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July 14, 2014

Robert Garris

Managing Director, Bellagio Programs

The Rockfeller Foundation

420 Fifth Avenue

New York, NY 10018

**Official Letter of Support**

Dear Mr. Garris,

I’m writing on behalf of SECID to request to hold a South East Europe Regional Meeting of Selected Influenza Experts and Managers to discuss Management of Influenza Programs at the Rockfeller Foundation Bellagio Center in December 2014.

**Southeast European Center for Surveillance and Control of Infectious Diseases (SECID)** is an integral part of the Regional Development Center RCD-CDC which is already a separate unit of the department of Epidemiology and Control of Infectious Diseases at the Institute of Public Health in Tirana, Albania.

The mission of **SECID** is to develop and support any project in the public interest of an exclusively scientific nature and/or education that has practical interest in improving the control and surveillance of infectious diseases in the countries of *Southeastern Europe (SEE): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldova, Serbia, Albania, Romania, Kosovo\*, Israel and beyond* with all interested countries or networks to strengthen security in the region.

**SECID** is happy to support the annual regional meeting that is going to be organized within the framework of the five year Project “Surveillance and Response to Avian and pandemic Influenza by National Health Authorities of Countries of South East Europe”, granted by CDC. In this context, we are happy to support Ass Prof Silva Bino the General Coordinator of the Project, organizing this activity.

In this meeting will participate representatives, managers of SEE countries included in the project: *Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Romania,.* Our partners as WHO Euro representatives and regional experts, will be invited as well.

*This activity aims* to bring together all the countries involved in the project, so they can exchange ideas about the project implementation, provide the experience, achievements and challenges from their respective countries. It is very is very important for the successful future of the project and a good opportunity for all the country to discuss about the encountered problems and the ways to overcome them. Furthermore it will help to strengthen the collaboration between the SEE countries on control and surveillance of infectious diseases which is an integral part of SECID mission.

**Sincerely,**

**Ledia AGOLLI**

**Executive Director**

**SECID**