


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

EPI SOUTH


Cross-Border & Epidemic Intelligence in Mediterranean Countries

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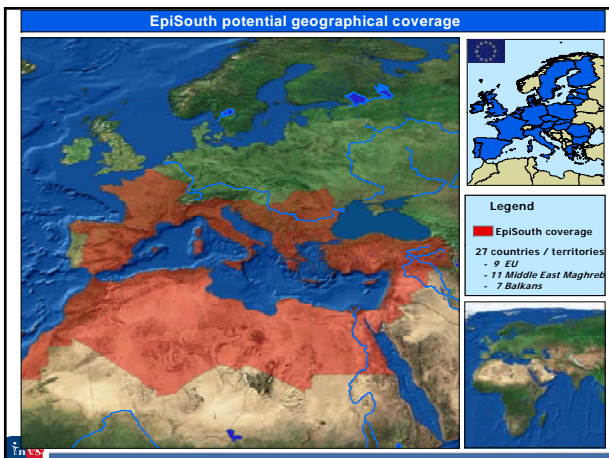



Background

- Mediterranean countries :
 - Share same : history, populations, ecosystem ...
 - Single epidemiological block
- Objective : Create a framework on epidemiological issues to improve across the countries of the Mediterranean and Balkans
 - Communicable diseases surveillance,
 - Communication and training




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Structure

- **Framework WPs**
 - **WP1:** Coordination (ISS), Italy
 - **WP2:** Dissemination (ISS), Italy
 - **WP3:** Evaluation, (Veneto Region), Italy
- **Horizontal WPs**
 - **WP4:** Network (Veneto Region), Italy
 - **WP5:** Training (ISCIII) Spain
- **Vertical WPs**
 - **WP6:** Epidemic intelligence (InVS) France
 - **WP7:** VPD & Migrants (NICPD) Bulgaria
 - **WP8:** Emerging zoonoses (HCDCP) Greece
- **Countries : Active participation** to project construction through their involvement in WP Steering Teams.
- **Duration** : Initial 3 Years period
- **Start** : December 2006 (in practice April 2007)
- **Funding** : European Commission



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The Challenge

- Geographical coverage
 - 4 geographical / political areas
 - Number of countries
- Number of Institutional partners
 - ECDC
 - WHO-EURO, WHO-EMRO, WHO-HQ (WHO-AFRO)
- All countries expressed genuine interest and willingness to contribute
- Project under construction and in constant evolution
- Input needed from all partners
 - Countries
 - Institutional partners




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WP6 :Cross-border & Epidemic Intelligence

- Establish a common platform on "epidemic intelligence" where participating countries may find broad internationally as well as regionally focused information.
- Two components :
 - ⌚ Monitoring of health events of international importance (Epidemic Intelligence)
 - ⌚ Regional Cross Border issues



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Two strategic axes

	Epidemic Intelligence	Cross Border
Scope	Outside EpiSouth areas	Within EpiSouth countries
Source	Official & Informal	Only Official From EpiSouth partners
Support	Open & Restricted	Restricted To EpiSouth partners


Epidemic Intelligence

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⦿ Detection ⦿ Selection ⦿ Analysis ⦿ Validation ⦿ Communication ● Information Source <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⦿ Official & Formal ⦿ Informal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⦿ Not exhaustive ⦿ EpiSouth criteria ⦿ Only validated alerts (Real added value) ● Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⦿ Weekly Bulletin ⦿ Ad hoc messages
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- ## E.I. Criteria
- **Criteria elaborated with pilot group**
 - Global threats (e.g. Avian Influenza....)
 - Risk of imported cases (in EpiSouth countries)
 - Immigrants **main** countries of origin
 - Countries with **strong** EpiSouth expatriate community
 - Majors mass gathering (e.g. Pilgrimage, ...)
 - Vaccine preventable diseases (focus on migrant)
 - Anthro-p-zoonoses (focus on cross-border)
 - **Adoption by all countries pending**

What is Cross border

- **Chikungunya, Italie**
 - September 2007
 - 254 cases (78 confirmed)
- **1st episode of local transmission in Mediterranean**
- **West Nile, Israel :**
 - September 2007
 - 91 cases (46 confirmed)
 - 6 deaths (4 confirmed)
- **Increased viral circulation**




- ## Cross border issues
- Implementation of EpiSouth platform to share "national alerts" of common interest.
 - For EpiSouth countries
 - Fed with EpiSouth data
 - Source of information : **Only official**
 - From EpiSouth participating countries
 - WHO (HQ and regional offices)
 - EU, ECDC (EWRS and other networks)
 - Secure website
 - Flow of information : **Multilateral!**
 - Must be useful for all EpiSouth participating countries **on both sides** of the Mediterranean !

Process

- Interactive forum
- Pilot group to define rules & procedures
 - What should be in? (Content and format)
 - Who should communicate?
 - When?
 - How information will be disseminated
- Adoption of procedures by participating members



Example : WHO-Goarn secure web Site



EpiSouth **Is it necessary?**

- Similar systems already exist
 - WHO Mandate
 - ✦ WHO Epidemic Intelligence, response (Goarn)
 - ✦ Regional surveillance
 - ✦ New International Health Regulation (IHR 2005)
 - ECDC Mandate for EU
- Mediterranean countries belong to different groups
 - 3 WHO regions
 - EU and Non EU countries
- Mediterranean countries one epidemiological block

➤ Despite their respective qualities none of the existing system can address Mediterranean countries specific needs

EpiSouth **EpiSouth positioning**

- EpiSouth WP-6 tailored for Mediterranean countries
- Coherent with global strategy (e.g. new IHR)
- Will come in **complement** to existing systems and not in replacement
- Close collaboration & strong partnership
 - Countries
 - WHO
 - ECDC
 - EU networks




EpiSouth **Conclusion**

- EpiSouth is not “just another” system
 - It has an added value
 - Will contribute to quicker / more effective responses to international health threats in Mediterranean area.

