

Second Euromediterranean Ministerial Conference on Health Cairo 16-17 November 2008

➤ General objectives of the conference

The conference will be the opportunity to advocate for a greater importance of health dimension in the Barcelona process: Union for the Mediterranean.

The conference will aim at fostering mutual cooperation and at developing joint work programmes with a view to strengthen health systems and to ensure effective collective response to common health challenges in the Euro-Mediterranean region such as communicable and non communicable diseases.

A ministerial declaration is being discussed and will be adopted by the participants. The declaration will be the base for the development of future cooperation and projects in the region. Participants will be welcome to propose their priority fields of cooperation/projects.

➤ Themes of discussions (ministerial conference 17th)

The three main themes that will be tackled during the 2nd ministerial euromed conference on health (17th november) are:

- Strengthening of health systems
- Non communicable diseases
- Communicable diseases

These topics will be discussed by the ministers on the 17th and should constitute the backbone of the final declaration.

Considering that 43 countries are part of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, the speeches of the Ministers/Heads of delegations will have to be limited to 3 minutes.

➤ Workshops (High officials/experts, 16th)

• Themes

The day before, 16th, will be dedicated to the high officials discussions on these issues. The themes have been narrowed down to, respectively:

- «Health systems and personnel in the Euromed region: a common challenge »
- «Fighting cancer in the Euromed region »
- «Controlling infectious diseases in the Euromed region »



EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control
in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Silvia Declich

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



EuroMed Ministerial Conference on Health, Cairo, 16-17 November





EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Mediterraneus means
“in the middle of the lands”





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 Public Health Institutes agreed to elaborate 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)

- ④ The project is composed by 8 Work Packages (WPs)
- ④ Each WP is led by a PH Institution
- ④ 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 observer





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)





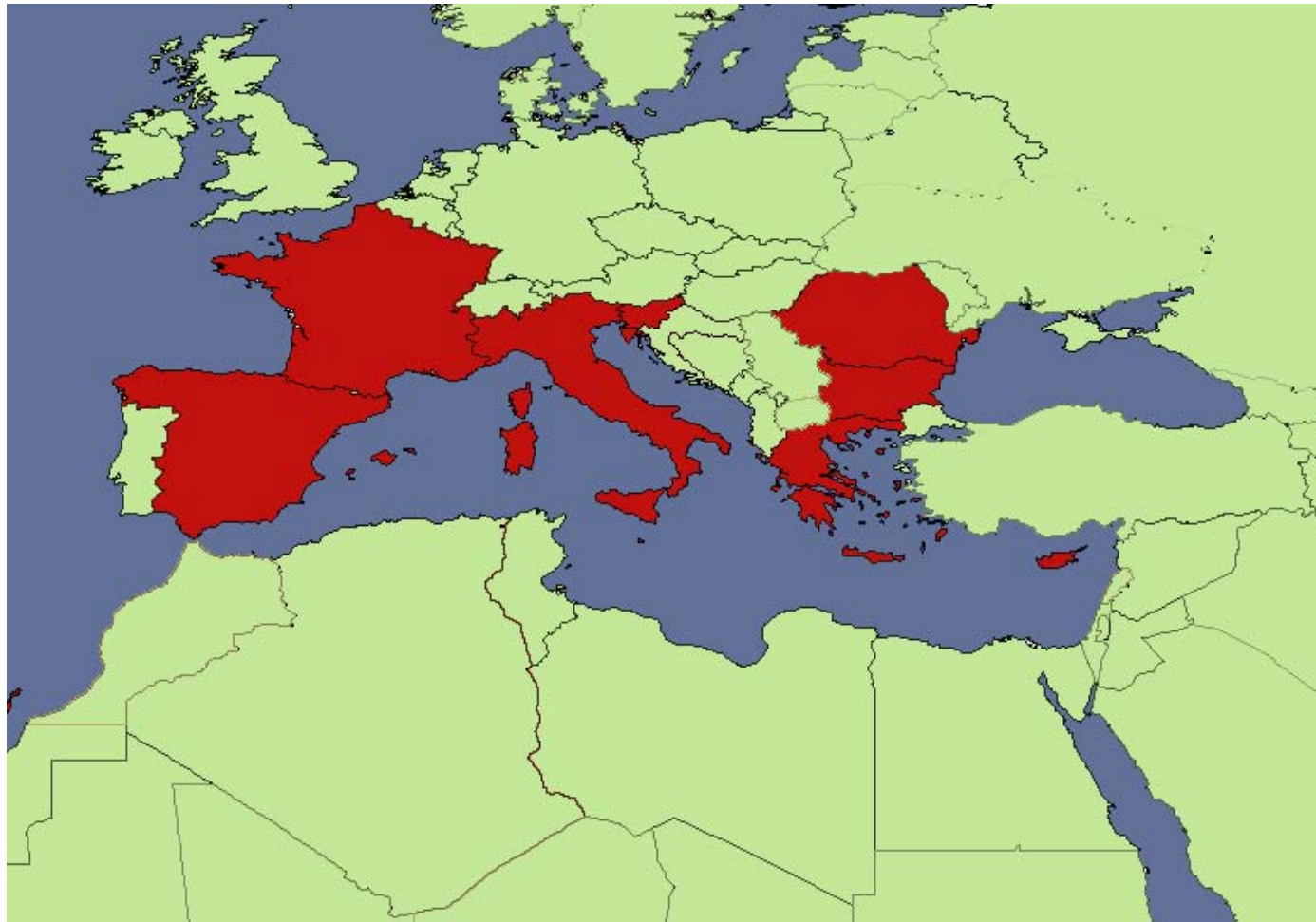
Regional Dimension:

from a European Project to a
Mediterranean Project



EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

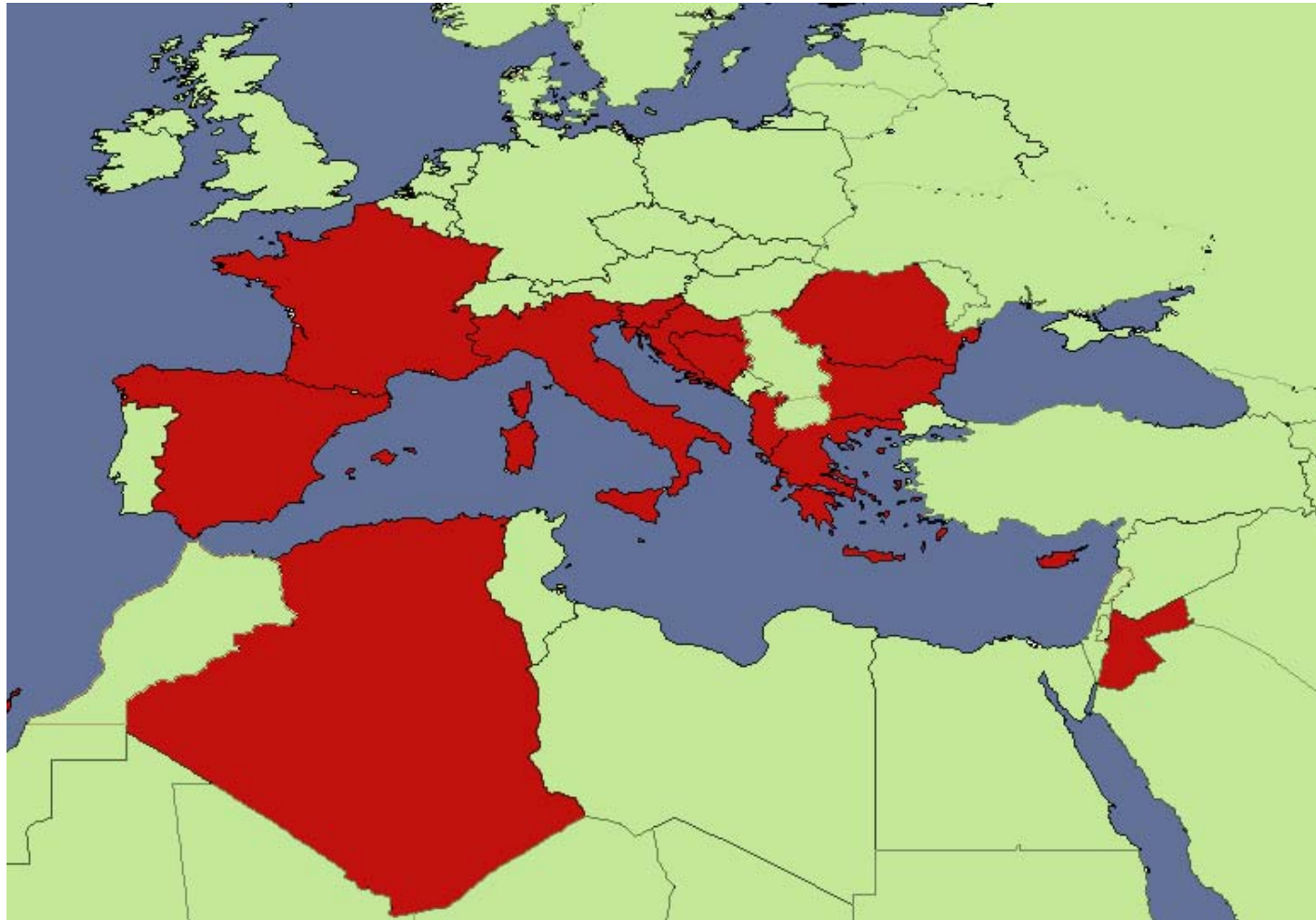


 EU Countries at the Project starting (Oct 2006)

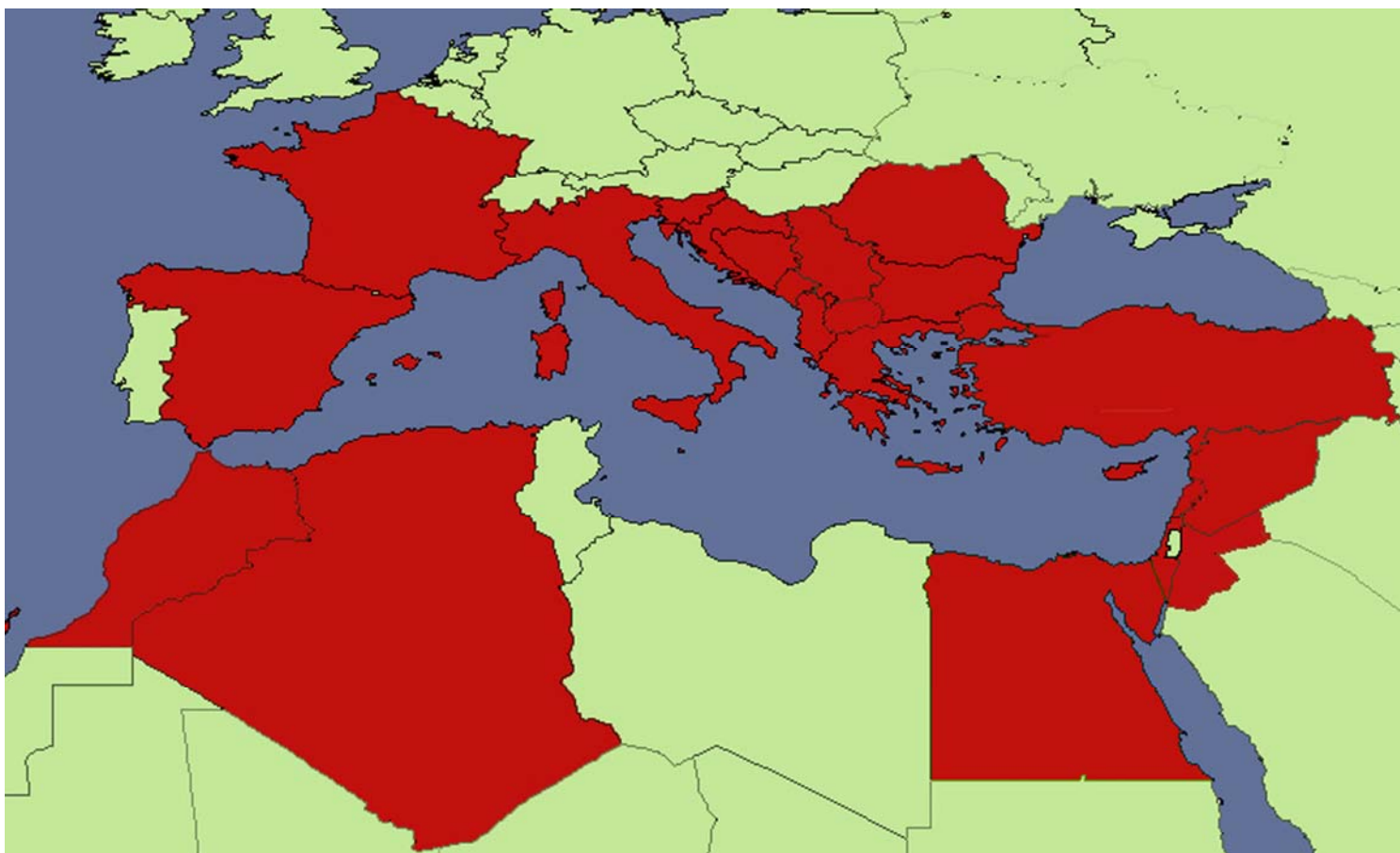


EpiSouth

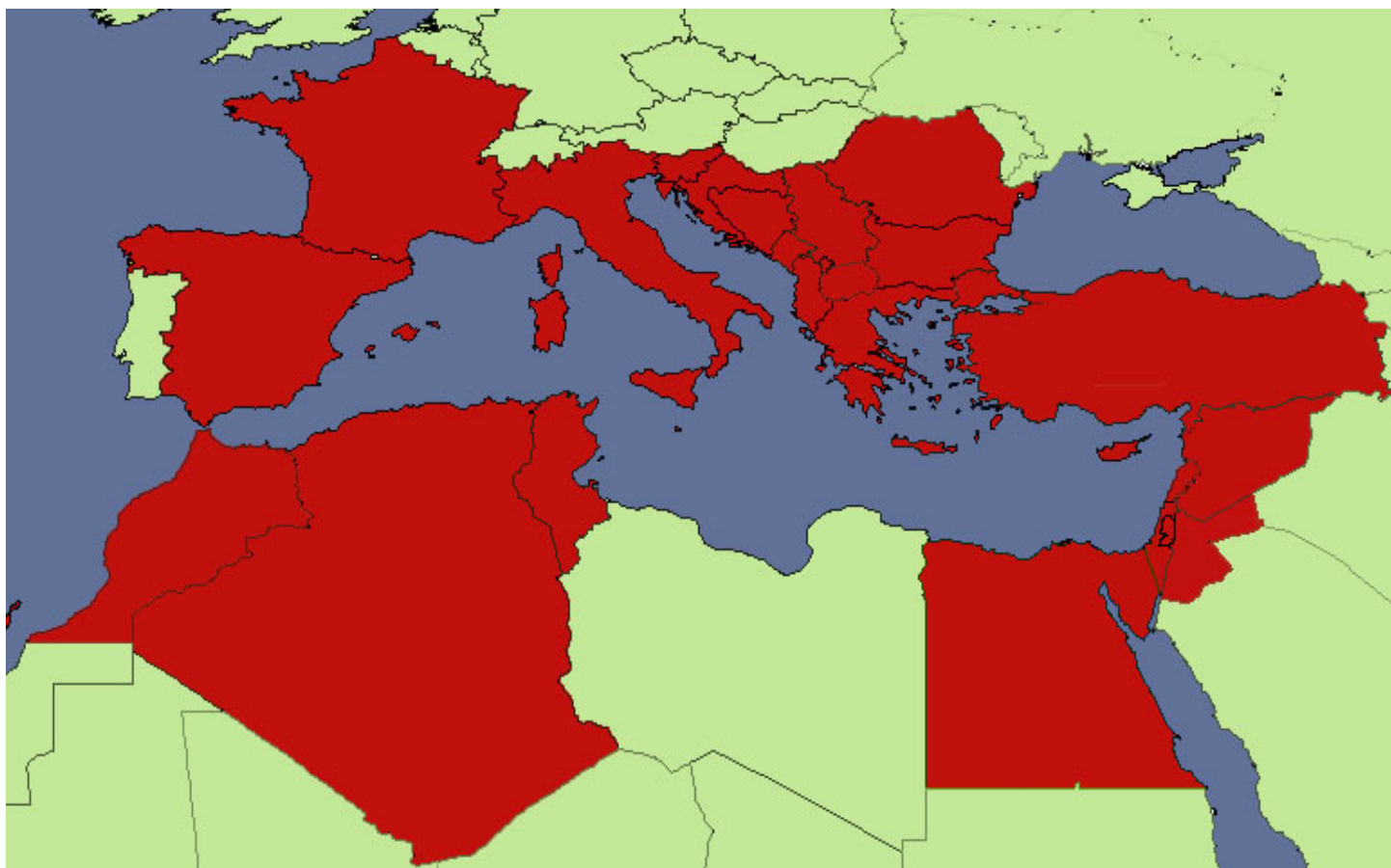
Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries



 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

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

https://www.episouth.org/outputs/wp4/Meeting_Report_Atene.pdf



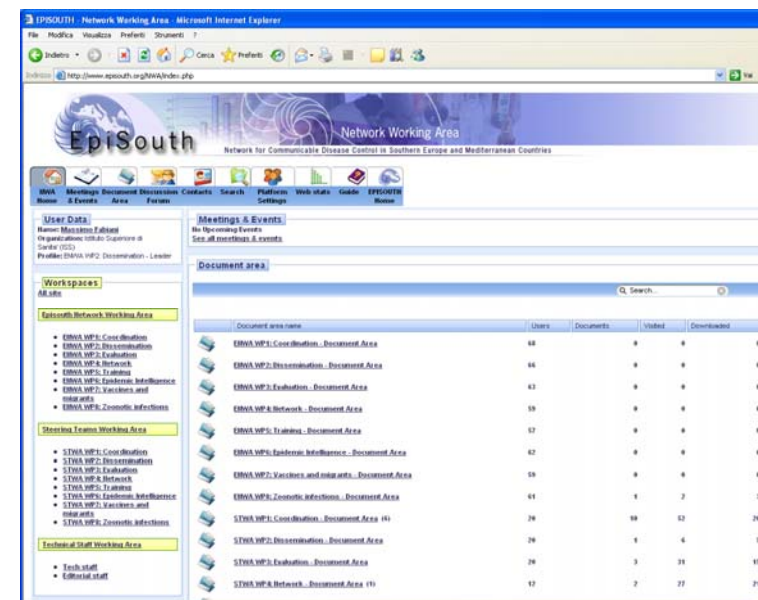
Main project achievements: **Networking**



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

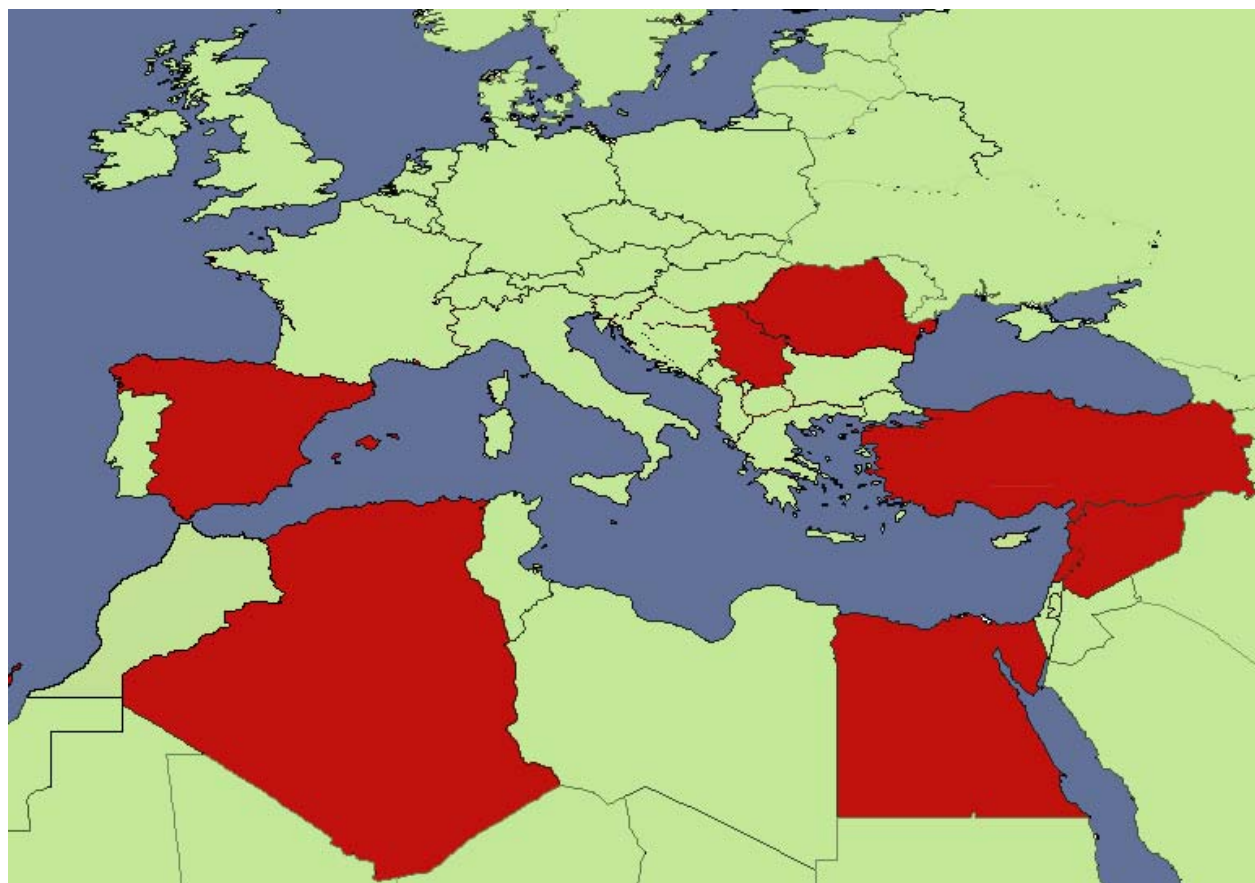


Main project achievements:
Training in field epidemiology



- 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/
- Second training module (33 participants plus guests)
Madrid, 2-6 June 2008
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

• 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 25th March 2008
 - Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO
 - Notification of new avian influenza outbreak (date list)
- 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
Total	118	72	115	79	69	58	24	20	325

Vietnam

- On March 18th, 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.

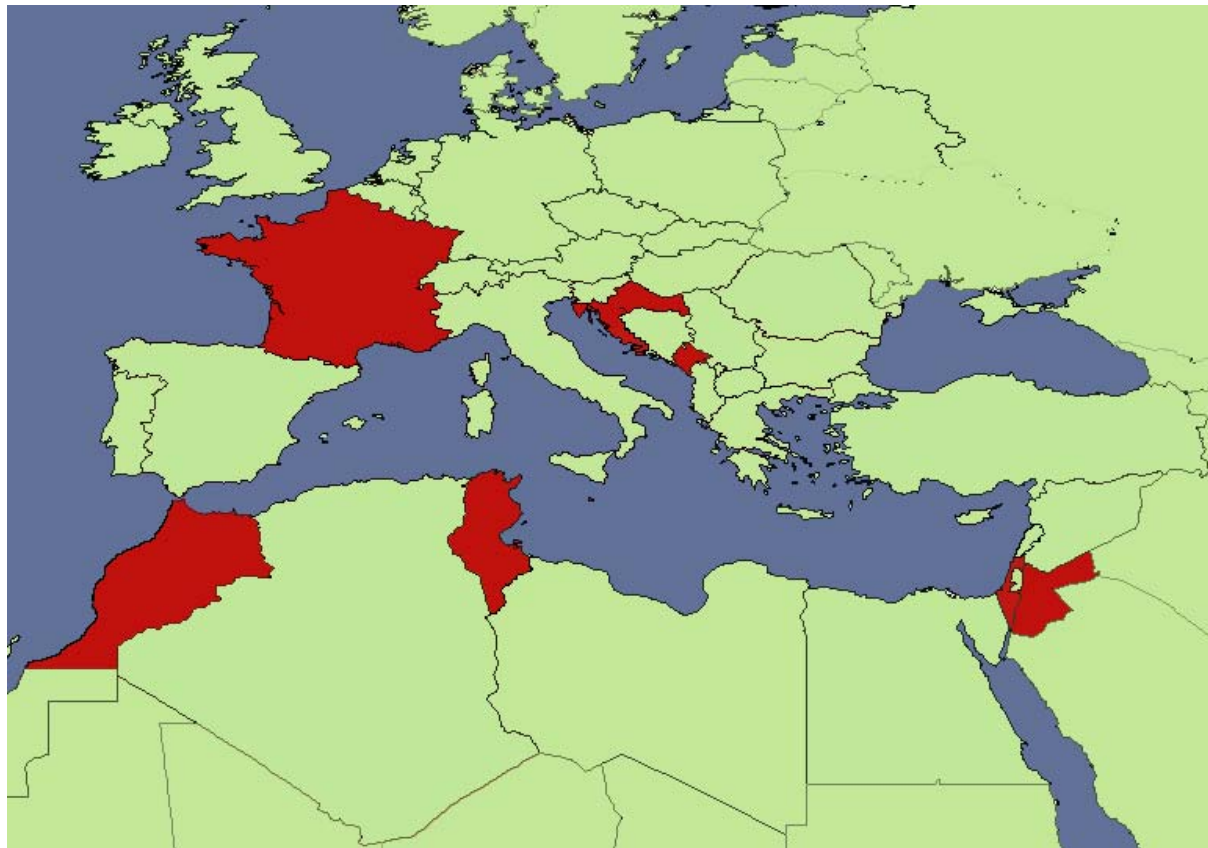
Comments: The identification of new outbreaks in a country already affected does not change the global epidemiological situation.





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

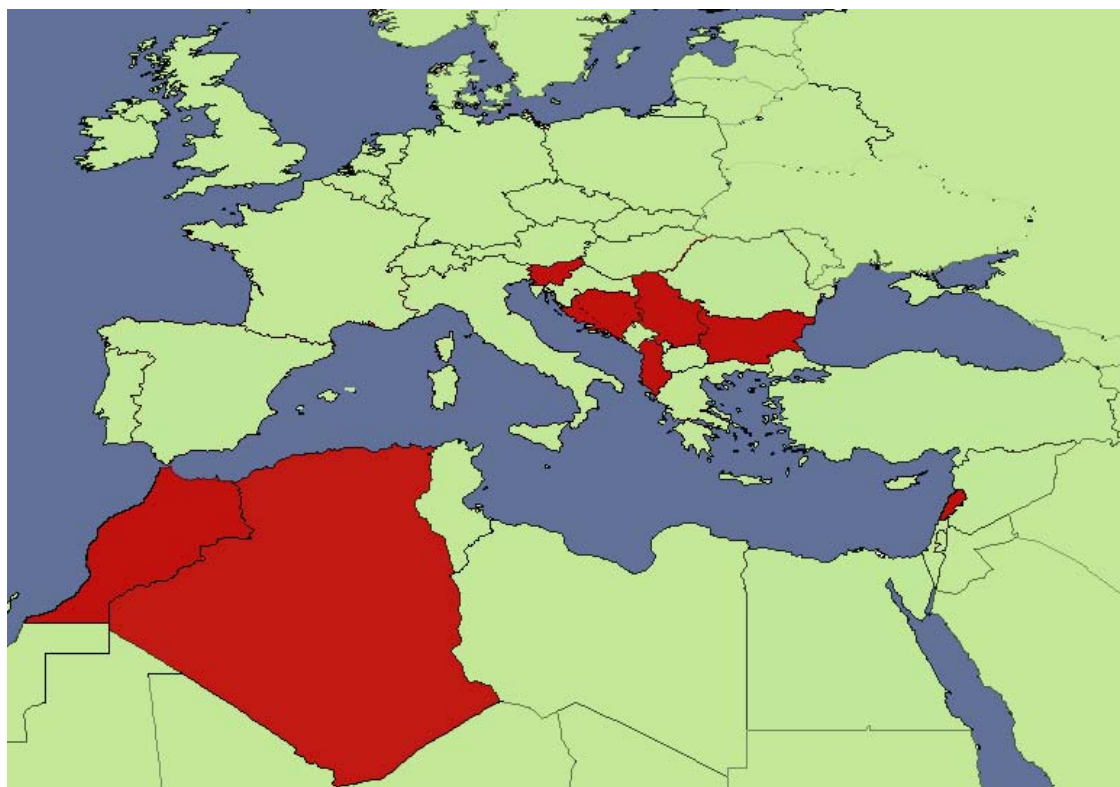
Main project achievements:

***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

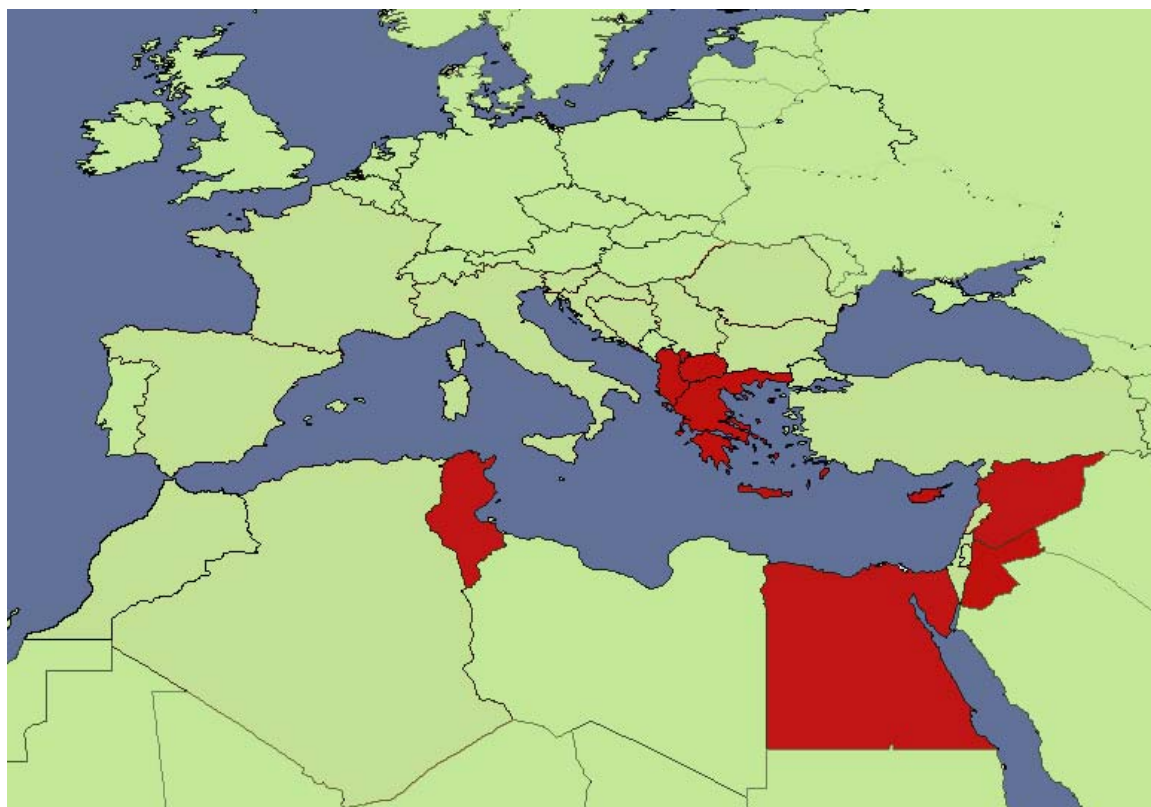
Main project achievements:



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)

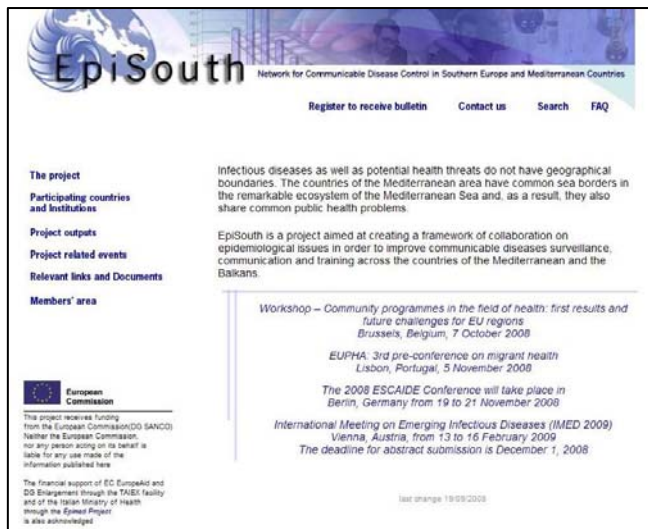
- ✓ Greece
- ✓ Cyprus
- ✓ Albania
- ✓ FYROM
- ✓ Kosovo
- ✓ Tunisia
- ✓ Jordan
- ✓ Egypt
- ✓ Syria

Main project achievements: **Dissemination**

EpiSouth Web Site www.episouth.org

EpiSouth Quarterly Bulletins

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 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 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 are published 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 support for the development of an important and long overdue theme into the EU health agenda.



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 developed questionnaires for assessing 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



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

Duration and budget (3 years)

Oct 2006 – Sept 2009

Funding for overall project infrastructure and EU countries participation			
	EC DGSanco	1.719.032	59%
	EU participating Institutions: national officials & contribution	589.689	20%
Funding for non-EU countries participation			
	TAIEX (EC EuropeAid & DG Enlargement)	140.000	5%
	Italian Ministry of Health	450.000	16%
	TOTAL	2.898.721	100,00%



EpiSouth

Network for Communicable Disease Control in Southern Europe and Mediterranean Countries

Project and ... Network!

Project ends in 2009

and ...

than the Network?



Next Technical Appointment?

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



Thank you



- **Participants**

Expected participants are national high officials, e. g. Chief Medical Officer. The same participants will participate to the validation of the final declaration in the evening of the 16th.

The three themes will be tackled one after the other (2 hours per theme). This way, all the experts/high officials will be able to take part in all the discussions. Considering the limited number of delegates per country, it is possible that not all countries will be able to be represented by a high official who is also an expert on the very topic. It is of course up to each country to select the delegates, according to its priorities and availabilities.

The working languages during the workshops will be French, English, Arabic.

- **Objectives**

The objectives of the workshops are the following:

- to review the current situation, the needs, the current actions addressing these needs, possible solutions, **perspectives for joint programmes and projects in the region.**
- to prepare and focus the discussions of the ministers the following day.
- to allow personal contacts between high officials in order to facilitate future cooperation.

- **Moderators**

Each workshop will be moderated by an expert

The role of the moderator will be to start (short introductory presentation) and moderate the discussions.

- **Validation of the ministerial declaration (16th november)**

A ministerial declaration draft has been circulating for comments. A last version has been sent out to the 43 countries by the General secretariat of the EU Council on the 30th October for last comments. Comments are expected until 5th November.

A senior officials meeting is planned in the evening of the 16th in order to formally validate the final draft. As indicated on the program, only senior officials will be able to attend this meeting.

Saturday 15th November 2008

Ministers will be arriving at their own discretion either on Saturday or Sunday
Experts are expected on Saturday evening

*Assistance Desk at the Airport
Transfer to the hotel
A Conference welcome desk for accreditation and information
will be operating in the Hotel
Dinner will be provided depending on the time of arrival.*

20:00-23:00

Welcome buffet/dinner will be served at the hotel.
(Omar Café)

Sunday 16th November 2008

*Sunday 16th will be dedicated to the experts' meeting
Ministers and the rest of their delegation are expected on Sunday evening.*

08:00-9:00

Registration and welcome coffee

09:00-09:15

Opening remarks (Egypt, France and European Commission)
(Aida Ballroom)

9:15-11:00

Workshop A : “Health Systems and personnel in the Euromed region: a common challenge”
Experts/High Officials

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

Workshop B: “Fighting cancer in the Euromed region”

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30- 17:00

Workshop C: “Controlling infectious diseases in the Euromed region”

17:00-17:30

Coffee Break

17:30-18:00	Plenary session (chaired by Egypt, France and Commission): Approval of the final declaration (senior officials only)
<i>Arrival of the Ministers and the rest of their delegation Registration</i>	
21:00	Dinner offered by the French Ministry of Health
Monday 17th November 2008	
8:00-9:00	Breakfast + Late registration
09:00-9:30	Plenary Session (Aida Ballroom) Addresses by the Ministers of Egypt, France and Health Commissioner
09:30-11:00	Report of Workshop A and discussion (Health systems and personnel)
11:00-11 :15	Coffee Break
11 :15-13:00	Report of WS B and discussions (Non communicable diseases)
13:00-13:15	“Family Picture”
13:15-15:00	Formal lunch offered by Egyptian Ministry of Health
15:00-16:30	Report of WS C and discussions (Communicable diseases)
16:30-17:00	Adoption of the declaration
17:00-17:30	Press conference: Egypt, France, EC
19:00-20:00	Culture evening: Light and sound show at the pyramids
Tuesday 18th November	
<i>Departure of the Ministers and Senior Officials at their own discretion Transportation will be provided</i>	