



# Balkan & Black Sea Regional Meeting



May 8-11th, 2023

Petrovac, Montenegro



## THE MEDILABSECURE 3 PROJECT

Vanessa Lagal  
Coordination team - Institut Pasteur

Funded by the European Union





# Outline

**01**

**General presentation of the project**

**02**

**Phase II achievements**

**03**

**Phase III activities**

**04**

**Conclusion**



# Rational



**Environmental modifications & Movement Globalisation**



**Offer new opportunities for the emergence and spread of diseases**

**Growing concerns regarding vector-borne zoonoses whose geographical distribution and incidence are increasing**



**Strengthen coordinated and harmonized surveillance and preparedness to vector-borne zoonoses**



# Funding



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

## The European Union's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear risk mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (EU CBRN CoE)

Strengthening capabilities to detect, handle, contain and manage CBRN materials and agents

Enhancing regional and international multi-agency cooperation

Strengthening the legal framework in Partner Countries of the EU



**Strengthen Health Security**





# Overall objective

Institutional Networking

Capacity building

Advocacy for the adoption of a One Health (OH) approach



**Preventing vector-borne diseases** around the Mediterranean, Sahel and Black Sea regions by reinforcing an international network of laboratories and public health institutions



# European consortium



**France**



**Human Virology**



**Spain**



**Animal Virology**



**France**



**Medical Entomology**



**Italy**



**Veterinary Services**



**Italy**





**Public Health**




**Belgium**



**Spatial Modelling & Disease Management**

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Microbiologist



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# European consortium



**France**



**Human Virology**



**Spain**



**Animal Virology**



**France**



**Medical Entomology**



**Italy**



**Veterinary Services**



**Italy**



**Public Health**



**Belgium**



**Spatial Modelling & Disease Management**



Coordination Team



Magali Lago  
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Vanessa Lagal  
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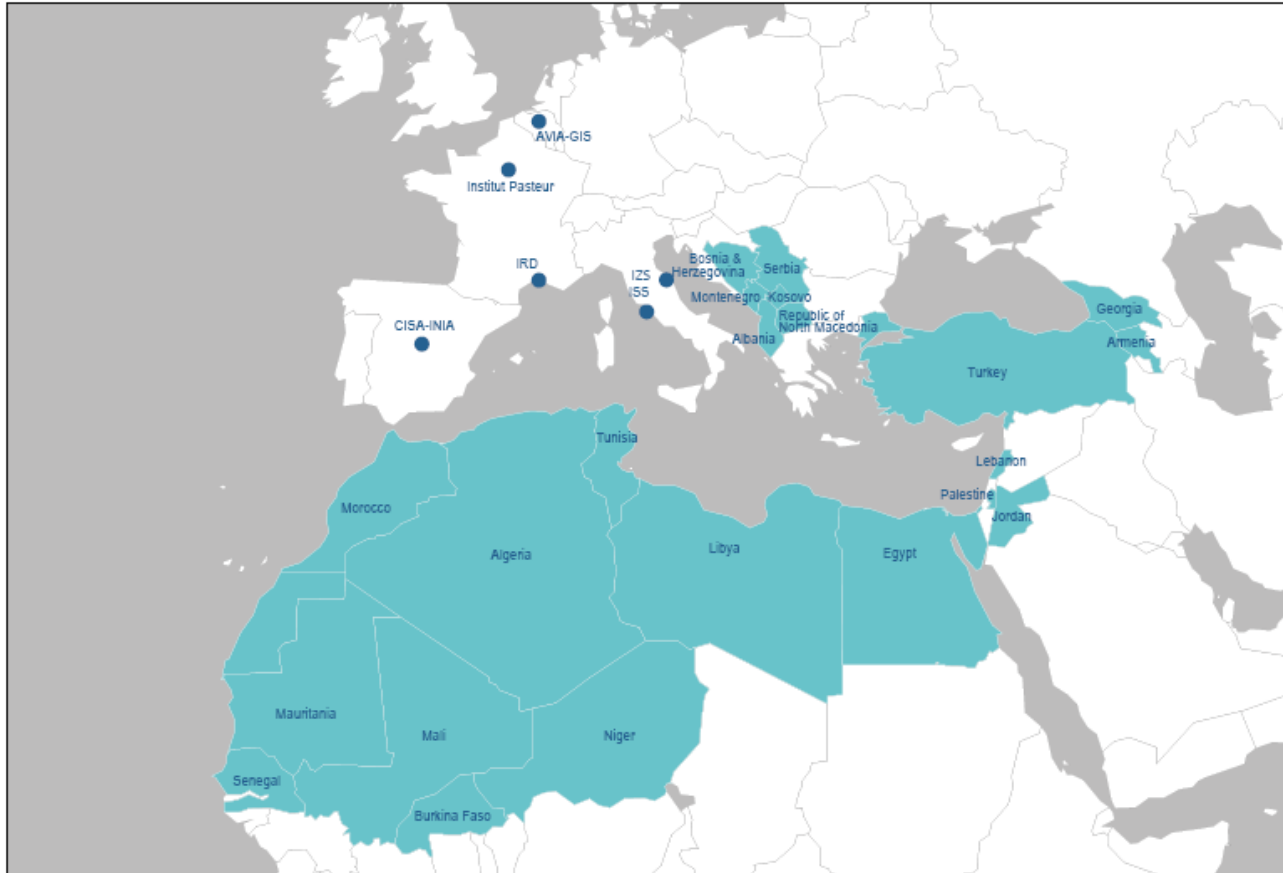


Sarah Michel-Anfray  
Communication Assistant








# One Health Network

**22 non-EU countries from Balkan, Black Sea, Middle East, North Africa and Sahel regions**



→ **5** sectors/country

-  Human virology
-  Animal virology
-  Medical entomology

-  Public Health
-  Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO)

→ **67** laboratories

→ **44** Public Health and Veterinary Institutions

→ Gathering **170** multidisciplinary experts





# Balkan & Black Sea Region



## Bosnia & Herzegovina

- ✓ Ministry of Civil Affairs
- ✓ Public Health Institute of the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina
- ✓ Public Health Institute of Republic of Srpska
- ✓ Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Relations Veterinary Office
- ✓ PI Veterinary Institute of the Republic of Srpska "Dr. Vaso Butozan" Banja Luka
- ✓ University Clinical Center
- ✓ Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo



## Serbia

- ✓ Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera Torlak
- ✓ Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Serbia
- ✓ Faculty of Agriculture, University of Novi Sad
- ✓ Institute of PH of Serbia  
"Dr. Milan Jovanovic Batut"
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture,  
Forestry and Water Management



## Montenegro

- ✓ Institute of Public Health
- ✓ Diagnostic Veterinary Laboratory
- ✓ Biotechnical Faculty
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development



# Balkan & Black Sea Region



## Kosovo

- ✓ National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo
- ✓ University of Prishtina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
- ✓ Kosovo Food and Veterinary Agency



## Republic of North Macedonia

- ✓ Institute of Public Health
- ✓ University Ss. Cyril & Methodius, Skopje  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine – Skopje
- ✓ Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy



## Albania

- ✓ Institute of Public Health
- ✓ Food Safety and Veterinary Institute



# Balkan & Black Sea Region



## Turkey

- ✓ Public Health Institute of Turkey
- ✓ Ankara University, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- ✓ Hacettepe University



## Georgia

- ✓ National Center for Disease Control and Public Health
- ✓ Laboratory of Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ National Food Agency



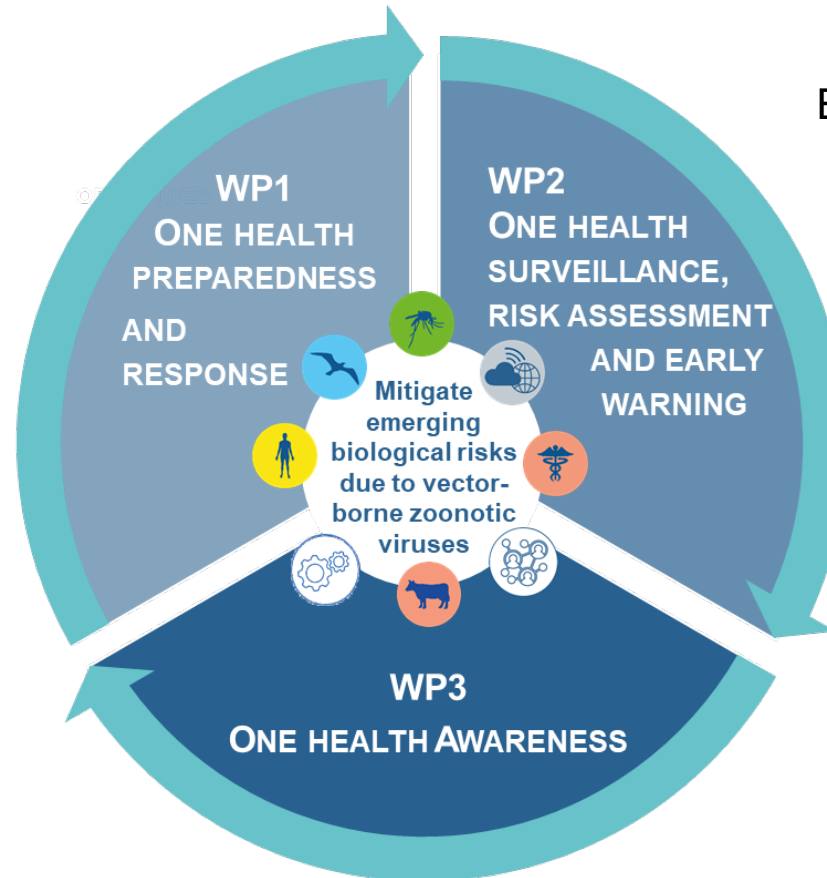
## Armenia

- ✓ National Center for Disease Control
- ✓ Republican Veterinary, Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Center for laboratory services (SNCO)
- ✓ Veterinary Inspectorate of the State Service for Food Society



# Organisational chart

Strengthen and harmonize preparedness and response capacities to health threats related mainly to vector-borne zoonotic viruses and their vectors in the target regions



Enhance awareness of the added-value of integrated surveillance, risk assessment and early warning

Promote institutional adaptation to the integrated management of zoonotic diseases and stimulate the sustainability of the One Health workforce



# Actions



## CAPACITY BUILDING



### Trainings

- Tailored/Tot approach
- Combine theoretical, hands-on and field activities include biosafety and good laboratory practices
- Molecular and serological diagnostics of arboviral infections, sequencing, bio-informatics analyses, vector identification, vector monitoring and control, modelling, risk assessment



### External Quality Assesments (EQA)



### Technical Support for preparedness

Sharing of protocol, supply of reagents, genomic support , on-site experts visit and/or internship



### Sustainable Tools

Interactive key for vector identification (mosquitoes, phlebotomines); mosquito factsheets, production of harmonized SOPs



# Actions



## CAPACITY BUILDING



Production of recommendations to improve the implementation of One Health in surveillance systems

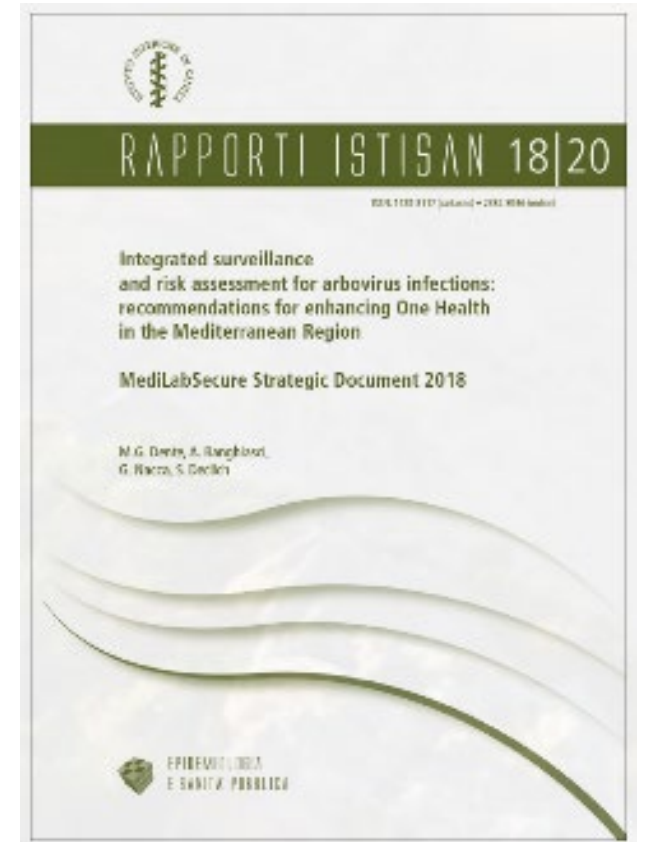
### Strategic document

#### Mean

Situational analysis study in 3 pilot countries  
Assessment of intersectoral surveillance systems for vector-borne diseases  
Gather stakeholders from the different sectors

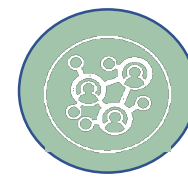
#### Goal

Improve the integration of the different surveillance systems and sharing of information between them





# Actions



## INSTITUTIONAL AND EXPERTS NETWORKING

### Networking meetings

- Regional and global scale
- Institutional and experts Networking: Foster interaction and collaborations between beneficiaries

### Multisectoral activities

- Multisectoral risk assessment exercise
- Table top exercises : based on case study investigation



**Regional Meeting Sahel & Maghreb Regions  
(Dakar Jan. 2020)**



**Regional Meeting Middle East (Jordan May 2022)**



# MLS2 Achievements

## MediLabSecure in numbers

### OBJECTIVES

To strengthen preparedness and response capacities to vector borne threats

To enhance awareness on integrated surveillance, risk assessment and early warning for vector borne threats prevention and control



### PROMOTION

Scientific publications **13**

Newsletters **45**

Website **1**

### NETWORKING

Global Network meeting **2** **159** Participants

Regional meetings **3** **102** Participants

### ONE HEALTH NETWORK

**111**

National laboratories and public health institutions

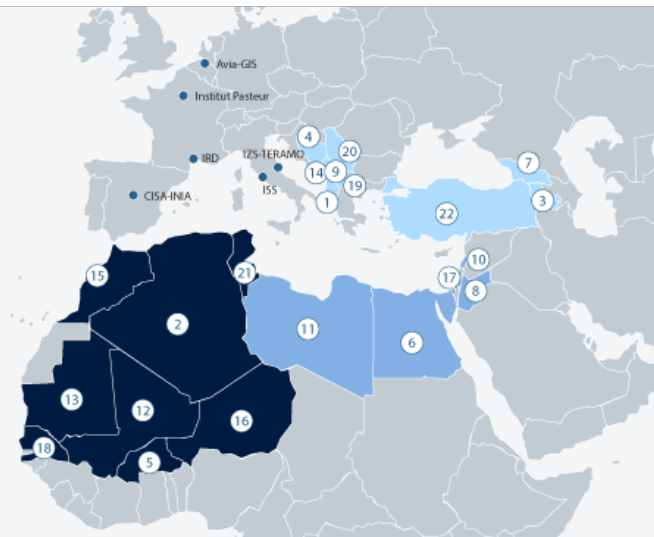
**5**

Sectors per country

**3**

Regions

● Implementing Partners



#### BALKAN & BLACK SEA

- 1 Albania
- 3 Armenia
- 4 Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 7 Georgia
- 9 Kosovo
- 14 Montenegro
- 19 Republic of North Macedonia
- 20 Serbia
- 22 Turkey

#### MIDDLE EAST

- 6 Egypt
- 8 Jordan
- 10 Lebanon
- 11 Libya
- 17 Palestine

#### SAHEL & MAGHREB

- 2 Algeria
- 5 Burkina Faso
- 12 Mali
- 13 Mauritania
- 15 Morocco
- 16 Niger
- 18 Senegal
- 21 Tunisia

### OUTBREAK RESPONSE

Monkeypox, Sindbis virus, CO#V and RVFV

Technical assistance / SOP & material sharing

Protective measures for healthcare workers

COVID-19

Standard Operating Procedures

Training activities

**4**

**6**

External Quality Assessment (EQA)

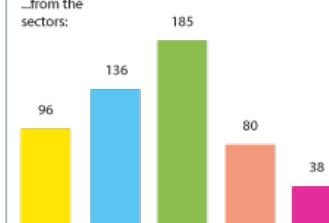
**1** **17** Beneficiary Laboratories

### PREPAREDNESS

Training activities **26**

Trained participants... **535**

...from the sectors:



**4** External Quality Assessments (EQAs) & **25** Beneficiary Laboratories of the EQAs



### SUSTAINABLE TOOLS

5 Vector Identification tools



15 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)



### AWARENESS & ADVOCACY

Policy recommendation **1**

Multisectoral activities **4** **136** Participants





# MLS3 upcoming activities

## WP1 One Health laboratory preparedness and response capacities

### Workshops on Metagenomics NGS technologies and data analysis

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 at Institut Pasteur (Paris)

### EQA on NGS data analysis

Summer 2023

### EQA on identified priority human arbovirus

Fall 2023

### Biological Outbreak Investigation Training



Improve field BSL-3 diagnostic capacities  
*EUWAM-LAB*  
June 2024



### Coordinated cross-border outbreak response exercise

Spring 2024



# MLS3 upcoming activities

## WP1 One Health laboratory preparedness and response capacities

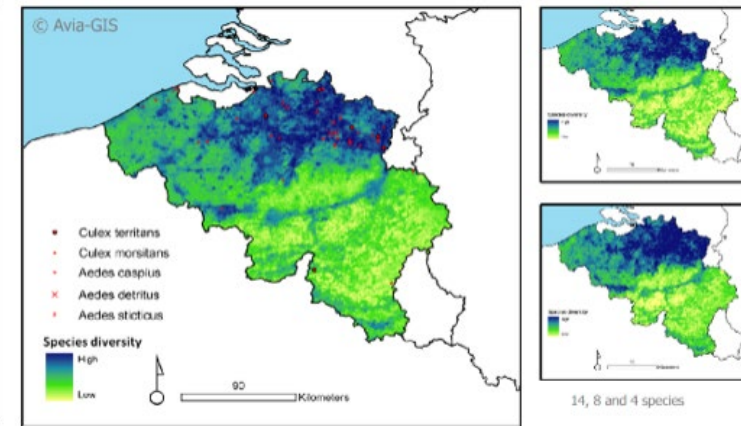
### Workshop on vector distribution modelling in urban areas

- 1/ Mapping tool principle course (online)
- 2/ Vector field data collection
- 3/ Modelling (online, 6 weeks)
- 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> September 2023



### GIS training

Online course program  
Strengthen spatial modelling capacities





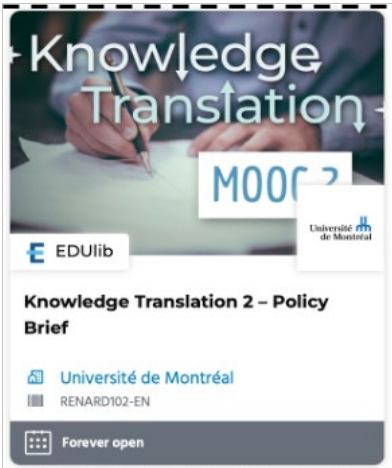
# MLS3 upcoming activities

## WP2 One Health integrated approach for surveillance, risk assessment and early warning



### Policy briefs training

- MOOCs to acquire principles on policy June 2023
- 3 days workshop to write policy brief October 2023
- Finalisation of policy briefs (online) December 2023



*Call is still opened*  
**ALL NETWORK**  
**Closure May 19th**

### Situational analysis study in pilot countries

**Armenia**  
**Montenegro**



# MLS3 upcoming activities

## WP3: One Health awareness



**Strategic document on integrated surveillance and early warning for arbovirus including sectoral technical guidelines**

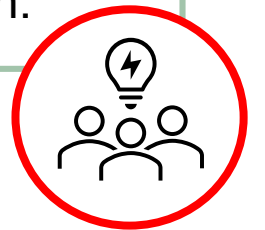
Spring 2024

### **Objective**

Produce recommendations and guidance for OH operationalization

### **Twinning program**

Fellowships for beneficiaries to be trained by network colleagues on public health topic of interest. **ToT approach.** Selection by call of application.



**YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS EXPECTED**



# MLS3 upcoming activities

## WP3: One Health awareness

**Produce a roadmap for the promotion of inclusion of local veterinary services into the MediLabSecure experts' network through fields visits and published needs assessments' review**



# MLS3 upcoming activities

## WP3: One Health awareness

### Networking meetings



One Health implementation sharing experience session, multisectoral exercise, trainings, keynote

### Final Meeting Spring 2024



Dual use and gain of function research  
Exercise on 'From scientific evidence to policy'  
Coordinated outbreak exercise



# Communication



Quarterly Newsletter

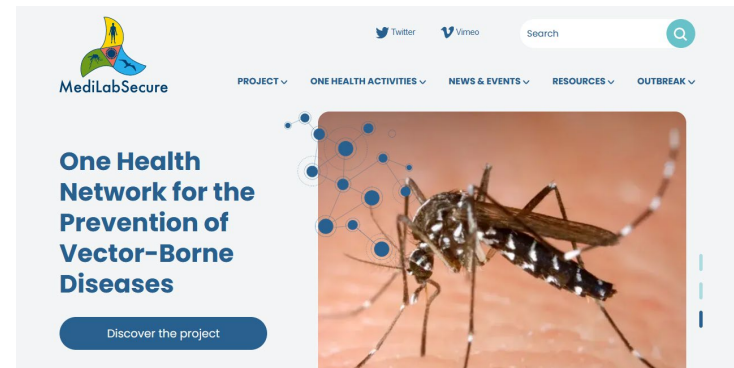


Agenda of the Month  
newsletter



Website

**NEW** MediLabSecure website,  
visit at <https://www.medilabsecure.com>



Twitter



@ Coordination team : [medilabsecure@pasteur.fr](mailto:medilabsecure@pasteur.fr)



# Conclusion

Well established One Health network in 22 non-EU neighboring countries

Reinforce long lasting connections and foster beneficiaries empowering to ensure project sustainability

Assess needs and opportunities in order to elaborate the project's future





THANK YOU!