

Twenty fourth meeting of the South-eastern Europe Health Network

Tirana, Albania, 10-11 November 2010

Original: English
8 September 2010

Preliminary Program

Tuesday, 9 November 2010

14:00 – 19:00 Arrival
20:00 Reception

Wednesday, 10 November 2010

09:00 – 9:45 **Opening of the meeting**

Welcome addresses

- Minister of Health of Republic of Albania
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Albania
- Chair of the South-eastern Europe (SEE) Health Network Executive Committee
- Regional Cooperation Council
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- European Commission
- Council of Europe
- WHO Regional Office for Europe

Election of officers

Adoption of Scope and Purpose and Programme

9:45 – 10:15 **Ceremony of Signing the Host Agreement**

Facilitator: Dr. Maria Haralanova, WHO Regional Office for Europe

10:15 – 11:00 **Establishing the new SEE Health Network Secretariat in the region: Offices, Staffing and Funding**

Facilitator: Ms. Snezhana Chichevalieva, Chair of the Executive Committee

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee break**

/Press conference for local media during the coffee break/

11:30 – 12:00 **Approval of the new ToR on the NHCs and SEEHN Executive**

Committee Members

Facilitator: Dr Alex Berlin, SEEHN Executive Committee member

- 12:30 – 14:00** Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:30** Election of SEE Health Network Executive Committee members
Facilitator: Dr. Piotr Mierzwski, Director, Council of Europe
- 15:30 – 16:00** Coffee break
- 16:00 – 17:30** Preparatory work for the upcoming 3rd Health Ministers Forum of the SEE (06-07 June 2010): Concept – topics determined, Documents (working, outcome and background), Organizational Committee, Communication Strategy, Logistics (continued)
Facilitator: Dr Goran Cerkez, Member, SEEHN Executive Committee
Ms Natalija Milovanovic, BiH

Thursday, 11 November 2010

- 09:00 -10.30** Inauguration of the SEE Regional Health Development Centre for Communicable Diseases Surveillance and Control and Pandemic Preparedness
- 10:30 -11:00** Coffee break
- 11:00-12.30** Reports on progress of work of the designated RHDCs and proposals for new centres
Facilitator: Dr Elizabet Paunovic, Member, SEEHN Executive Committee
- 12.30-14.00** Lunch
- 14.00-15.30** Strengthening the performance of public health services in the nine SEE countries for implementing the International Health Regulations
Facilitators:., Caroline Brown, WHO EURO and Dr. Maria Haralanova, WHO/Europe
- **The International Health Regulations. Global and European progress in the implementation process. Challenges and solutions**
Introductory presentation., Thomas Hofmann, WHO EURO
 - **Implementing the IHR in SEE. Status, challenges and ideas for regional cooperation**
Introductory presentation. Dr. Silva Bino, Regional Project Manager, SEE
 - **Raising the capacities of public health in SEE for implementing the IHR. Status, challenges and ideas for regional cooperation**
Introductory presentation. Prof. Dragan Gjorgjev, Regional Project Manager, SEE
- Country Presentations (10' presentation +5' discussion each)**
- 15:30 – 16:00** Coffee break

**16:00 – 17:30 Country Presentations (10' presentation +5' discussion each)
(continued)**

For decision

Friday, 12 November 2010

**09:00 -10.30 Strengthening the performance of public health services in the nine
SEE countries for implementing the International Health
Regulations (continued)**

- **Guided Roundtable Discussions**

10:30 -11:00 Coffee break

**11:00-12.30 Strengthening the performance of public health services in the nine
SEE countries for implementing the International Health
Regulations (continuation)**

- **Guided Roundtable Discussions (continued)**

Conclusions and closing of the meeting

Facilitator: Ms Snezana Cicevalieva, Chair, SEEHN Executive Committee



EpiSouth-Plus

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

Silvia Declich

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

Silvia Bino and Marc Gastellu Etchegorry

24th Meeting of the South-Eastern Europe Health Network – Tirana, Albania 10-11 Nov 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

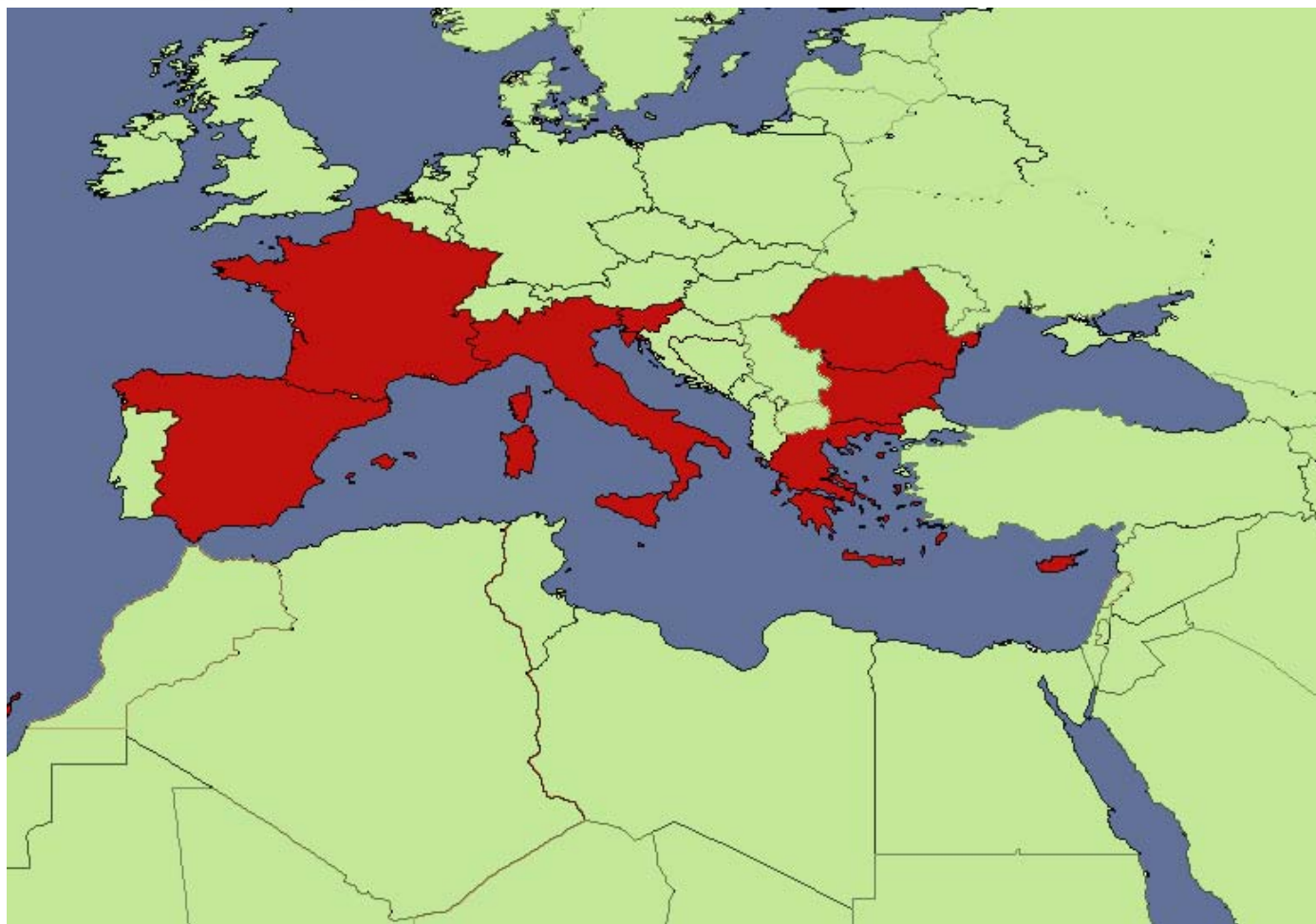
The countries of the Mediterranean region have common sea borders in the remarkable ecosystem of the Mediterranean Sea, and, as a result, they share common public health problems and threats



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





 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](#)



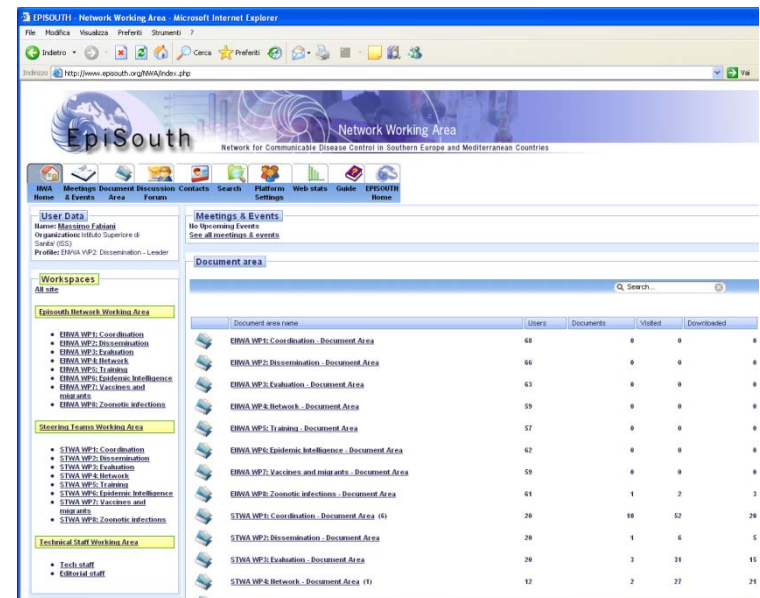
Main project achievements: **Networking II**



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



The screenshot shows the EpiSouth Network Working Area interface. It includes a navigation menu with options like Home, Meetings, Document, Discussion, Contacts, Search, Platform, Web stats, Guide, and EpiSouth. The main content area displays a table of document areas with columns for Document area name, Users, Documents, Visited, and Downloaded.

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



EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

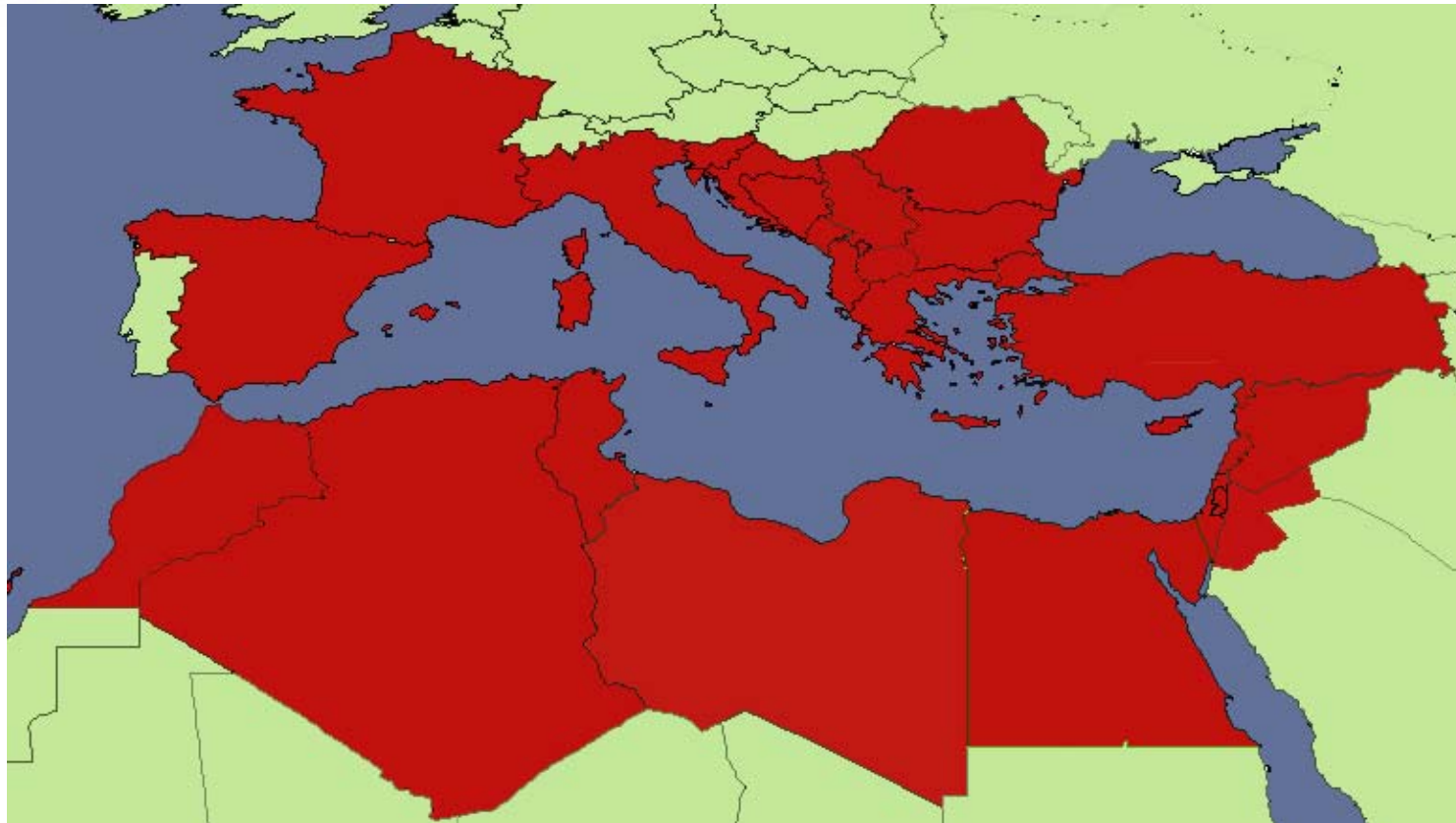
ALBANIA
ALGERIA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA -
*(Federation of B&H &
Republica Srpska)*
BULGARIA
CROATIA
CYPRUS
EGYPT
FYROM – *Former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia*
FRANCE
GREECE
ISRAEL
ITALY -

JORDAN
KOSOVO
LEBANON
LIBYA
MALTA
MONTENEGRO
PALESTINE
ROMANIA
SERBIA
SLOVENIA
SPAIN
SYRIA
TUNISIA
TURKEY



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

ALBANIA

ALGERIA

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA -

(Federation of B&H &

Republica Srpska)

BULGARIA

CROATIA

CYPRUS

EGYPT

FYROM – Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia

FRANCE

GREECE

ISRAEL

ITALY -

JORDAN

KOSOVO

LEBANON

LIBYA

MALTA

MONTENEGRO

PALESTINE

ROMANIA

SERBIA

SLOVENIA

SPAIN

SYRIA

TUNISIA

TURKEY



Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Main project achievements:

Training in field epidemiology

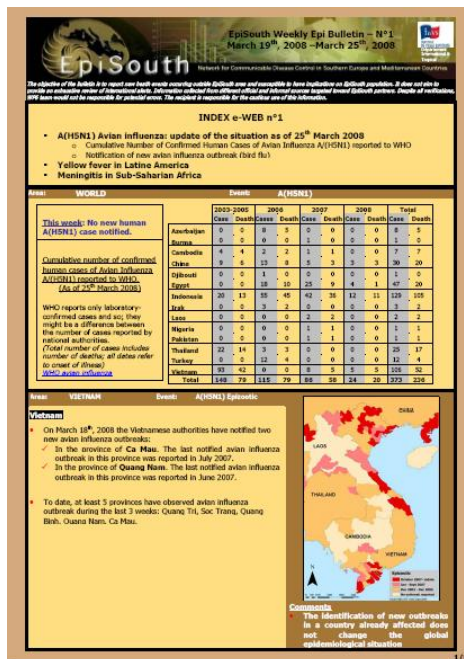
- Training needs assessment for all countries (with ad hoc questionnaire) → [Report 6/2008](#)
- First training module (36 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 10-14 September 2007 → [on website](#)
- Second training module (33 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 2-6 June 2008 → [on website](#)
- Third training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



Main project achievements:

Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence

- Pilot assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities and needs (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](#))
- Strategic document on Cross-Border Epidemic Intelligence → [on website](#)



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](#)
- Strategic Document on vaccine-preventable diseases and migrant populations → [on website](#)



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](#)
- 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 facilitated interest and 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 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*



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 Generic Preparedness Plans 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-LYON*



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*



Specific Objective (4)

Facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

Interaction with the other WPs

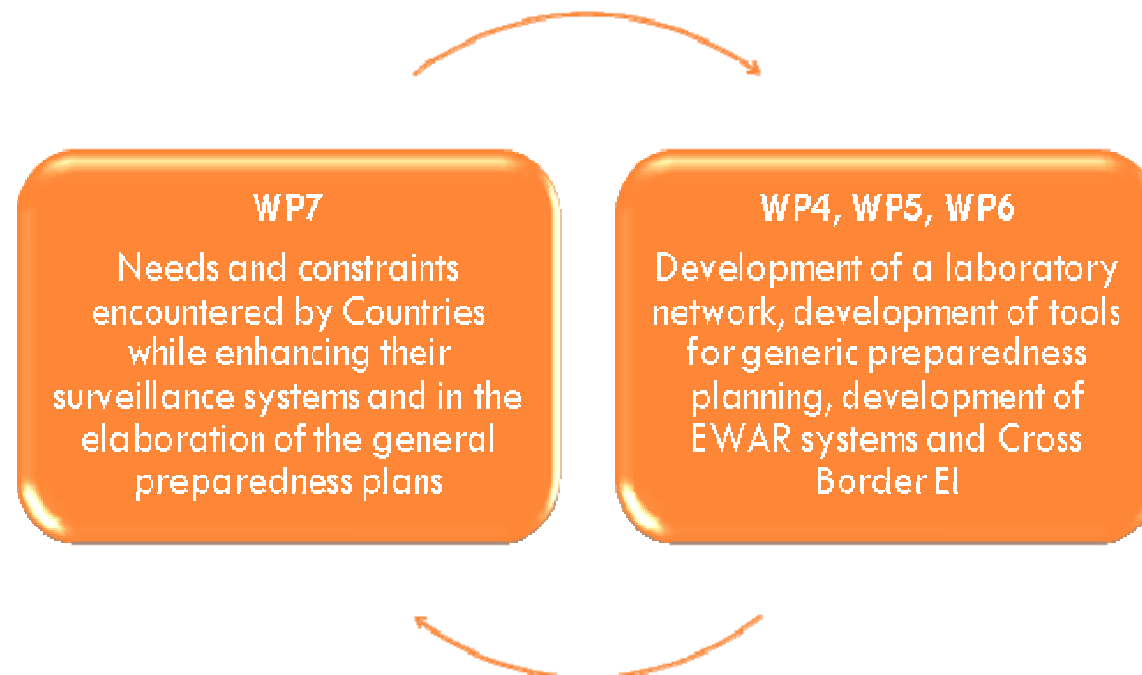
*The activities of this WP are supportive of the activities of
WP4–Mediterranean Regional Laboratory Network,
WP5–Generic Preparedness Plan and Risk Management procedures
WP6–Early Warning System and Cross Border Epidemic Intelligence,*

*as they all point to reinforcing
surveillance and response to health threats*

Specific Objective (4)

Facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

Interaction with the other WPs





Specific Objective (4)

Facilitating IHR implementation (WP7)

Final output = Strategic document on

- *national procedural and legislative aspects relevant to IHR implementation in the Mediterranean and Balkans Region and possible interferences and unexpected impacts observed by countries*
- *highlight differences, if any, on the legal implementation between fully federal countries (if any qualify), central governments with federal health systems (such as Italy and Spain) and central governments with central health systems (such as France).*



Thank you

