

One Health Scientific Conference

“Strengthening One Health implementation for the prevention and control of arbovirus infections in the Mediterranean and Sahel Regions”

26-27 November 2018

Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), Rome, Italy

Venue: Roma Scout Center



WORKING REPORT

This report aims mainly at summing up the main outcomes of the Conference and at underlining their main impact on the future strategies and activities of MLS Network.

The Scientific Conference aimed at strengthening One Health implementation for the prevention and control of arbovirus infections in the Mediterranean and Sahel Regions through the coordination and collaboration between human and veterinarian public health officers.

The Conference is an event of the **International One Health Day**, initiated in 2016 by the One Health Commission, the One Health Platform, and the One Health Initiative Team to engage as many individuals as possible from as many arenas as possible in One Health education and awareness events and to generate an inspiring array of projects worldwide.



The Conference has been organised by the Italian National Institute for Health (Istituto Superiore di Sanità) with the support of IZSAM - Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale".

Public health authorities from human and animal health sectors of 22 countries were invited (Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Egypt, FYR of Macedonia, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo¹, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Niger, Palestine, Senegal, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey) together with experts and representatives of EC and other Institutions.

Finally, 43 participants took part in the Conference from 17 non-EU countries plus France, Spain and Italy.

i) The Conference started with a framing session on **One Health strategies, added value and examples of benefits** of the integrated surveillance of the arbovirus infections (see for details the experts' presentations).

In this session, the **critical issues and stakeholders** to be considered were presented and discussed, in particular the followings were addressed:

- the changes in **climate and environment in the Mediterranean and Sahel regions** and their potential impact on entomological surveillance;
- the opportunities and governance of One Health and the added value of **One Health Surveillance** for early warning;
- the relevance of contextualising the One Health implementation in the **framework of institutional and networking initiatives** (e.g. WHO, OIE and FAO Tripartite Agreement; the Mediterranean Animal Health Network-REMESA).

ii) the MediLabSecure Strategic Document was presented to the participants and, in particular, its **recommendations to enhance One Health** for prevention and control of arbovirus infections were discussed:

- ❖ Assessing the National/Local Situations (with studies, sharing of lessons learned, collaborations etc.) and identifying priority areas for multi-sectoral efforts;
- ❖ Enhancing competences and awareness of intersectoral collaboration and facilitating data and information sharing (considering Risk assessments & Risk Communication);
- ❖ Facilitating operationalisation of One Health strategies (*Describe and assess integrated surveillance systems; Evaluate added value of integrated systems; Provide an evidence based "business case"; Promote intersectoral databases;*

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICI Advisory opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

*Promote harmonisation of surveillance systems and their interaction;
Networking and regional strategies in synergy with international strategies).*

The draft of the Strategic Document will be integrated with comments raised during the discussion and the revised version will be published as ISTISAN Document.

iii) The countries' representatives have presented ***national and cross-border strategies, lessons learned and main needs and gaps.***

The ***national epidemiological situation and surveillance systems*** of the following arboviruses were considered: **CCHFV; CHKV; DENV; RVFV; WNV; YFV; ZKV.**

The priority arboviruses in the MLS Region reported by the participants are **CCHFV, WNV, DENV and YFV.** RVFV, CHKV and ZKV should be also considered.

Here below, in Table 1, the **surveillance systems available** per geographic area and in Table 2 the **level of integration**, as per information provided by the participants' presentations.

Table 1. Surveillance systems available per geographic area

Is a surveillance system (SURV) in place for the human/animal/vector sectors of the PRIORITY ARBOVIRUSES?

(put an «X» if a surveillance system is in place in the corresponding sector)

If so, is there also an electronic database (eDB)? *(put an «X» if there is an electronic database for the corresponding disease and sector)*

Disease	HUMAN		ANIMALS		VECTORS	
	SURV	eDB	SURV	eDB	SURV	eDB
CCHFV	XXX	XX	X	X	XX	X
DENV	XXX	XX	X		XX	X
WNV	XXX	XXX	XX	XX	XX	X
YFV	XXX	XX			X	

X – Balcan/Black Sea; X – North Africa/ME; X - Sahel

Table 2. Level of integration

For the surveillance systems in place for the PRIORITY ARBOVIRUSES, what is the current level of integration?

(put an «X» if the corresponding level of integration of the surveillance system in place is present for the corresponding disease)

Disease	POLICY (e.g. availability of national laws; strategy/s etc.)	INSTITUTIONAL (e.g. availability of formal agreements between sectors; SoP; coordination body etc.)	DATA COLLECTION (e.g. availability of common SoP; integrated database etc.)	DATA ANALYSIS (e.g. availability of common SoP; integrated database; inter-sectoral risk assessments etc.)	DISSEMINATION (e.g. availability of integrated bulletins, newsletters, reports etc.)
CCHFV	XX	XX	X	X	X
DENV	XXX	XX	XX	XX	XX
WNV	XX	XX	XX	XX	XX
YFV	XX	X			

X – Balcan/Black Sea; X – North Africa/ME; X - Sahel

In Table 3 and Table 4 the main national gaps and needs provided by the participants' presentations are reported.

Table 3 - Main gaps

✓ <i>national strategy for prevention and control of arboviruses</i>
✓ <i>multi-disciplinary integrated surveillance plans</i>
✓ <i>working procedures between the institutions involved with standard operating procedures</i>
✓ <i>rapid communication between health authorities, local authorities and international agencies</i>
✓ <i>knowledge and awareness among medical and veterinary societies</i>
✓ <i>cross border collaboration</i>

Table 4 - Main needs

✓ <i>entomological surveillance & mapping for vectors (mosquitos & ticks)</i>
✓ <i>links to changes in the environment</i>
✓ <i>surveillance for early detection and response and event based surveillance with veterinary system</i>
✓ <i>Strengthen the network of laboratories especially at the local level</i>
✓ <i>shared database & regular data sharing between relevant sectors</i>
✓ <i>intersectoral risk assessment</i>
✓ <i>Develop georeferencing tools</i>

iv) The EU CBRN Centre of Excellence representatives presented the Initiative and discuss the support to the MediLabSecure.

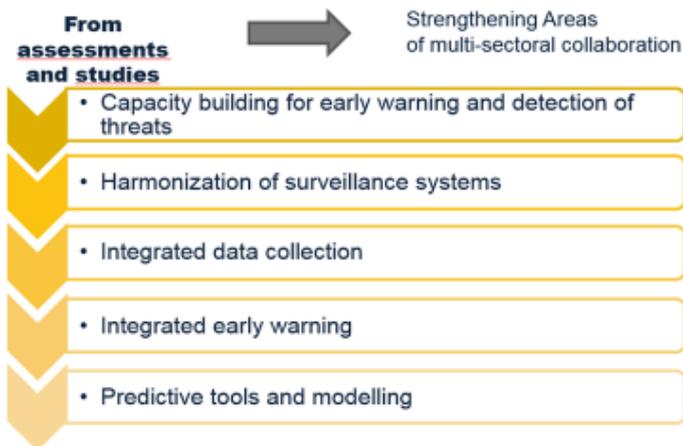
v) the way forward

On the basis of MLS Strategic Document conclusions and recommendations, main outcomes from the countries' presentations and points raised during the discussion, relevant aspects to be considered in the future developments of MLS activities are synthetized in Table 5 and Table 6.

Table 5
The way forward: involved sectors



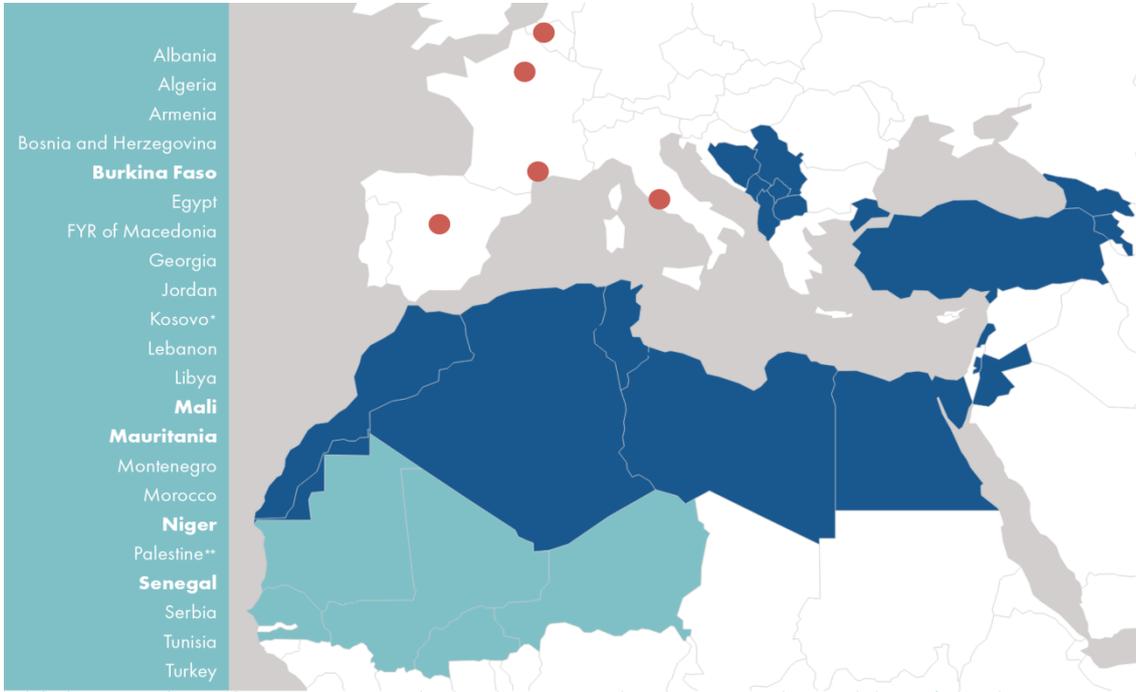
Table 6
The way forward: areas in need



Hand in hand with the Scientific Conference, the “Workshop on surveillance of emerging arboviruses in the Mediterranean region under a One Health approach” was organized in mid-December, and hosted by IZSAM - Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise “G. Caporale”, in Teramo (Italy).

The workshop represented an opportunity for the countries belonging to the MediLabSecure Network and those to join it, to undertake an in-depth gap analysis and training need assessment to support the implementation of integrated surveillance systems and to target more properly future training efforts.

The outcomes of the Conference and the Workshop will help in the definition of future strategies and actions to enhance the prevention and control of arbovirus infections in the Regions of MLS countries.



* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICI Advisory opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

**This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of EU Member States on the issue

- Participating countries during the first phase of the project (2014-2018)
- 5 implementing institutes
- New targeted countries