

**THE REGIONAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
CENTER ON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES
SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL IN SOUTH-
EASTERN EUROPE**

PROGRESS REPORT

January – June 2012

TIRANA, July 2012

1. Establishment of RHDC CDC and its organizational structure

The Institute of Public Health of Albania (ALB) is hosting the Regional Health Development Centre on Communicable Diseases Control and Surveillance (established in November 2012) and IHR implementation in South-Eastern Europe within its Department of Infectious Diseases Control and Surveillance.

The Centre has a group of people working part time for it: Director of the Center who also works as the head of Department, and three professional epidemiologist and Influenza laboratory experts who are working part time for the Centre and are part of the Department where the Centre is located. A program assistant has been assigned and will work full time for the Centre in August 2012. and a program manager will start in September to work full time for the Centre.

The whole staff is funded by ALB MoH as part of IPH budget.

To ensure the administration in a multi country setting and to ensure the good governance the Center will have also:

- Executive board (participation from each member institution and regional excellence centres of countries of SEE and main partners)
- Advisory board: Selected members from participating countries, academies, partners, donors, WHO, ECDC, Council of Europe, OIE, FAO etc.
- Excellence Centres: Centres that will be established or strengthened according to a selected regional priority in the field of CDCS.

Also to ensure fund raising and equal distribution of funds and facilitate activities a Foundation for the CDCS in SEE will be established that will operate through:

- Executive board (EB), Advisory board (AB), and Excellence Centres, mentioned above as well as:
- Project managers related to different projects (selected accordingly among participating countries)
- Centres that will be established or strengthened according to a selected regional priority in the field of CDCS.

A set of documents will be prepared during 2012 such as:

- By laws of operating the centre and the foundation
- Statute of the Centre and the foundation
- Strategic plan for 5 years
- Establishment of EB and AB
- Action plan for 5 years
- Selection through a well established procedure of new country focal points.

2 . Activities of RHDCNCD (January – July 2012)

- Meeting of CDCS SEE representatives on new development and the future of CDCS SEE Network in Copenhagen 17-18 April 2012 with participation of WHO, Merieux Foundation and Asian Pacific and Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Network. New developments and plans for the future were discussed in this meeting. The report of the meeting will be distributed by the end of July.
- Establishment of SEE CDCS as new structure in IPH in May 2012
- Meeting on Information Immunization Systems in SEE countries organized jointly with WHO, PATH and IPH 3-4 May 2012.
- Participation in Inter-country Meeting on Strengthening of Surveillance and Response Capacities on IHR 2005. Beirut, Lebanon 26-28 March, 2012 – Representative of Bulgaria presented SEEHN and network experience on such issue.
- CDCS SEE is part of Connecting Health Networks for Diseases Surveillance (CORDS), a newly established international organization and its director and some members are part of its Executive Board together with members of other similar networks in the world.
- Support for participation of SEE Influenza experts in Annual influenza surveillance meeting 30 May – 1 June, Warsaw, Poland.
- A draft of procedures to select CDCSFP will be distributed by the end of July.

3 . Plans for the future (July 2012 – May 2013)

3.1. Coordination

- Preparation of by laws – September 2012
- Establishment of EB and AB and selection of new CDCSFP – October 2012
- Preparation of 5 years Strategic Plan and Action Plan – November 2012
- Establishment of Foundation on CDCS SEE November 2012
- Use of social networks to promote CDC SEE and establishment of its new website November 2012
- Meeting of SEE CDC FP and EB and AB, Tirana, December 2012 to launch the strategic plan and foundation.

- Mapping of resources and capacities in SEE, CDCS and IHR – Sarajevo, B&H, October 2012

3. 2. Alert and response

- Enhancing the use of the WHO Event Management System (EMS) and risk assessment – Training

3. 3. Pandemic preparedness

- Assist SEE countries with the revision of influenza pandemic plans and with IHR implementation
- Inter-country workshop to discuss the outcome of previous activity and next steps

3. 4. Strengthening One Health Initiative

- Meeting to strengthen one health initiative – Zagreb, Croatia, November 2012
- Organization of national working groups and country and cross border meetings