

Global Emergency Trainings and Support for Preparedness and Response to Disease Outbreaks

GETPrepaReD

Strengthening National Epidemiological Capacities of Partner Countries in Outbreak and Crisis Management

Duration

2016–2021

Budget/year

approx. 340,000 EUR

Partner countries

Albania

Kosovo

Montenegro

North Macedonia

Challenges addressed by the project

The partner countries of this project are EU candidate countries, which are required to make numerous adjustments in the public health sector in the context of their planned accession to the EU and the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005).

Objectives

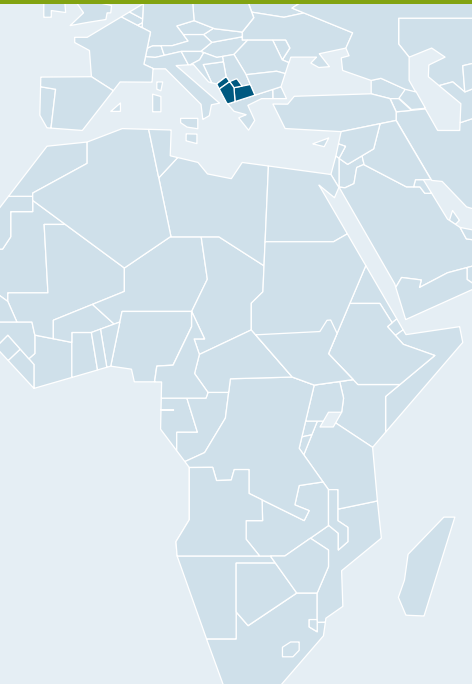
The aim of GETPrepaReD is to prevent infectious disease outbreaks in partner countries (prevention) and to enable targeted control measures through good preparation (surveillance and preparedness) and a rapid and competent epidemiological response, thus limiting the spread of infectious diseases (response). This strengthening of national capacities is also relevant for the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005).

Overview of activities

GETPrepaReD supports four partner countries of the Balkan region in preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks. This includes the strengthening of infectious disease surveillance systems, the early detection of outbreaks, the development of public health contingency plans, practice-oriented training courses in infectious disease epidemiology, the rapid establishment of public health emergency operations centres for communication and coordination during health crises, the secondment of international experts, retrospective evaluations of event management and the design and implementation of realistic simulation exercises. The activities are developed in cooperation with the partners, specific to the respective country context, integrated into concepts and strategies of the Federal Government and, where appropriate, carried out in close coordination with other partners and actors (ECDC, WHO, EC).

Transnational project activities

- » Planning and implementation of the first transnational workshop of the GETPrepaReD project with participants from the four partner countries in Budva, Montenegro (June 2019)



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



Montenegro: First transnational, regional
GETPrepaReD workshop, June 2019 (Photo ©Halm)



Montenegro: Workshop on PPE, disinfection
and decontamination at Podgorica International
Airport, November 2018 (Photo ©Reich)



Kosovo: Training for COVID-19 contact tracing in
Prizren, September 2020 (Photo ©Halm)

- » Membership in the Advisory Board of a transnational project to improve early detection and response to national and cross-border infectious disease events and risks within the Southeast European region by digitising different Surveillance systems (“Time to Detect – Time to Respond” First meeting in Tirana, Albania: April 2017; Second meeting in Belgrade, Serbia: December 2017)
- » Facilitation in table top simulation exercises by the South East European Center of Infectious Disease Surveillance and Control (SECID) and in selected ECDC and WHO workshops for EU enlargement countries

Activities in partner countries

- » Support with the implementation of EU case definitions and in the development of electronic reporting systems
- » Development of and trainings on guidelines for the investigation and control of infectious disease outbreaks
- » Event-based surveillance with development of early warning and risk assessment systems and guidelines
- » Development of public health contingency plans as well as procedures for public health emergency operations centres and crisis management activities
- » Establishment of regular epidemiological teleconferences
- » Simulation exercises for infectious disease events, e.g. at airports
- » Training on descriptive epidemiology and adequate use of personal protective equipment
- » Realisation of surveys on the subject of measles
- » Exchange of experiences and support missions on COVID-19

Further activities

- » Deployment of RKI staff on GOARN (Global outbreak alert and response network) missions, e.g. to Bangladesh in April/May 2018 and to Madagascar in October/November 2017
- » Support with the implementation of Joint External Evaluations (JEE), part of the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), by providing Subject Matter Experts (in support of WHO, 2016–2019)
- » Support the development of a field tool for data collection, data management, transmission chain visualization, contact person tracking and reporting (October and November 2016, February 2019, in support of WHO-GOARN)

Partner institutions

National Institutes of Public Health (NIPH) of Albania¹, Kosovo², Montenegro³ and North Macedonia⁴

Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute, Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Unit 38 | Unit for Crisis Management, Outbreak Investigation and Training
Programmes

Ariane Halm, Nadine Zeitlmann, Delphine Perriat halma@rki.de
www.rki.de/en

1 Collaboration since May 2016
2 Collaboration since September 2017
3 Collaboration since October 2016
4 Collaboration since March 2017