



## PARALLEL SESSION II

International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance 2009

Room: Park Congress / Ground Level

Sunday, February 15, 2009

08:30–10:30

### ROUNDTABLE: SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN PRACTICE

**Co-Chairs:** Larry Madoff, USA  
Yu Fang, Canada

11.001 MECIDS: Cross Border Surveillance and Response in the Middle East  
**A. Leventhal**, D. Cohen  
Jerusalem, Tel Aviv (Israel)

11.002 CaribVET: Animal Disease Surveillance Network in the Caribbean  
**T. Lefrancois**, P. Hendrikx, N. Ehrhardt, S. Ahoussou, M. Kalloo, J. Shaw,  
D. Martinez, M. Trotman  
St Michael (Barbados), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), Lyon,  
Montpellier (France), Petit Bourg (Guadeloupe), Georgetown (Guyana)

11.003 Healthmap/ProMED  
**J. Brownstein**  
Boston, MA (USA)

11.004 Epi South: From a European Project to a Mediterranean Network for the  
Control of Communicable Diseases  
**S. Declich**  
Rome (Italy)

11.005 The World Animal Health Information System: WAHIS  
**K. Ben Jebara**  
Paris (France)

10:30–11:00 **Coffee Break** (Ground Level AND First Level)



## PARALLEL SESSION 12 • ORAL PRESENTATIONS

International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance 2009

Room: Klimt Ballroom 2 & 3 / First Level

Sunday, February 15, 2009

08:30–10:30

### VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES IN HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS

**Co-Chairs:** Jaime Torres, Venezuela  
Thomas Yuill, USA

12.001 Mapping the Risk of Tick-Borne Encephalitis by Use of Low-Resolution  
Remote-Sensing  
**G.E. Olsson**, M. Hjertqvist, M. Arneborn, A. Lundkvist, S.E. Randolph, D.J. Rogers  
Solna (Sweden), Oxford (United Kingdom)

12.002 Threat of Malaria Outbreak Following Tsunami Disaster in Andaman and  
Nicobar Islands, India and Its Control  
**R. Kumari**, S. Lal  
Delhi (India)



# *EpiSouth:* from a European Project to a Mediterranean Network for the Control of Communicable Diseases

Silvia Declich  
Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS) Rome, Italy  
(Italian National Institute of Health)



*International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance,  
Vienna 13-16 February 2009*





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 also share common public health problems



## ***EpiSouth Project Objective***

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







## *Project history*

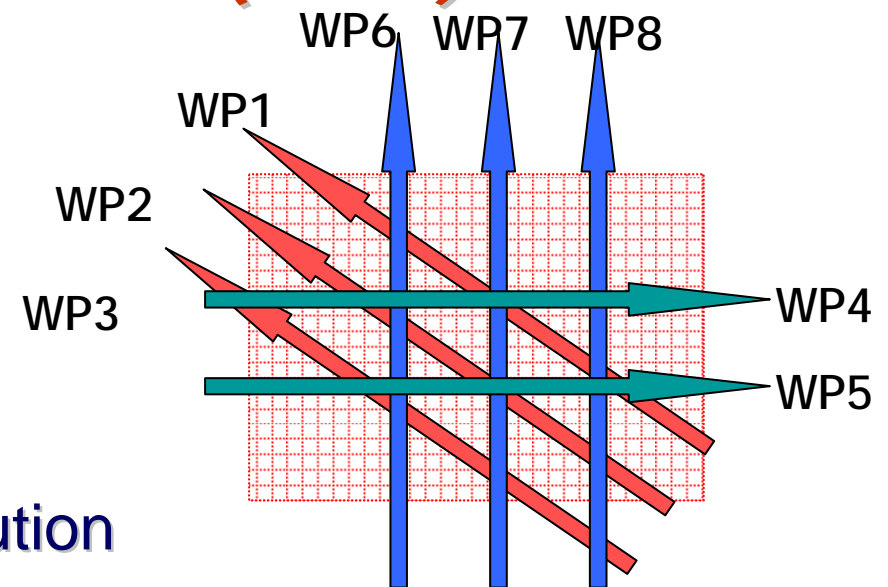
- ④ In occasion of the Year of the Mediterranean (2005), 6 European PH Institutes elaborated a framework of collaboration
- ④ In October 2006 the EpiSouth Project started with 9 European countries with a Grant Agreement with DG-Sanco
- ④ In March 2007 countries from S.Europe, Balkans, N. Africa and Middle East, together with WHO and EC met in Rome to elaborate a new partnership, thanks also to TAIEX support
- ④ In June 2007 the Italian MOH made funds available for non-EU countries participation

## *Areas of activities (WPs)*

- The project is composed by 8 Work Packages (WPs) that are linked and integrated

- Each WP is led by a PH Institution

- and developed by a WP Steering Team, constituted by the WP Leader and those participating countries which have expressed their special interest for the related WP





## ***Project organisation***

### **• Country Focal Points (CFP)**

Each country has identified and appointed 1 or 2 relevant persons, who act as CFPs of the EpiSouth Network and convey all the communication/information to the relevant officers in their respective countries

### **• Project Steering Committee (SC)**

The project is led by a SC, composed by the 6 WP leaders plus representatives of ECDC, EC-DGSanco, WHO-Euro, WHO-Emro and WHO-HQ as observers







## ***Participant Countries and Organisations***

As per October 2008, the EpiSouth Network is composed by:

- 26 Countries with 62 Focal Points
- and 6 Collaborating Institutions (ECDC, EC-DGSanco, WHO-Euro, WHO-Emro, WHO-Lyo/HQ and Italian MOH)





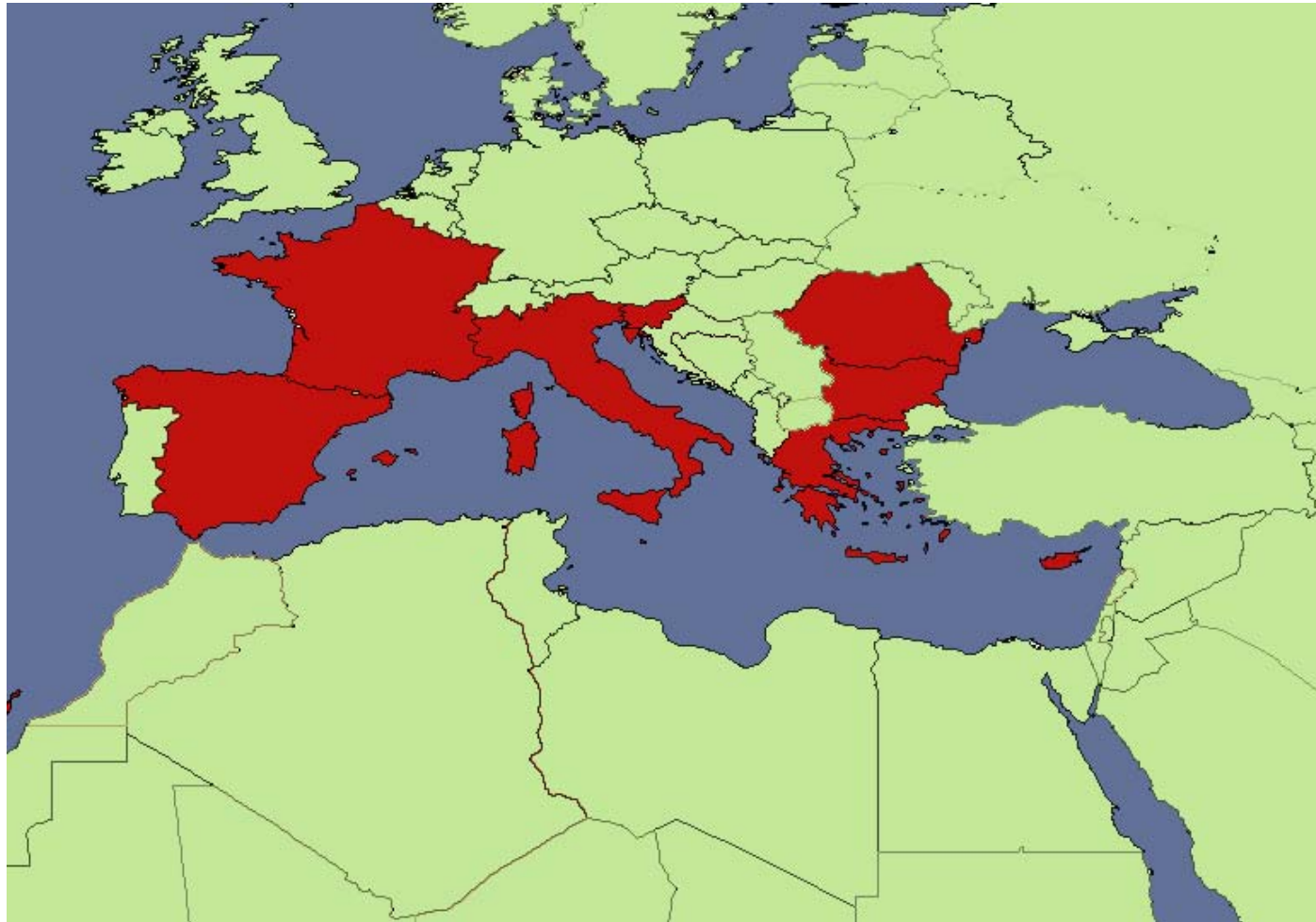
## ***Regional Dimension:***

from a European Project to a  
Mediterranean Project



# EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

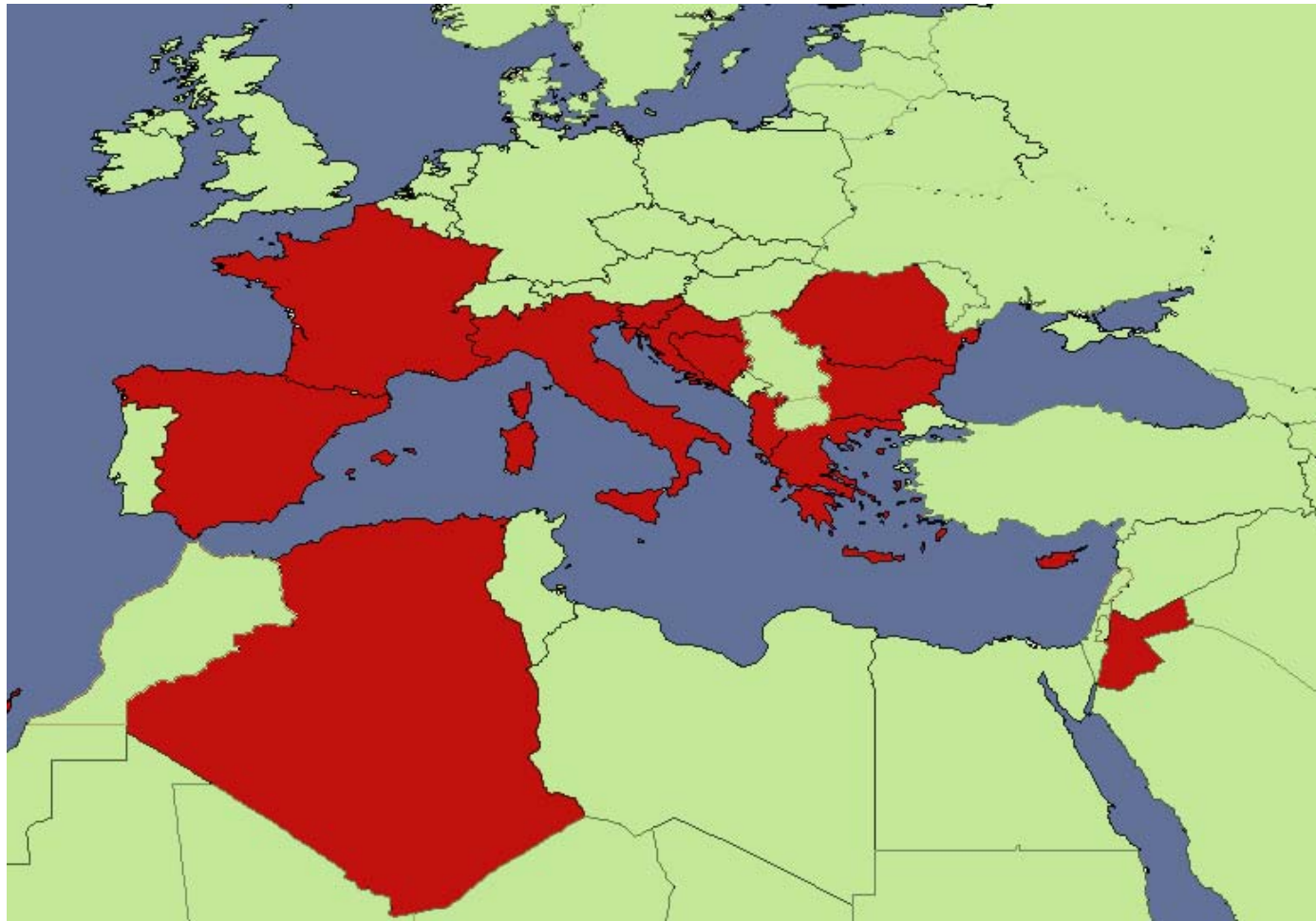


 EU Countries at the Project starting (Oct 2006)



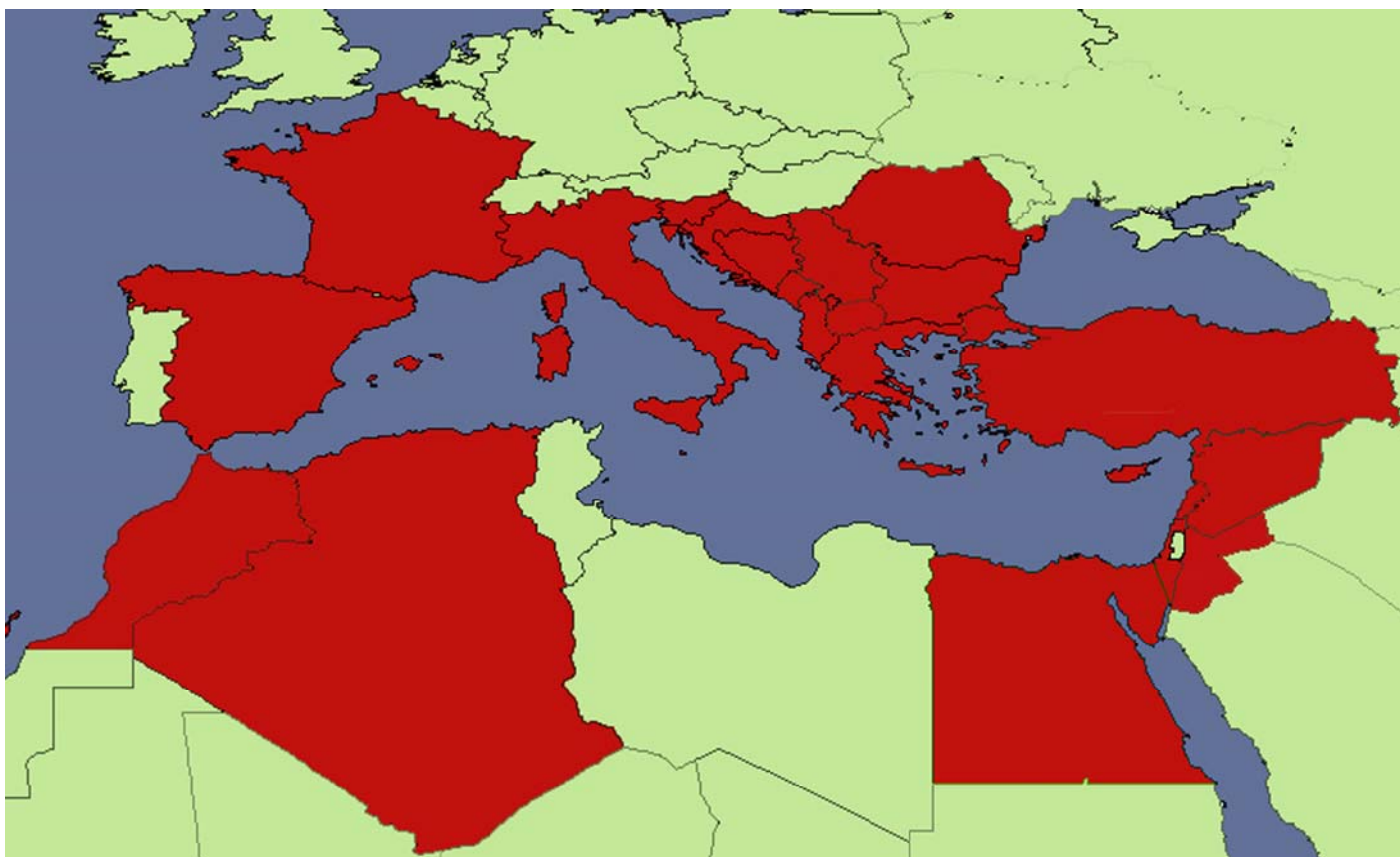
# EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



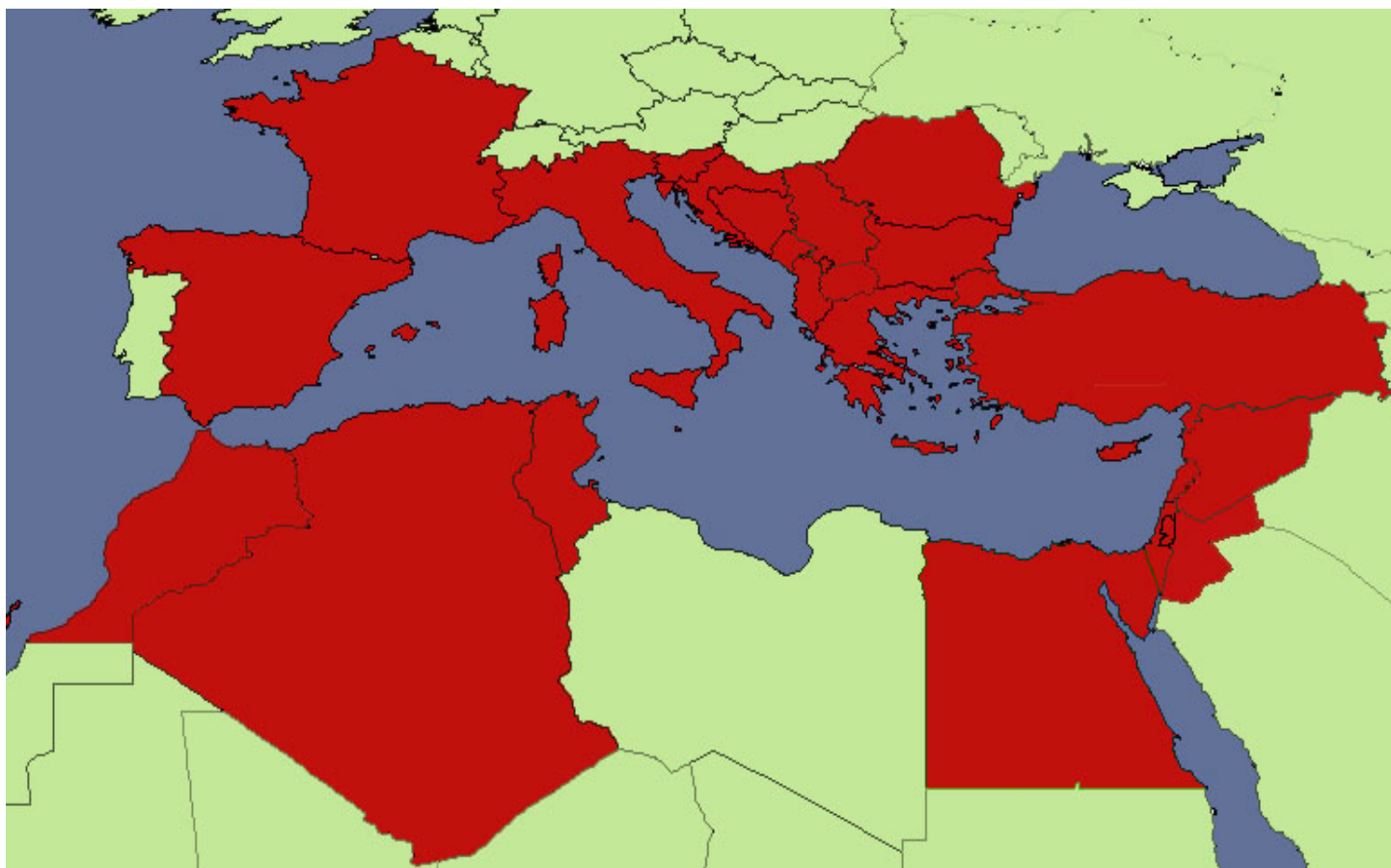
 EU & non-EU Countries as per May 2007





 EU & non-EU Countries as per August 2007





 Countries as per October 2008



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



- 1° EpiSouth Project Meeting (28-30 March 2007)

[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp1/Report\\_1st\\_Episouth\\_Project\\_Meeting\\_28-30\\_March\\_07.pdf](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp1/Report_1st_Episouth_Project_Meeting_28-30_March_07.pdf)

- 2° EpiSouth Project Meeting (10-12 December 2007)

[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp4/Meeting\\_Report\\_Atene.pdf](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp4/Meeting_Report_Atene.pdf)



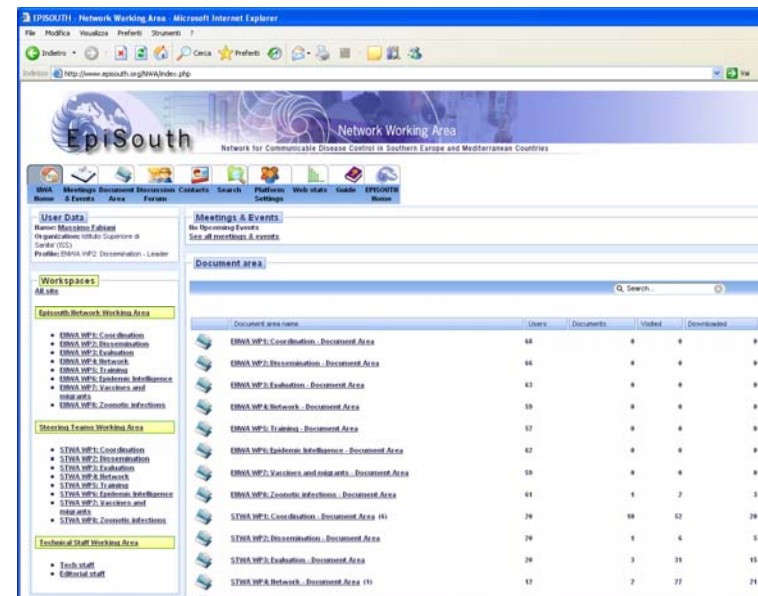
## Main project achievements: **Networking**



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 site, Guide, and EpiSouth Home. The main content area is divided into sections for User Data, Meetings & Events, Workspaces, and Document Area. The Document Area section displays a table with columns for Document area name, Users, Documents, Visited, and Downloaded.

Document area name	Users	Documents	Visited	Downloaded
ERNS WP1: Coordination - Document Area	48	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Discommunication - Document Area	44	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Evaluation - Document Area	43	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Evaluation, Inference and	39	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Evaluation, Inference and	37	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Evaluation, Inference - Document Area	42	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Evaluation, Inference and	39	9	9	9
ERNS WP1: Evaluation, Inference - Document Area	41	9	9	9
STNS WP1: Coordination - Document Area (1)	24	10	10	24
STNS WP1: Discommunication - Document Area	24	9	4	5
STNS WP1: Evaluation - Document Area	24	3	3	15
STNS WP1: Network - Document Area (1)	17	7	7	21

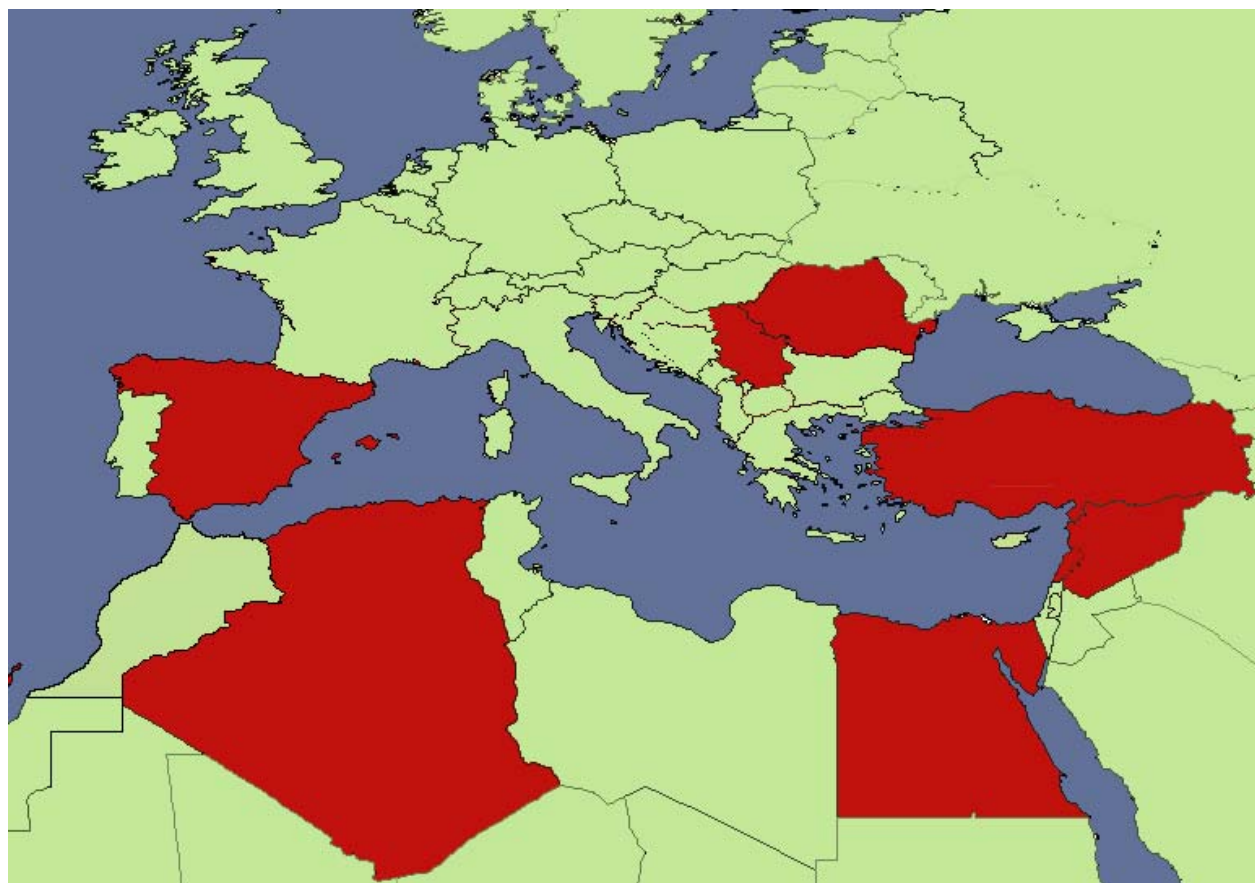


***Main project achievements:***  
***Training in field epidemiology***



- Training needs assessment for all countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)
- First training module (36 participants plus guests)  
Madrid, 10-14 September 2007  
[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp5/f\\_t\\_module/](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp5/f_t_module/)
- Second training module (33 participants plus guests)  
Madrid, 2-6 June 2008  
[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp5/s\\_t\\_module/](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp5/s_t_module/)
- Directory of training courses and fellowships (in progress)





**Steering Team WP5  
(8 Countries)**

- ✓ **Spain**
- ✓ **Romania**
- ✓ **Serbia**
- ✓ **Algeria**
- ✓ **Lebanon**
- ✓ **Turkey**
- ✓ **Egypt**
- ✓ **Syria**



# Main project achievements: Cross-border Epidemic Intelligence



• Pilot assessment of existing epidemic intelligence activities in participating countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)  
[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp6/WP6-survey\\_Report\\_Fin.pdf](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp6/WP6-survey_Report_Fin.pdf)

• Epidemic Intelligence weekly bulletins and thematic notes

• Website secured section on cross-border epidemic intelligence with alerts originating from partners (in progress)

**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 (date first)
- 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bangladesh	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Canada	4	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	7
China	0	0	23	0	0	3	3	3	30
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Indonesia	20	13	88	45	42	36	12	11	229
Italy	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Philippines	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Thailand	22	14	3	3	0	0	0	0	38
Turkey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	93	42	0	0	0	0	3	3	138
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>325</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 3 provinces have observed avian influenza outbreak during the last 3 weeks: Quang Tri, Soc Trang, Quang Binh, Quang Nam, Ca Mau.

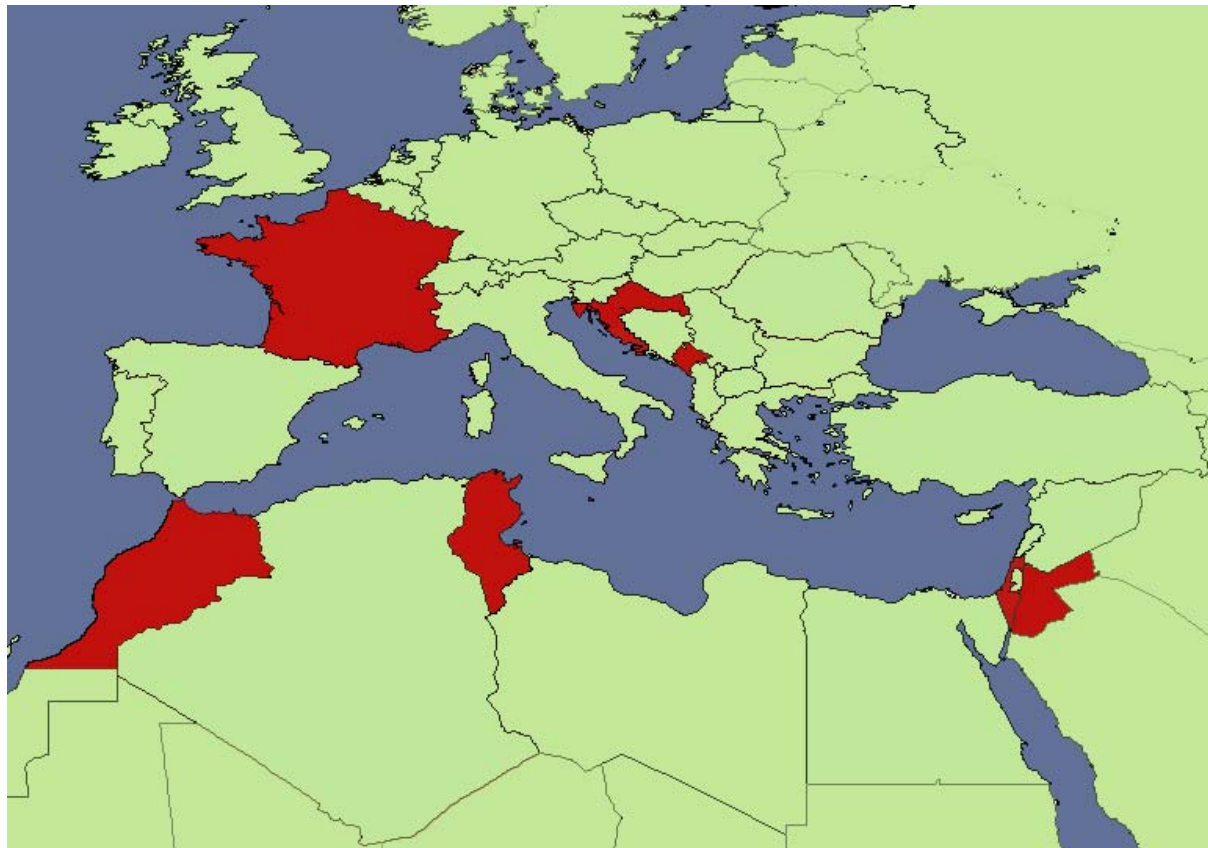
**Comments:** The identification of new outbreaks in a country already affected does not change the global epidemiological situation.





# EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



Steering Team WP 6  
(8 Countries)

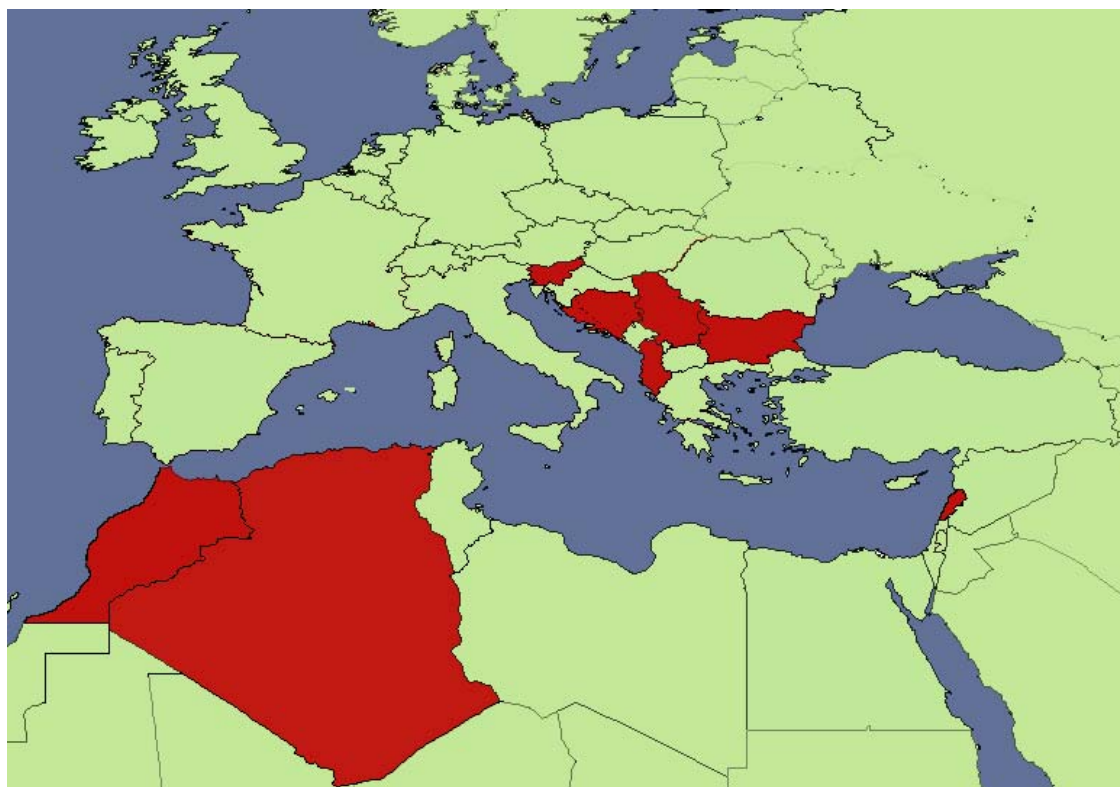
- ✓ France
- ✓ Malta
- ✓ Croatia
- ✓ Morocco
- ✓ Tunisia
- ✓ Israel
- ✓ Jordan
- ✓ Montenegro

***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 questionnaire compilation for the survey on assessment of countries migration status profile and vaccination access of mobile population (in progress)





  
Steering Team WP7  
(8 Countries)

- ✓ Bulgaria
- ✓ Slovenia
- ✓ Albania
- ✓ B&H
- ✓ Serbia
- ✓ Morocco
- ✓ Lebanon
- ✓\_Algeria



***Main project achievements:***

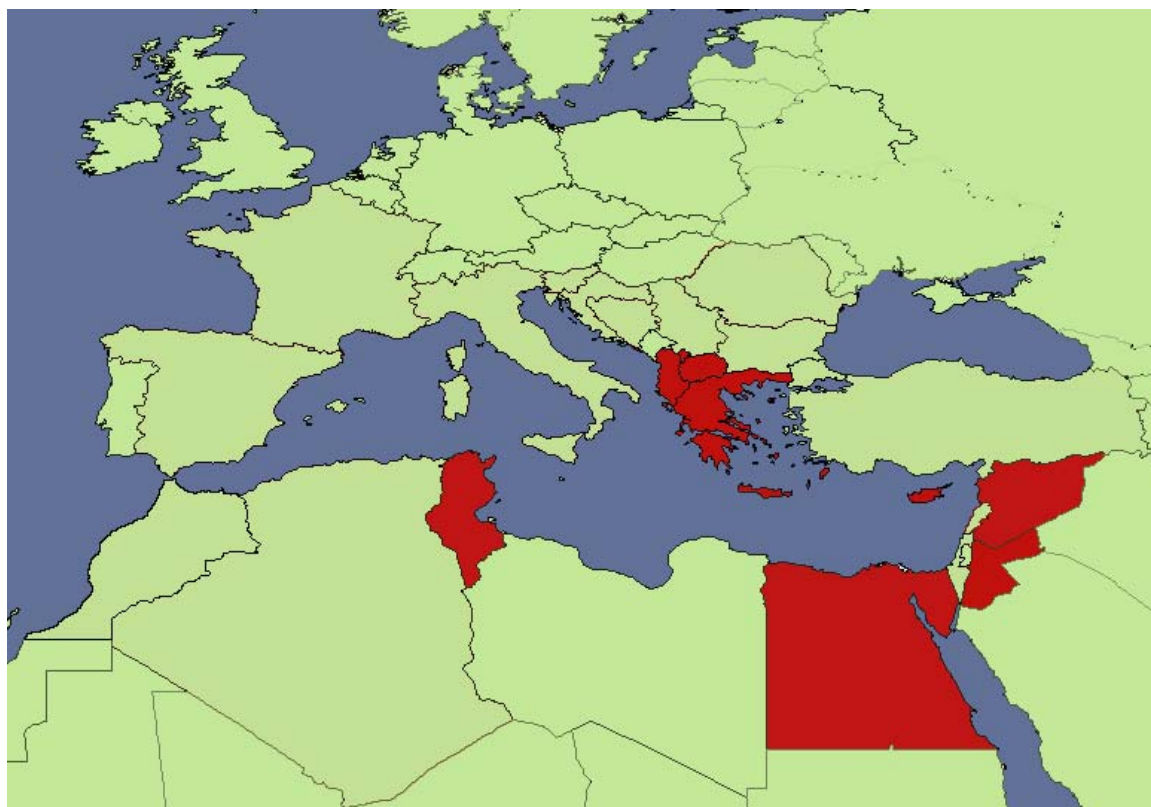


***Cross-border emerging zoonoses***

- Assessment and selection of five zoonoses of priority in the Episouth countries (with ad hoc questionnaire)  
[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp8/WP8Report Public area FINALE REV 9-4-08.pdf](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp8/WP8Report_Public_area_FINALE_REV_9-4-08.pdf)
- Situation report by country regarding: Brucellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Leishmaniasis, Rabies and West Nile Virus
- On-line questionnaire compilation for the Directory of Human and Veterinary PH officials (in progress)







  
Steering Team WP8  
(9 Countries)

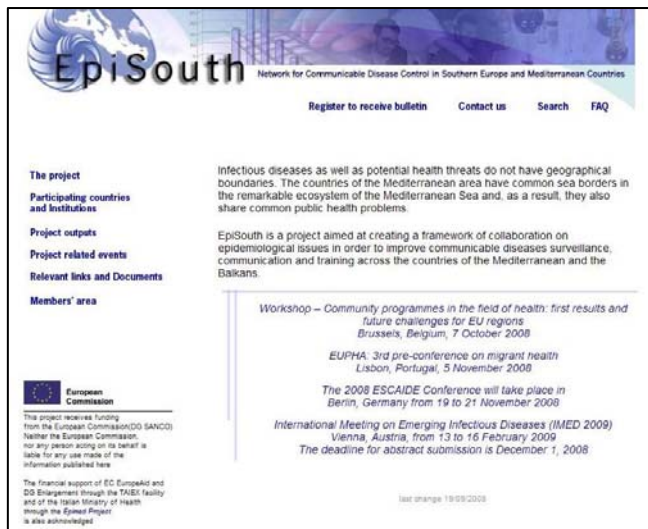
- ✓ Greece
- ✓ Cyprus
- ✓ Albania
- ✓ FYROM
- ✓ Kosovo
- ✓ Tunisia
- ✓ Jordan
- ✓ Egypt
- ✓ Syria

## Main project achievements: **Dissemination**

EpiSouth Web Site [www.episouth.org](http://www.episouth.org)

EpiSouth Quarterly Bulletins

[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp2/EpiSouth\\_Electronic\\_Bulletin](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp2/EpiSouth_Electronic_Bulletin)



**EpiSouth** Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Register to receive bulletin Contact us Search FAQ

**The project**  
**Participating countries and Institutions**  
**Project outputs**  
**Project related events**  
**Relevant links and Documents**  
**Members' area**

Infectious diseases as well as potential health threats do not have geographical boundaries. The countries of the Mediterranean area have common sea borders in the remarkable ecosystem of the Mediterranean Sea and, as a result, they also share common public health problems.

EpiSouth is a project aimed at creating a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across the countries of the Mediterranean and the Balkans.

**Workshop – Community programmes in the field of health: first results and future challenges for EU regions**  
 Brussels, Belgium, 7 October 2008

**EUPHA 3rd pre-conference on migrant health**  
 Lisbon, Portugal, 5 November 2008

**The 2008 ESCAIDE Conference will take place in Berlin, Germany from 19 to 21 November 2008**

**International Meeting on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IMED 2009)**  
 Vienna, Austria, from 13 to 16 February 2009  
 The deadline for abstract submission is December 1, 2008

last change 19/09/2008



**EpiSouth** Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

**EpiSouth Electronic Bulletin**  
 Issue 1 – January 2008

**EpiSouth Documents**  
 This document is the first issue of the EpiSouth Electronic Bulletin, published on 10th January 2008.

**EpiSouth Events**  
 The 2nd EpiSouth Meeting for Health Professionals (EpiSouth Meeting) will be held in Athens, Greece, on 15th November 2008.

**In this issue:**  
 EpiSouth Activities: The project is introduced in 8 week packages.  
 The EpiSouth Network: The EpiSouth Network after one year of activities.  
 Project Update: Conclusions from the Conference "Health and Migration in the EU" better health for all in an inclusive society, Athens 27-28 November 2007.  
 EpiSouth Newsletters: How often the EpiSouth Training Module and journal appeared at the ESCAIDE conference.  
 EpiSouth Events: 1st EpiSouth Meeting of EpiSouth.

**EpiSouth Activities**  
 The project "EpiSouth" is aimed at creating a framework of collaboration on epidemiological issues in order to improve communicable diseases surveillance, communication and training across Mediterranean countries. The Project is articulated in 8 week Packages (WP).

1. WP1. Co-ordination of the project.
2. WP2. Dissemination of the project.
3. WP3. Evaluation of the project.
4. WP4. Network of public health institutions.
5. WP5. Training in field level surveillance.
6. WP6. Cross border systems surveillance.
7. WP7. Vaccine preventable diseases and related surveillance.
8. WP8. Epidemiological and surveillance systems to cross border surveillance systems.

**The EpiSouth Network**  
 Starting as an EU project, EpiSouth structure is growing in Mediterranean countries from an initial deployment of 10 countries (Italy, Spain, France, Greece, and Bulgaria), EpiSouth now gathers from international organisations and EU member states, Switzerland, and Southern Africa.

**Focus Topic**  
 The Conference Health and Migration in the EU better health for all in an inclusive society (Athens, Portugal, 27-28 November 2007) was set to provide the scientific basis and political impetus needed to coordinate the important and long overdue theme into the EU health agenda.

last change 19/09/2008



# EpiSouth

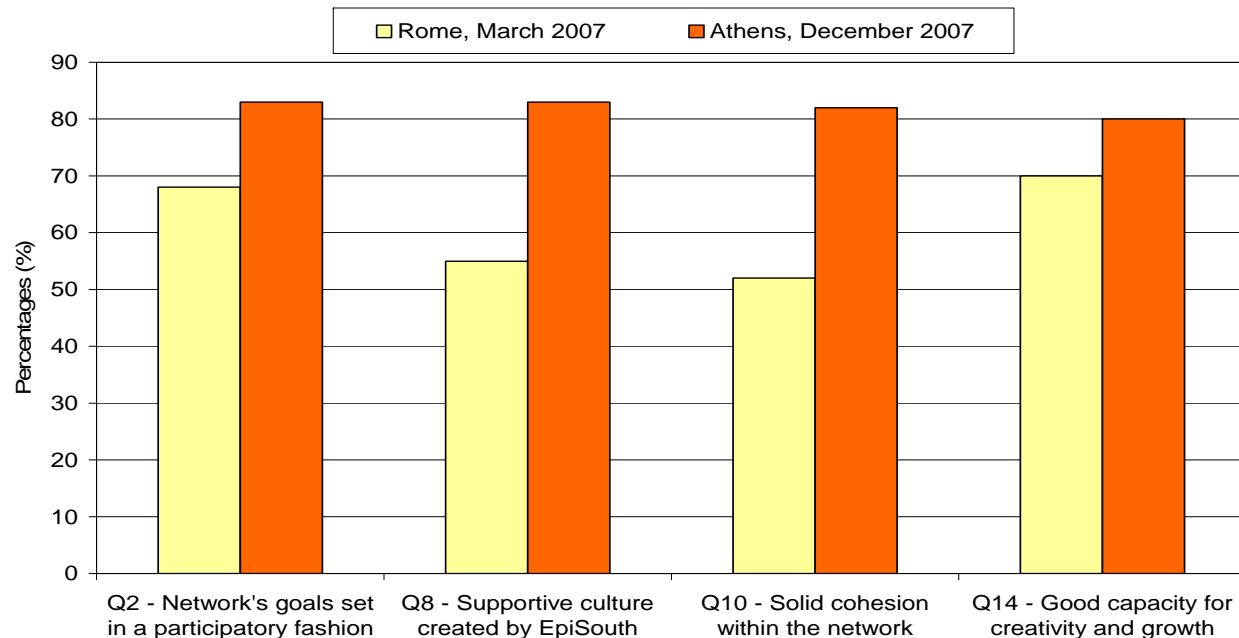
Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

## Main project achievements: **Monitoring**



- Monitoring of Network Development through questionnaires distributed during the 1st and 2nd Project Meetings

[https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp3/2nd\\_Monitoring\\_of\\_EpiSouth\\_Network\\_Development\\_ATHENS.pdf](https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp3/2nd_Monitoring_of_EpiSouth_Network_Development_ATHENS.pdf)





## ***Lesson Learned 1***

### ***Project Organization***

revised for sharing responsibilities with all countries (after the First Meeting)



## ***Lesson Learned 2***

### ***Countries expectations and needs***

All WPs have assessed countries expectations and needs in related fields:

- training assessment needs
- epidemic intelligence in place in each country
- VPD and migrants profile in each country
- zoonoses priority for each country





### ***Lesson Learned 3***

## ***Countries are willing to participate and to commit to the Network***

9 EU countries have signed Agreement with EC

17 countries have voluntarily wrote a commitment letter to the project coordinator

## *Lesson Learned 4*

### *Integration of different funding sources*

<b>Funding for overall project infrastructure and EU countries participation</b>	<b>EC DGSanco</b>	<b>1.719.032</b>	<b>56%</b>
	<b>EU participating Institutions: national officials &amp; contribution</b>	<b>589.689</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Funding for non-EU countries participation</b>	<b>Italian Ministry of Health</b>	<b>450.000</b>	<b>15%</b>
	<b>TAIEX (EC EuropeAid &amp; DG Enlargement)</b>	<b>140.000</b>	<b>5%</b>
	<b>non-EU participating Institutions: national officials &amp; contribution</b>	<b>148.500</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3.047.221</b>	<b>100%</b>





## ***Episouth Network***

### ***Added Values***

- focuses on regional and countries cross-border issues
- succeeds in creating cohesion and concrete collaboration among 26 countries of South Europe, Balkans, North Africa and Middle East
- fills 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





## ***Balkans and Mediterranean basin***

### ➤ WHO

- **Europe region: WHO-EURO (17/26):** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, FYROM, Turkey
- **Eastern Mediterranean region: WHO-EMRO (7/26):** Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia
- **Africa region: WHO-AFRO (1/26):** Algeria

### ➤ European Commission:

- **ECDC(9/26):** Southern European Union Countries of Mediterranean: Bulgaria, Cyprus France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Romania, Slovenia, Spain
- **European Neighborhood Policy (18/26):** all EU plus Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia
- **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (23/26):** all EU plus Albania, Algeria, Bosnia, Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey



## ***Episouth Network Best practices***

- the approach based on countries expectations and regional needs has facilitate interest in participation
- the methodology adopted have enhanced co-ownership of participant countries
- the presence of international institutions (ECDC, EC, WHO-EURO, WHO-EMRO, WHO-HQ) has allowed sharing views and facilitated interaction

## *Future challenges*

- The health sector, although recognized and included in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (2005) and in the Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Union of Mediterranean (2008), is poorly valorized
- Although migration was added in the Barcelona Declaration (2005), the related health issues are rarely addressed
- Sustainability of the Network after the Episouth project end in 2010

## ***New activities to be developed in the Mediterranean region***

- Knowledge and harmonization of surveillance systems (including case definitions)
- Support to application of IHR-2005
- Setting up a regional reference laboratory network
- Exchange of surveillance data
- Monitor tourist movements



## ***Next Appointment***

**Technical Conference on CD in the  
Mediterranean Region  
in Rome for spring 2010**





Thank you

