surveillance (areas or whole country) | WNV Equine surveillance | National Reference laboratory | WN test PCR and serology currently available |
|----|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Albania | Not | 0 | 0 | - | - | - | - |
| 2 | Algeria | Not | 0 | 0 | Non specific WN surv. | - | Yes | - |
| 3 | Bosnia-Herzegovina | - | 0 | 0 | No | No | Yes | No |
| 4 | Bulgaria | Not | 0 | 5 | No | Permanent | Yes | No |
| 5 | Croatia | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent | No | No | Yes |
| 6 | Cyprus | Not | 0 | 0 | No | Permanent | Yes | Sero* |
| 7 | Egypt | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 8 | France | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent + seasonally enhanced | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 9 | Greece | | 257 (31) | 13 (2) | Permanent | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 10 | Israel | Yes | 58 | 0 | Permanent | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 11 | Italy | Yes | 1 | 86 (2) | Seasonal | Seasonal | Yes | Yes |
| 12 | Jordan | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent | Seasonal | Yes | Yes |
| 13 | Kosovo | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent | No | Yes | Sero* |
| 14 | Lebanon | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 15 | Libya | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent | No | Yes | Yes |
| 16 | Macedonia | - | - | - | - | - | | - |
| 17 | Malta | Not | 0 | 0 | No | No | No | No |
| 18 | Montenegro | Not | 0 | 0 | No | No | Yes | No |
| 19 | Morocco | | 0 | 24 (10) | Permanent | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 20 | Palestine | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent + seasonally enhanced | Seasonal | WHO Lab | N/A** |
| 21 | Romania | Yes | 41 (4) | 0 | Seasonal | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 22 | Serbia | Not | 0 | 0 | No | No | No | No |
| 23 | Slovenia | Not | 0 | 0 | No | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 24 | Spain | Not | 1 | 12 | Permanent | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 25 | Syria | Not | 0 | 0 | No | No | No | No |
| 26 | Tunisia | Not | 0 | 0 | Permanent + seasonally enhanced | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| 27 | Turkey | Not | 7 (3) | 0 | permanent | Permanent | Yes | Yes |
| | TOTAL | 3 | 365 (38) | 140 (14) | | | | |

* Sero : serology ** NA : not applicable '-' Missing data

Situation on EpiSouth countries (31st August – 6th of October 2010)

- **Bulgaria:** On 6th October National Veterinary Service reported to OIE the diagnosis of 5 equine cases in Dobrich province (North-East of the country, near Romania and Black Sea).
- **Greece:** Since epidemic's onset, as of 4th October 2010, 257 human cases (including 31 deaths) have been confirmed.
 - ✓ 10 patients are still hospitalized
 - ✓ The median age of patients is 72 years and, 58% were aged above 70 years.
 - ✓ The cases have been diagnosed in 10 prefectures of 4 "Peripheries" (Provinces) mainly in the north and central parts of the country.
 - ✓ To date a single case was reported in Aetolia-Acarnania prefecture (West of the country).
- **Italy:**
 - ✓ A single WN case has been reported in 2010. This case was identified through the fevers surveillance system implemented only in Veneto region. It was confirmed by the regional laboratory (national reference laboratory confirmation is pending).
 - ✓ 86 Equine cases were reported in 7 provinces: Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Lombardia, Toscana, Lazio, Molise and Sicilia. In one month, Sicilia reported 33 foci in the Trapani area.
- **Israel:** 58 human WN infections have been reported.
 - ✓ In 2000 a large outbreak occurred from mid-July to the end of October, with 452 confirmed cases and 29 deaths.
 - ✓ Between 2001 and 2007 the number of annual cases ranged from 10 and 110 cases and 0-5 deaths.
- **Morocco:**
 - ✓ No human case reported to date in 2010. 24 equine cases (including 10 deaths) were reported in Benslimane, Khemisset, Mohammedia provinces and Casablanca.
 - ✓ The latest human WN infection was reported in 1996 (1 case) during an outbreak among horses (94 cases including 42 deaths).
 - ✓ The latest equine WN outbreak occurred in September and October 2003 in the province of Kenitra (8 equine cases including 5 deaths).
- **Romania:** 41 Human WN cases have been reported in the following areas are Alba, Calarasi, Constanta, Ialomita, Cluj, Dolj, Galati, Mures, Mehedinti, Sibiu, Iasi, Vaslui, Teleorman, Vrancea and the capital Bucharest.
- **Turkey:** 7 Human WN cases including 3 deaths were reported in Aegean and Marmara regions. These are the first ever reported the country.

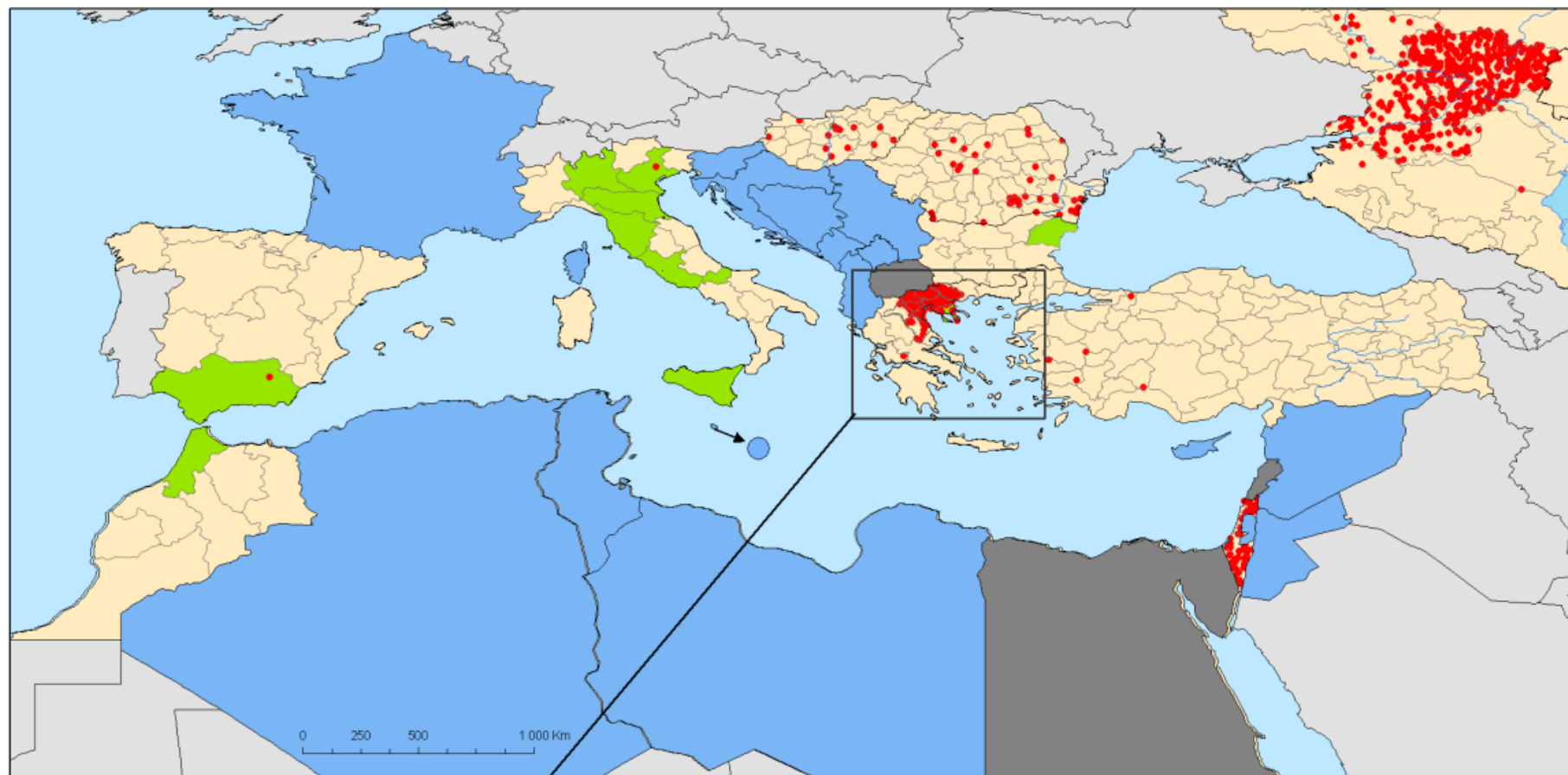
- **Spain:**
 - ✓ 1 human case: a 60 year old man living in the province of Cádiz, was reported on 25 September. The case was detected to the Andalusian Epidemiologic Surveillance System on the 21 September. The clinical evolution of the patient is favourable.
 - ✓ 12 equine cases have been reported in Andalusia province. These WN equine cases are the first ever reported to OIE.

EpiSouth countries with no recent WN cases

- **Algeria:** The latest human outbreak was reported in 1994 in the South of the country. About 50 suspect cases including 8 deaths were reported. Among the 18 samples collected 16 tested positive for West Nile.
- **Croatia:** Sporadic evidence of infection found in previously healthy individual i.e. unapparent or mild infection. WNV infection was serologically confirmed in horses in Dakovo region (Eastern Croatia) in 4 out of 980 tested horses in 2001 and 2002
- **France:** Latest human autochthonous WN cases were reported in 2003 and last equine cases in 2006.
- **Palestine:** The latest human autochthonous cases were reported in 3 patients in 2006 in Qalqelia district.
- **Tunisia:** The last WN outbreak occurred in 2003 with 31 confirmed cases human in Monsatir, Mahdia, Sousse, Sfax and Gabès governorates.

Non EpiSouth neighbouring countries

- **Russia:**
 - ✓ From 16 July to 4 October 2010 at least 552 human cases including 6 deaths were reported to MoH.
 - ✓ Of these cases 409 cases (including 5 deaths) were reported in Volgograd province (77% in Volgograd city).
 - ✓ The remaining cases were reported in Rostov, Voronezh, Krasnodar, Astrakhan, Kalmoukia and Chelyabinsk oblasts (no update for these oblasts since 15th Sept).
- **Hungary:**
 - ✓ As of 4th October 2010, 10 confirmed cases and 5 suspected cases have been reported by Hungarian health authorities. No death was reported.
 - ✓ The cases were reported in the Central Hungarian region and near the Romanian border: Bács-Kiskun, Békés, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok Fejér, Győr, Pest, Tolna, Vas and Budapest.
 - ✓ Epidemiological investigations are ongoing and was surveillance enhanced.







Source Data EpiSouth Countries, and MoH for non-EpiSouth Countries / Map EpiSouth




Legend:


Recent West Nile circulation

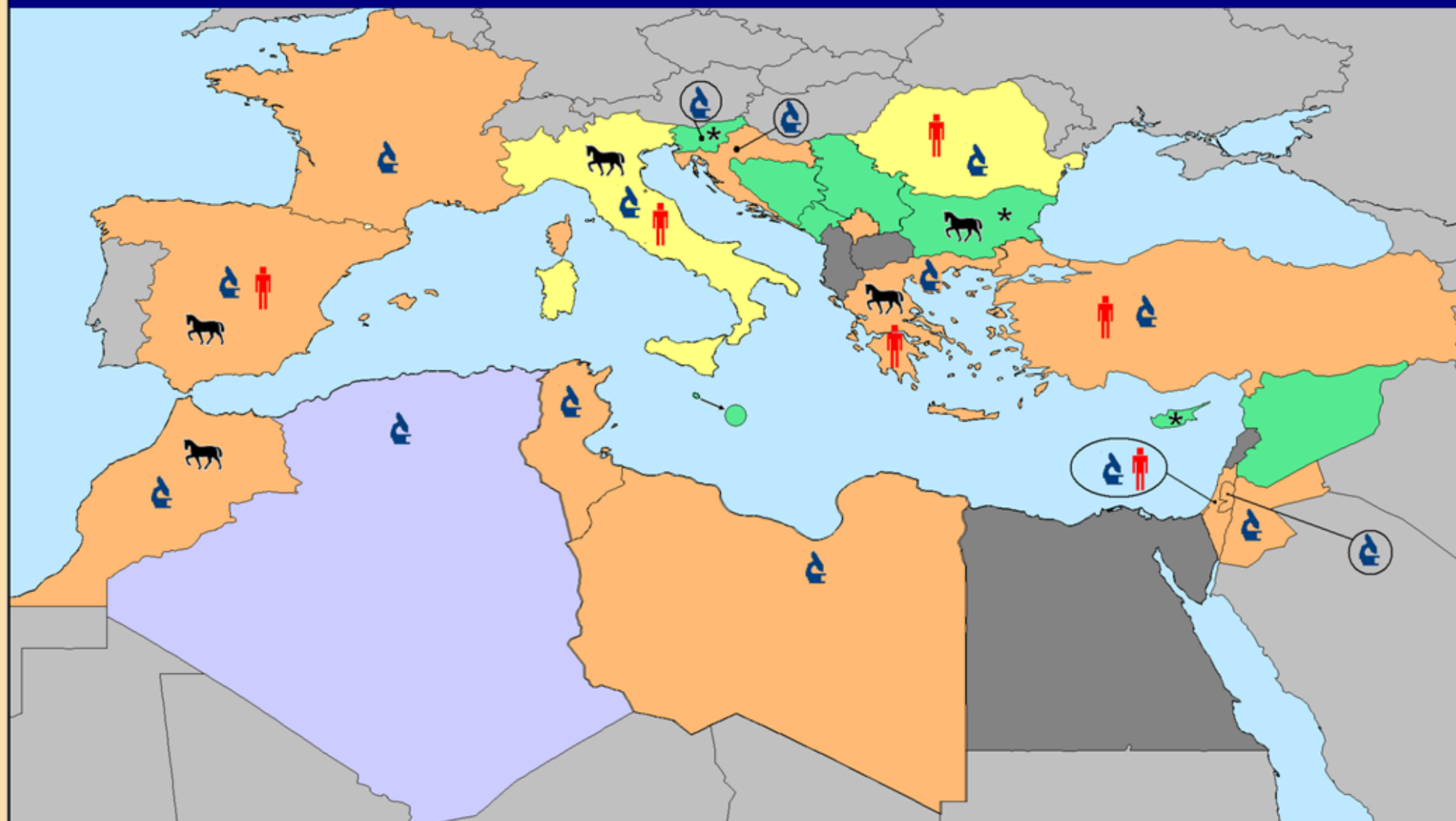
-  Information pending
-  No recent WNV
-  Recent WNV Circulation
-  No information/Non EpiSouth Country

Human Cases / Region








-  1 point = 1 Human case
cases randomly located within administrative unit

Animal WNV cases (Horses/Birds)




-  Recently affected region



Human WNV surveillance (areas or whole country)

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|--|
|  | Permanent surveillance |  | No Human WNV surveillance, but equine surveillance |
|  | Seasonal surveillance |  | No information |
|  | Non specific surveillance |  | Non EpiSouth Countries |
|  | No Human WNV surveillance | | |

Lab, human & equine WNV cases

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | Functional WNV reference laboratory |
|  | WNV Human cases (Since Aug. 2010) |
|  | WNV equine cases (Since Aug. 2010) |