Dear Reader,

Since the beginning of its new project in 2008 the European Network for Diagnostics of ‘Imported’ Viral Diseases (ENIVD) is part of the “ECDC Outbreak Assistance Laboratory Network”.

With this newsletter we would like to keep you informed at short intervals on the latest developments and achievements of the “ENIVD Collaborative Laboratory Response Network (ENIVD-CLRN)” as part of the ENIVD expertise platform.

The ENIVD-CLRN Team wish you all a very sunny and Happy Easter

Items of this ENIVD-CLRN newsletter issue:

- Get an insight in our work packages: WP 2 “Epidemic intelligence activities”
- A visit at the WP 3 coordinating centre
- 1st Network meeting under the new contract
- New e-mail addresses activated
- Updates concerning our Outbreak Assisting Laboratories
- EPIET-introductory course 2009
- Website-News

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Get an insight in our work packages: WP 2 “Epidemic intelligence activities”

In our first newsletter we gave only a brief overview about our new project. From now on we will give you more information in detail about our single activities. In this issue we start with a presentation of WP 2 “Epidemic intelligence activities” by our responsible partners Antonio Tenorio and Leticia Franco from the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Majadahonda (Madrid):

“The aim of this presentation is to disseminate through the network our exciting activities during the first months of the tender. Such as it is reflected in the contract, the main objectives of this work package consist in the active participation of our network in the epidemic intelligence activities of the ECDC (support outbreak and cluster detection, verification and investigation), and in advice and guidance for risk assessment and risk communication from the virologist’s perspective. These general objectives are structured in four interdependent sub-tasks: (1) the preparation of a weekly ‘threat’ report about new suspected cases/clusters/outbreaks of diseases covered by this tender detected through the network, (2) the participation in ECDC’s weekly epidemic intelligence meetings, maintained every Thursday by videoconference, (3) the ad hoc advice/guidance for risk assessment and risk communication, and (4) the participation in the Epidemic Intelligence System (EPIIS), a platform for technical risk assessment and risk communication that will be linked to the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS).

The beginning of our work was not so relaxing, and several discussions were maintained within the network and between us and the ECDC about what viruses should be or not considered by the tender, and what kind of events should be reported every week. As expected, those viruses covered by other existing networks were excluded from the original list (rabies, polioviruses and other enteroviruses, hepatitis viruses, and noroviruses). Regarding the communicable events, we agreed in consider only those reflected in the following diagram (Fig. 1).
After these initial stages, our work was mainly focused on the intelligence activities needed to further characterize those events reported by the ENIVD or selected by the ECDC. Throughout the collaborative work with virologists from our network (ENIVD/ENIVD-CLRN), from the Iberoamerican Network for Emerging Viral infections (RIVE) and/or the WHO/PAHO, and other African and American virologists, every weekly report included very valuable and frequently confidential information regarding the selected events, reflected in the following picture (Fig. 2).
The next step has been the proposal for collaboration with the European networks on travel and tropical medicine. Both EuroTravNet, funded by the ECDC, and TropNetEurop, a network with years of experience, have been recently contacted in order to complete the map of those countries exporting chikungunya and dengue acute infections to Europe. This should be the first step of a deeper collaboration between our networks. We encourage you to send your results on imported CHIKV if you have not done that.

We would like to end this brief presentation with a special acknowledgement to all of those virologists, epidemiologists and clinicians from different continents that are helping us in this riveting work."

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**A visit at the WP 3 coordinating centre**

The project coordinators planned to visit each of the work packages coordinating centres for informal meetings. On 12th March 2009 we visited the hub for WP 3 “Support activities” at the Institut Pasteur, Cellule d’Intervention Biologique d’Urgence (CIBU) in Paris with the aim of the meeting to set up a timeline for task achievements and to specify the requirements for the challenging work package’s activities. At this meeting the following participants attend: Hervé Zeller (ECDC), Matthias Niedrig and Oliver Donoso Mantke (RKI, project coordinators ENIVD-CLRN), Jean-Claude Manuguerra (IP-CIBU, coordinator WP 3) as well as Philippe Dubois and Ana Maria Burguiere (IP-CIBU) (Fig. 3).

The meeting addressed all main issues concerning the four tasks of WP 3 and developed a clear direction for the further steps. Concerning Task I (Shared operating procedures/code of conduct for Outbreak Assistance Laboratory Support) the CIBU presented a well-prepared working document trying to gather all information and existing texts on code of conduct, guidelines or good practices of intervention teams during public health emergencies or epidemics. Issues on the share of responsibilities within the ENIVD-CLRN, ECDC, WHO/GOARN, the ad hoc outbreak investigation team, the involved local laboratories as well as interactions with local authorities were discussed.

For Task II (Build a laboratory sampling module for the Outbreak Assistance Team toolkit) it was decided to select three conditions, syndromes, diseases, or families of viruses to be targeted during the first project year: CCHF, chikungunya and rabies. Three working groups of 4 to 5 laboratories will be created to set-up specimen collection toolkits, diagnostic toolkits and specific SOPs. CIBU will contact leaders of selected laboratories to work on a determined working flow.

For Task III (Assist in preparing briefing material for Outbreak Assistance Teams) CIBU will contact leaders of selected laboratories already involved in epidemic outbreak intervention and collect information on field experience on mobile equipment, procedures and reagents they did use in the field. Conclusions or usefulness, stability and trust they got using it in real situations will be collected.

Finally, in Task IV (Outbreak Assistance Laboratory Support) CIBU will contact laboratories in the ENIVD-CLRN already involved in a 24/7 call system in their country. A general guideline will be produced listing information to be delivered according to the demand or request of calling party. Emergencies for diagnostic purpose will request availability of a list of laboratories competent for providing tests for a list of selected diseases, where countries could send specimens. Emergencies for technical assistance or help in diagnostic decisions will request availability of a database of specialists ready to provide either assistance through mail or telephone exchanges, or local assistance during mission in the laboratory. 

phd & mn
Fig. 3: Participants of the informal meeting in Paris from left: M. Niedrig, J-C Manuguerra, P. Dubois, A. Burguière, H. Zeller, O. Donoso Mantke

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1st Network meeting under the new contract

Our 1st Network meeting under the new contract will be held in Prague on 14th-16th May 2009. At this meeting we will discuss with you the activities of the ENIVD-CLRN as a central part on Friday morning. Therefore, the Steering Committee and Training Site Forum will have preparatory working sessions on Thursday morning. The Network meeting will provide also sufficient opportunity to support networking activities between the ENIVD members, e.g. working group meetings on Thursday afternoon (for Hanta-, Phlebo-, TBE- and West Nile viruses), and to exchange expertise on selected topics on outbreak reports, surveillance reports, diagnostic and research reports from our invited experts of the ENIVD, WHO, ECDC and collaborating partners. For more information regarding the 18th ENIVD/1st ENIVD-CLRN meeting in Prague please proceed to our website http://www.enivd.org. Here you can find further details concerning the meeting agenda (in preparation) and travel logistics. To support the exchange between our members before the meeting you will also find a regularly updated list of participants who registered so far for this very interesting meeting. See you soon in Prague! odm

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New e-mail addresses activated

Hereby we inform you that the new installed e-mail addresses of the ENIVD-CLRN project are now activated. You can reach the network partner(s) responsible for each of the work packages under the following addresses:

WP 1 Network Secretariat and information management (enivd-clrn@enivd.org)
WP 2 Epidemic Intelligence activities (ei.enivd-clrn@enivd.org)
WP 3 Support activities (oa.enivd-clrn@enivd.org)
Updates concerning our Outbreak Assisting Laboratories

As you know we included in WP 3 “Support activities” a panel of laboratories which are willing to operate as Outbreak Assisting Laboratories. This panel will continuously expand during the life span of the ENIVD-CLRN project. From 27 laboratories from 20 different countries at the beginning this family has now increased to 29 laboratories from 22 different countries, with Latvia and Finland as new members. At all, we have now included into our panel of Outbreak Assisting Laboratories 22 National Reference or Consulting Laboratories, 7 WHO Reference Centres for the respective pathogens covered by the ENIVD-CLRN project.

EPIET-introductory course 2009

We received the following announcement from the ECDC:

Please note that the application period for the EPIET three-week Introductory Course 2009 is now open. Please go to our website www.epiet.org, for more detailed information. Please be so kind and forward this information to anyone you think might be interested.

Thank you & Kind Regards
Anna Anna Bohlin
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EPIET three-week Introductory Course 2009
The deadline for application is May 31st 2009, 24:00 CET

Website-News

ENIVD-CLRN:
The Project

- The participating partners in ENIVD-CLRN are updated. Latvia and Finland are new members willing to participate as Outbreak Assisting Laboratories.

WP1 Network Secretariat/ Diagnostic & Expertise

- Also, concerning the duties of all labs as Reference Laboratories the data were updated (Please check for the correct data)

WP 1 Network Secretariat/ Next Meeting

- A list of participants in the Prague meeting - who registered so far - is available (also at the member’s website)

WP 2 Epidemic intelligence activities
The list of co-operating partners is updated

**ENIVD:**

On our page for [Seminars and Congresses](#) some new interesting events are entered:

- Inaugural Meeting of the European Society for Virology, Rome, Italy, 24 April 2009
- 11th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine (CISTM11), Budapest, Hungary, 24-28 May 2009
- 11th International Dengue Course, Havana, Cuba, 10-21 August 2009
- 6th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health, Verona, Italy, 06-10 September 2009
- 61st Annual Meeting of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM), Göttingen, Germany, 20-23 September 2009
- 5th European Meeting on Viral Zonoses, St-Raphaëls, France, 26-29 September 2009

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Please, inform us about your recent publications or achievements relevant to our network-activities to communicate it. Your contribution to the newsletter will be acknowledged.

**Disclaimer**

Please, contact the Network Secretariat for any additional clarifications or questions by email [enivd-clrn@enivd.org](mailto:enivd-clrn@enivd.org). If you do not want to receive this newsletter anymore, please send an e-mail to the Network Secretariat with the subject “logout”.

**Edition notice**


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