



# GERI 2015

21-22-23 April 2015 • Heraklion, Crete, Greece



## Genes, Ecosystems and Risk of Infection

### PRESS RELEASE

Many of the world's leading experts in vector- and rodent-borne diseases will be gathering in Heraklion (Crete Island, Greece) in April 2015 to share the results of more than a decade of research involving almost 70 partners from 29 countries across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.



Vector-borne diseases, spread by organisms such as ticks, mosquitoes and sand flies, are said by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to account for 17% of the estimated global burden of all infectious diseases. Examples of vector-borne diseases include malaria, which according to the WHO caused an estimated 627 000 deaths in 2012, and the rapidly growing dengue, which has seen a 30-fold increase in disease incidence over the past 50 years. Vector-borne diseases have major impacts on animals too, including viruses such as bluetongue and Schmallenberg, which have affected farmers across large parts of Europe.

Because of the way they are transmitted, vector- and rodent-borne diseases are sensitive to environmental changes – including climate change. Moreover, the globalisation of trade facilitates their dissemination worldwide (see e.g. chikungunya). This has raised concerns about the increased risk of such diseases emerging in Europe; much effort has been recently dedicated to their study, including a decade of research through the EDEN and EDENext European research projects. The results of this research are being presented at the international conference 'Genes, Ecosystems and Risk of Infection' (GERI 2015) being held on the Greek island of Crete from April 21 to 23, 2015.

The questions being addressed include:

*What are the most recent scientific advances in deciphering the biological, ecological and epidemiological processes of disease emergence and spread? Can we model these processes to develop early warning systems and assess emergence or control scenarios? What tools are available to monitor and control vector or rodent populations, or reduce pathogen transmission? How can we assemble this knowledge to improve public health and animal production economics in Europe?*

The conference will cover mosquitoes, ticks, sand flies, biting midges, rodents and the diseases they transmit. Priority is being given to cutting-edge results produced by young scientists. To this end, a special attention has been paid to propose affordable conference fees. While the focus is on the results produced by the EDEN and EDENext projects, contributions on similar topics from other projects are being strongly encouraged.

### For more information:

Visit the GERI 2015 website (<http://geri2015.edenext.eu/>)

Visit the EDENext website (<http://www.edenext.eu/>)

Visit the EDEN website (<http://www.eden-fp6project.net/>)

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