



# **SIMULATION EXERCISE FOR TESTING OF THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATIONS (2005) AT THE POINT OF ENTRY: AIRPORT ALEXANDER THE GREAT – SKOPJE**

## **UNDER SCENARIO FOR “EBOLA” SUSPECTED CASE**

### **Purpose and Scope**

The need for testing the healthcare system for preparedness and response to emergencies through implementation of simulation exercises on regional and local level has emanated from the importance of preventing potential health risks of natural and anthropogenic origin as well as from the imperative to have a healthcare system capable and prepared to respond to challenges arising from emergencies and catastrophes in a timely and appropriate manner.

The World Health Organization, within its continuous cooperation with the Ministry of Health of MKD, regularly implements activities towards capacity building of the health system for emergency response. This year, under the Biennial Collaborative Agreement 2014/2015 between the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health of MKD and within the activities for preparedness and response to emergencies and implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), a simulation exercise will be organized so to test the protocols of IHR (2005) regarding biological risks at the entry point airport Alexander the Great.

The World Health Organization (WHO) continuously supports the Ministry of Health of MKD in the implementation of IHR (2005). The IHR implementation process was subject to country progress analysis in 2013. During 2014 the WHO has supported the preparation of protocols for the implementation of IHR (2005) specifically referring to biological, chemical and ionizing risks, as well as to entry points.

In this regard, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the country, and with support from the World Health Organization, organizes the abovementioned simulation exercise for testing of protocols on biological risks at a given entry point.

The exercise will be performed during the Ministerial Conference of the South-eastern Europe Health Network that will be held in Skopje on November 18, 2014.

The exercise implementation is made possible through multisectoral cooperation and participation of the key stakeholders: the Ministry of Health, the Institute for Public Health, the University Clinic for Infectious Diseases and Febrile Conditions, the

Emergency Care Services, the Crisis Management Center and the Red Cross of MKD.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of the exercise is to test the adequate and coordinated response not only by the healthcare institutions but also by other institutions within their competences for early intervention, action and response under public health URGENT circumstances of international importance caused by biological agent.

Testing of the system's preparedness for handling and response to potential occurrence of suspected case of Ebola.

Evaluation and assessment of the system's preparedness for handling potential occurrence of biological risks and threats, and for identification of proposed measures so to improve the system's preparedness and response.

### **Expected outcomes**

- Testing of the Protocol for Handling and Reporting at the entry point Alexander the Great Airport – Skopje in case of public health emergency or URGENT circumstances of international significance caused by biological agent;
- Testing of the coordination among services competent to act in such cases (MoH, IPH, CMC, Emergency Care Services, MIA, airport Alexander the Great, SSHI, Clinic for infectious diseases and febrile conditions);
- Lessons learned and recommendations to modify/amend the Protocol for Handling and Reporting at the entry point Alexander the Great Airport – Skopje in case of public health emergency or URGENT circumstances of international significance caused by biological agent;
- Lessons learned for handling and response to the potential occurrence of a suspected case of Ebola.
- Recommendations to improve the capacities of the above-mentioned institutions and their mutual coordination.