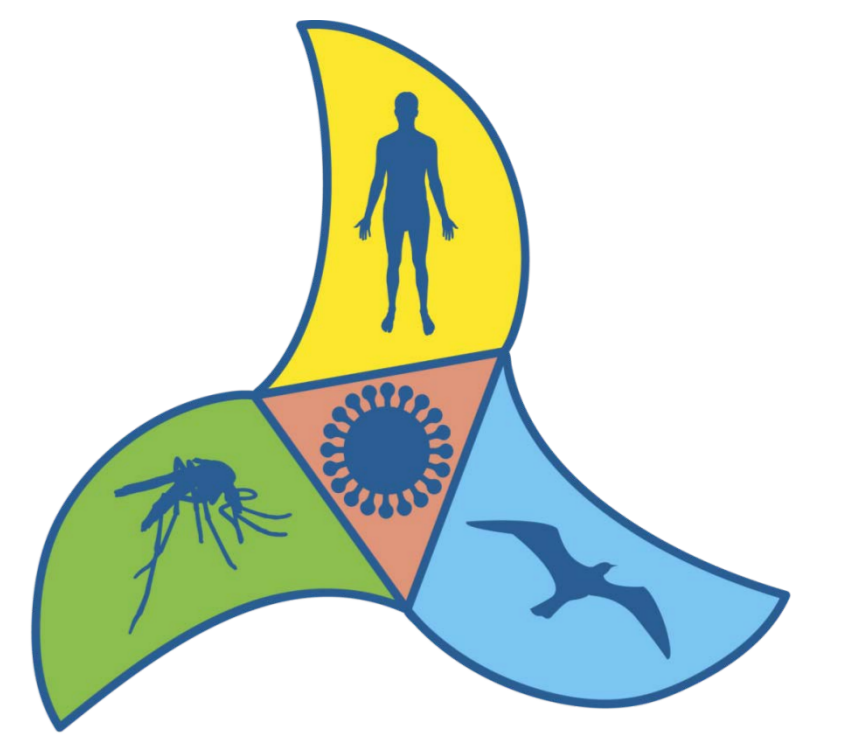


MediLabSecure: a network of virology and entomology laboratories for a one health approach of vector-borne viruses in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions



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The EU-funded MediLabSecure project (2014-2017) aims at enhancing the preparedness and response to viral threats by establishing an integrated network of virology and entomology laboratories in **19 non-EU countries of the Mediterranean and Black Sea areas** set up and coordinated by 4 partner institutes in 3 European countries.

General objectives:

- Create a framework for collaboration to improve surveillance and monitoring of emerging vector borne viral diseases.
- Provide training for public health experts in participating countries to increase the communicable disease control in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.
- Promote knowledge development and transfer of biosafety best laboratory practices.



The selection of participating laboratories was performed based on the responses of potential participants to a "Capacity assesment questionnaire" that allowed the evaluation of laboratory activities and capacities regarding biosafety, diagnostic methods and integrated epidemiological surveillance. 47 laboratories from 19 countries were selected to join the project.



Beneficiary countries:

- Albania
- Algeria
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Egypt
- Georgia
- Jordan
- Kosovo
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Palestine
- Serbia
- Republic of Macedonia
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Ukraine

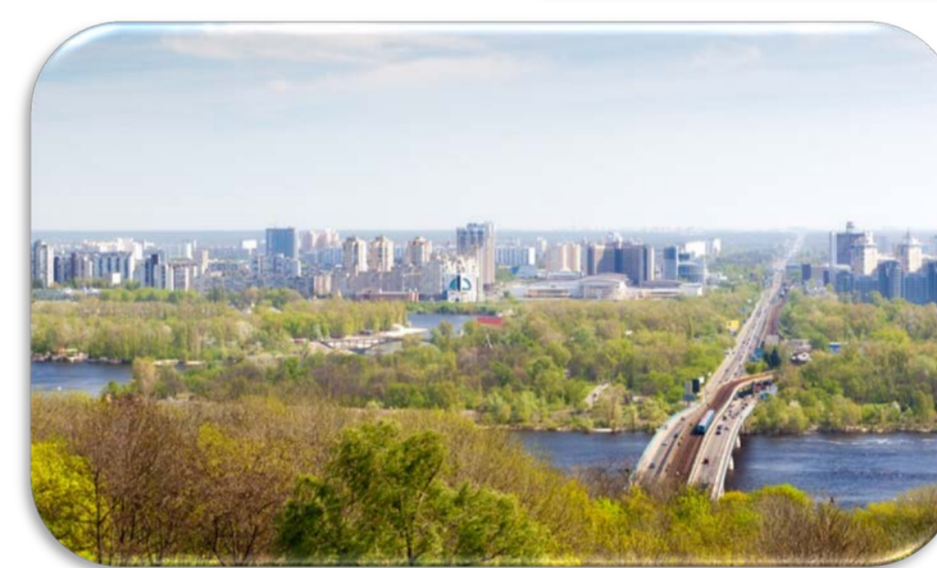
Partners:

- Pasteur Institute (Paris, France)
- IRD (Montpellier, France)
- CISA-INIA (Madrid, Spain)
- ISS (Rome, Italy)

Specific objectives and activities by field of study

HUMAN VIROLOGY

- **Training in diagnosis of main zoonotic arboviruses:** molecular and serological detection of WNV, RVFV and CHIKV from human samples.
- **Training in biosafety:** capacity building in biorisk management.
- **External Quality Assesments (EQAs):** harmonization of techniques and differential diagnosis.
- **Enhance networking** among participating laboratories: strengthening the preparedness to health threats and biosafety risks.



- ❖ West Nile virus
- ❖ Rift Valley Fever virus
- ❖ Chikungunya virus
- ❖ Crimean Congo haemorrhagic virus

MEDICAL ENTOMOLOGY



- Establishment of a **network of laboratory specialists in mosquito vectors.**
- **Training** in medical entomology: tailored workshops in beneficiary countries for systematic identification of vectors of relevant arboviruses.
- **Improve monitoring:** adapted measures for surveillance and control of vectors.

ANIMAL VIROLOGY



- **Training in diagnosis of main zoonotic arboviruses:** molecular and serological detection of WNV, RVFV and CCHF from animal samples.
- **External Quality Assesments (EQAs):** harmonization and validation of techniques.
- **Improvement of biosafety level**
- **Enhance networking** among veterinary virology laboratories.

The exchange and integration of data generated by the 3 fields of study will be promoted to develop an integrated surveillance approach.

By enhancing diagnostic capacities and regional multidisciplinary cooperation, the Medilabsecure network strives to represent the cornerstone of a collective preparedness and response to vector-borne viral threats in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions.



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