



Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training as an approach to addressing international health risks in the Mediterranean Region

30.01.2018

CORDS 2018 All Networks Conference
Bangkok, Thailand

Gordana Kuzmanovska

Vladimir Mikikj, Kristina Stavridis, Dragan Kochinski,
Largime Ballazhi, Golubinka Boshevka,
Shaban Memeti, Maja Kuzmanovska



Background

- **Mediterranean region** - different countries, common health problems!

Asian Migratory Bird Flyways

Central Asian-Indian Flyway
West Pacific Flyway
East Asian-Australian Flyway

2,091* MERS-CoV detections worldwide

34% cases fatal

83% of MERS-CoV detections acquired in Saudi Arabia

45% Saudi MERS cases have been in Ar. Riyad

52 years median age of MERS positive, worldwide

65% MERS-CoV detections from males

41% MERS-CoV detection in people with comorbidities

27 countries have hosted a case

13 countries with local transmission

5% of 312 HCW cases fatal

10% Saudi Arabian cases mention animals - mostly camels

0 MERS-CoV isolates or genomes from bats

Impact of Climate Change on Human Health

WINDING TEMPERATURES
Extreme Heat
Heat-related illness and death, cardiovascular failure

WETTER WEATHER
Air Pollution
Asthma, cardiovascular disease

WETTER WEATHER
Changes in Vector Ecology
Malaria, dengue, encephalitis, hantavirus, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, chikungunya, West Nile virus

WETTER WEATHER
Increasing Allergens
Respiratory allergies, asthma

WETTER WEATHER
Water and Food Supply Impacts
Malnutrition, diarrheal disease

WETTER WEATHER
Water Quality Impacts
Cholera, cryptosporidiosis, campylobacter, leptospirosis, harmful algal blooms

WETTER WEATHER
Environmental Degradation
Forced migration, civil conflict, mental health impacts

Greece bans blood donations in 12 districts over malaria - reports

21 August 2016 | Europe

Serbia: Man dies from West Nile virus

16 August 2015

AVIAN INFLUENZA A(H7N9) VIRUS

From Jan. 2014 to Nov. 2016
Avian Influenza
has been identified in **77 countries** and **13 strains** have been detected.

Avian Influenza has **killed both domestic and wild birds** and has led to the **destruction of hundreds of millions of domestic birds.**

Data from WAHIS

ZIKA VIRUS

For anyone who plans to travel to **Zika-affected areas**, avoiding mosquito bites is the best way to avoid exposure to the virus.

Zika virus is primarily spread through the **BITE OF INFECTED MOSQUITOS.**

MOTHER-TO-BABY - SEXUAL ACTIVITY
If a pregnant woman is bitten by an infected mosquito, the infection can cross the placenta, infecting the fetus.

TRANSMISSION
The virus can also be transmitted through blood transfusion or laboratory exposure.

H5N8 SITUATION UPDATE



Background (2)

- **MediPIET – Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training - 2014-2017**

FUNDED BY
THE EUROPEAN
UNION



CBRN
**Centres
of Excellence**
An initiative of the European Union

PROJECT
IMPLEMENTED
BY:



FIIAPP
COOPERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA



Instituto de Salud Carlos III

SCIENTIFIC
LEADERSHIP
OF:





Background (3)

- **MediPIET family – 23 countries**



Partner countries
Albania, Algeria, Armenia,
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Kosovo*,
Lebanon, Libya, the former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro,
Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Tunisia, and Ukraine.

EU countries
Spain, France and Greece

Observer countries
Turkey and Israel

[1] This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence



Background (4)

MediPIET aim:

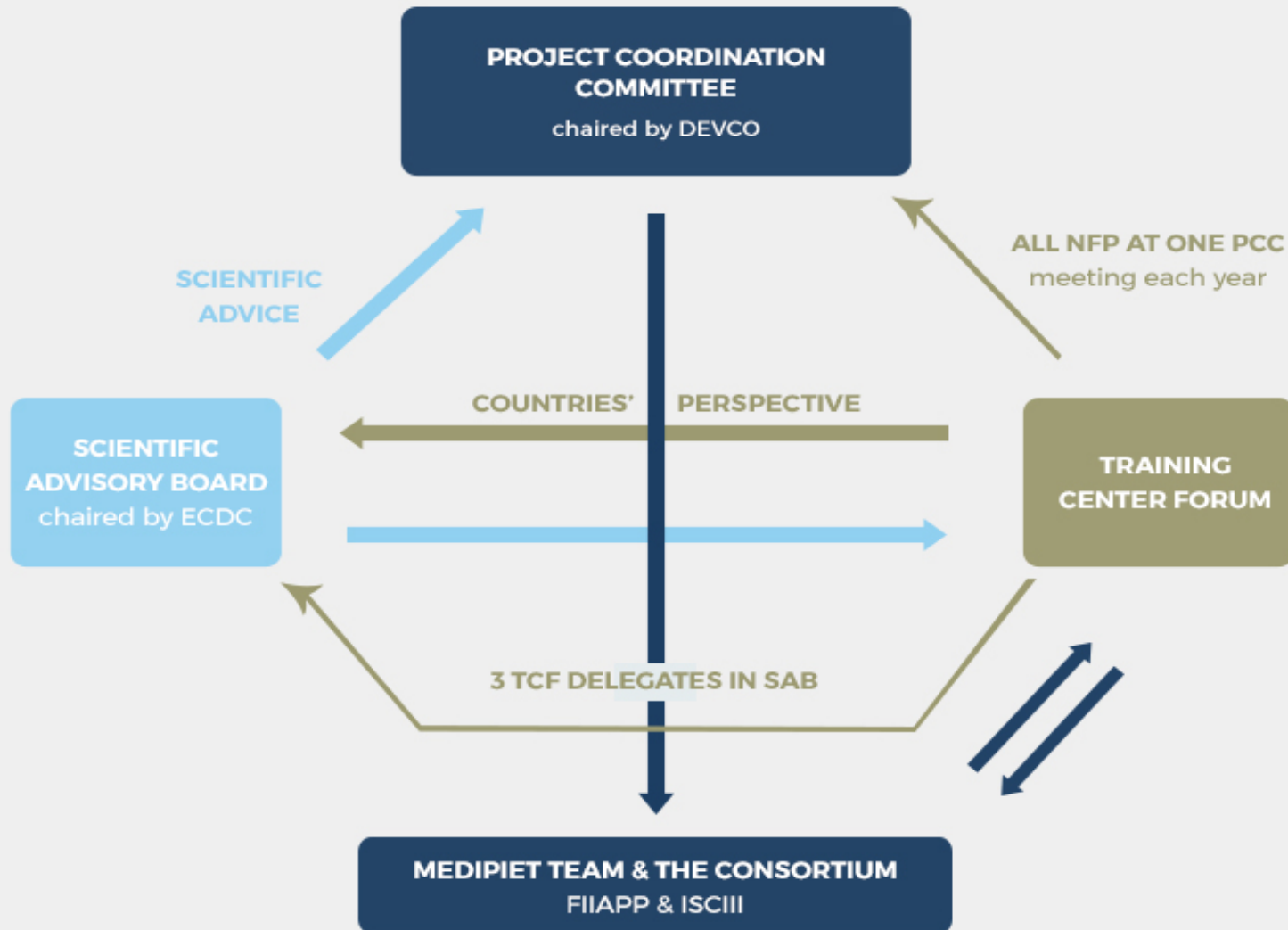
- Consolidate a competent workforce
 - with the necessary competence
 - essential public health functions

Specific goals:

- Training national trainers and supervisors.
- Training a regional cadre of field epidemiologists competent in intervention epidemiology.
- Disseminating experience, knowledge and skills.
- Fostering country commitment/ownership and regional networking.
- Establishing the basis of a long-term regional training programme.



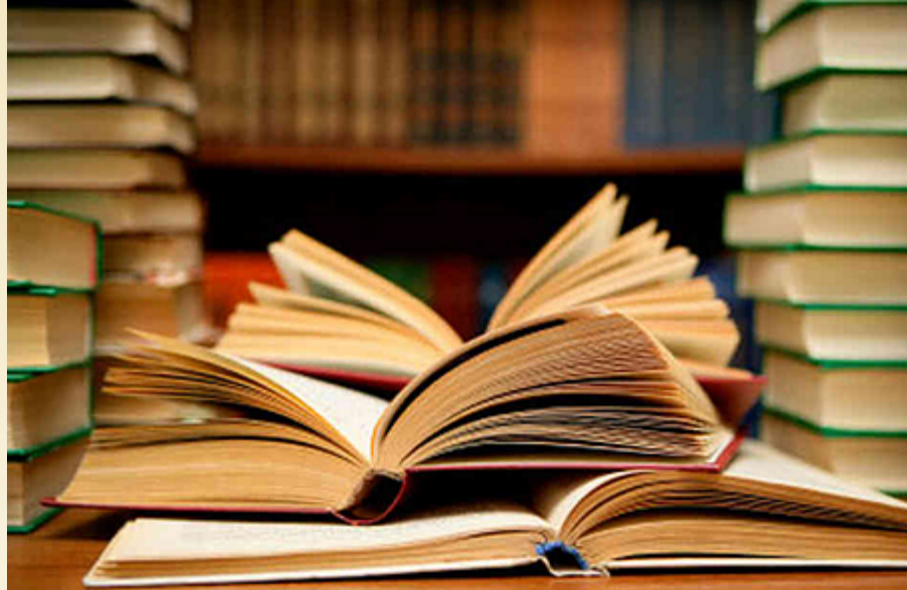
MediPIET Programme managing





Methods

- A review of the results of the three-years implementation of the MediPIET program





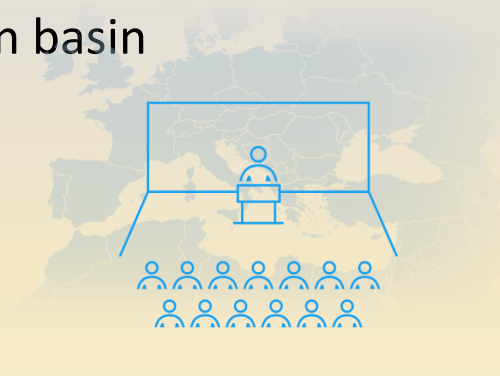
Methods

MediPIET 2-year 'learning-by-doing' programme

- course trains individuals, through practical work
- supports sustainable training infrastructures, and
- enhance the overall capacities in the Mediterranean basin

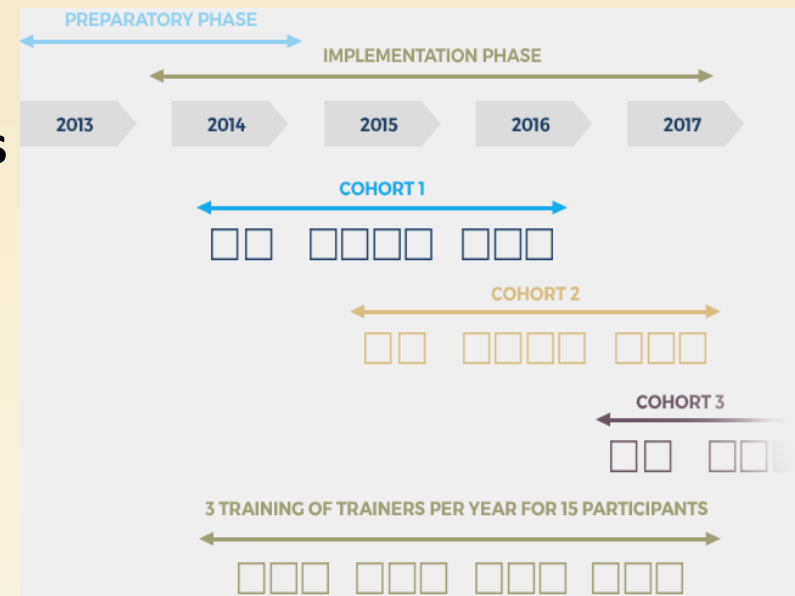
MediPIET Curriculum

- 2-years competency-based “on job fellowship training”
 - ✓ 10 weeks of didactic modules,
 - ✓ 92 weeks of in-country projects and
 - ✓ 4 weeks of International Assignments (IA)



Modules for fellows/external participants

- ❖ Introductory course
- ❖ Review modules (2),
- ❖ Diseases-oriented modules (2)
- ❖ Methods-oriented modules (2)
- ❖ Humanitarian crisis & Mass gathering
- ❖ CBRN Module





Results

Trainings of trainers (ToT) Modules (6)

- Public health professionals in position to become trainers/facilitators
- Building a national cadre of competent professionals and implement cascade trainings

18 Modules in three years

- 30-40 participants – fellows/exter.participants
- 10 experts (observers, educators, supervisors, scientific coordinators)
- In total more than 700 participants

Started process of:

- Establishment of sustainable training infrastructures
- Regional network of trainers and supervisors
- Provision of training materials in countries
- “Cascade trainings”





Results (2)

Training sites/centers establishment

- 24 candidates covered in both Cohorts as fellows,
- under the supervision of supervisors (x2), and
- scientific coordinators (4).



- **The first Cohort (2014-2016)**

- completed course and graduated in time of the Second Annual Scientific Conference (ASC) in November 2016.

- **The second Cohort (2015-2017)**

- finished in November 2017, at the Third ASC Conference



Annual Scientific Conferences - ASC

2015 MEDIPIET ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
Applying Public Health Science to the Field
18 & 19 NOVEMBER 2015
SKOPJE
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

More than 70 abstracts,
more than 20 countries-
participants

2016 MEDIPIET ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH ACROSS BORDERS
6, 7 & 8 DECEMBER 2016
MARRAKESH MOROCCO

More than 80 abstracts,
more than 20 countries-
participants

EMPHNET - MediPIET Joint Conference Day: success of a mutual collaboration!

2017 MEDIPIET ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
Regional contributions and synergies for
Global Health Security
28th - 30th November 2017
Brussels, Belgium

190 participants,
180 received abstracts,
130 selected,
nearly 30 participating
countries



Conclusions

MediPIET Project (2014-2017):

- Strengthened the country's capacities
- Created sustainable network of experts and institutions
- Established a comprehensive training infrastructure



Extension of a two years:

- chance to the member states/partners
 - more secure and reliable funding
 - more appropriate way of building sustainability





Recommendations

In the future, MediPIET:

- Should emphasize the need of deepening of collaboration with other international networks/ organizations/ institutions
- Find satisfactory funds to ensure sustainability of the project and build the future for MediPIET.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



gordana.kuzmanovska@gmail.com