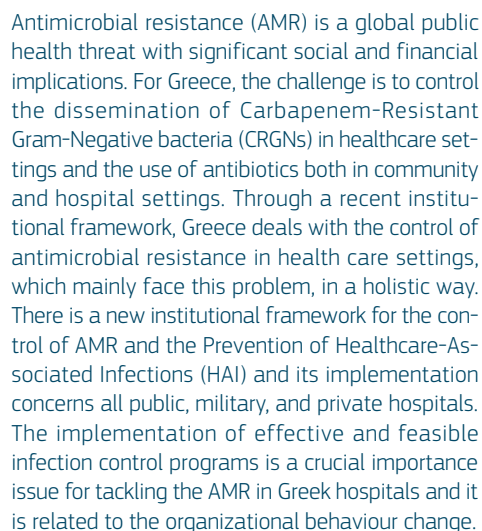


www.eu-jamrai.eu



EU JAMRAI- WP.6.1 partners include 15 organizations from 8 countries.

in different European and International initiatives and projects relevant for policy decision.

The Hellenic Center for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP) leads WP6.1 on promoting a top-down approach for preventing HAIs through the implementation of agreed infection control programs and institutional behaviour change. Given the differences in the AMR context in European countries, the aim is to fill the gap between policy and practice of infection control in healthcare facilities based on evidence based practices and the national experience of participating partners for elaborating a concrete, implementable and reasonable Infection Control Plan. Results from WP6.1 will contribute to improving infection control capacity through institutional awareness using identified key components and specific interventions, adapted to the real needs, resources and priorities of the national health systems in the MS.



European
Commission

Protection of Greek and EU citizens from serious cross-border health threats, which falls under the 3rd Health Programme, is a key health priority for Greece.



Serious cross-border health threats emerge daily and affect multiple countries and sectors in our globalised society. Some of the recent examples include pandemic influenza, Ebola, Zika virus and other vector borne diseases, such as malaria or chikungunya. Public health authorities in Europe and around the world are called upon to address various issues that require collaboration with other sectors and develop a variety of core capacities to effectively respond and improve health security, in line with the International Health Regulations (2005).

Strengthening health security and crisis preparedness is of paramount importance to effectively respond to public health emergencies. The International Health

Regulations (IHR) is the key legislative pillar of global health security defining the core capacities that Member States should have in place to prepare for outbreaks and ensure the required response. At EU level, Decision 1082/2013/EU on serious cross-border threats to health provides the framework to improve preparedness and coordinate response to health emergencies across the EU caused by biological, chemical, environmental agents and threats of unknown origin.

Boosting the implementation of IHR and Decision 1082/2013/EC requirements is key to improving health security, preparedness and response to health risks and threats with a cross-border dimension.

Greek public health authorities and institutions working in the area face currently a number of significant challenges, such as:

- Pressure from increased migration and refugee flows, which requires protection, and health care coverage
- High levels of antimicrobial resistance, which need multisectoral approach in the National Health System
- Restructuring and reform of the Greek Public Health Service

Despite all the above, Greek organisations make efforts to participate in various activities and co-funded projects. Some of the actions providing key benefits are presented below.



For further information on the

EU Health Policy on Crisis preparedness and response, consult: https://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/overview_en

Health Programme actions, consult the Project database at: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea_pdb/health/projects/

Greece Preparedness and response: www.keelpno.gr

EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action (JA) www.shipsan.eu



The main aim of this JA, in the field of health security and disease prevention, was to minimize the impact on maritime transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases. It was coordinated by the Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology, University of Thessaly and was implemented with 33 partners from 24 countries from 2013 -2016. The JA followed two more successful projects on ship sanitation SHIPSAN and SHIPSAN TRAINET from 2006-2011.

EU SHIPSAN ACT also aimed to strengthen an integrated strategy and sustainable mechanisms at the EU level for safeguarding the health of travellers and crew of passenger and cargo ships, therefore preventing the cross-border spread of diseases and improving citizens' health security.

Greece has organised two training courses on conducting ship inspections according to the European

Manual for hygiene standards and communicable diseases surveillance on passenger ship and the Issuance of Ship Sanitation Certificates (SSCs). Greek port health officers use the SHIPSAN ACT Information System to record and issue SSCs and to follow up public health events in the maritime transport. Moreover, the European Manual for Hygiene Standards has been translated in Greek with the participation of the Greek Port Health Officers and is being used to conduct routine hygiene inspections on board passenger ships following the Annual European Inspection Scheduled issued by SHIPSAN.

Outputs of the EU SHIPSAN TRAINET project and EU SHIPSAN ACT JA have been incorporated to national law by the Hellenic Ministry of Health, thus achieving standardisation of ship hygiene inspections and port to port and ship to port communication and exchange of information as required by the IHR. The adoption of these two projects results has further assisted the Greek competent authorities in preparedness planning, responding to events in a coordinated manner by developing contingency plans and in developing IHR core capacities. In addition, in 2015 the Hellenic Ministry of Health adopted and translated in Greek the Ebola Q&A for maritime transport and organised a training course on the core capacities of points of entry for dealing with biological health threats.



National training course,
Piraeus, Greece, 7-9 March 2016
(43 trainees from 17 ports)

EMERGE JA: Efficient response to highly dangerous and emerging pathogens at EU level www.emerge.rki.eu 2015-2018



The joint action EMERGE comprises a European network with 38 partners working in diagnostic laboratories in 25 European countries, including Greece.

The EMERGE JA was created to identify lessons learned, and use the experience of the recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic agents to develop plans and protocols to improve generic preparedness for outbreak responses of microbiological public health and research laboratories, taking into account the need for interoperability of different relevant networks. The JA EMERGE comprises a European network with more than 40 diagnostic laboratories and focuses on risk group 3 and 4 bacteria and viruses.

The EMERGE network is an integrated European laboratory infrastructure and can be activated to an outbreak response mode upon request from the Health Security Committee of the European Commission.

In the framework of EMERGE JA, Greece applied new laboratory protocols in order to participate to the quality assurance exercises, which proved very successful; participated to annual meetings, for networking and exchange of knowledge, of which the 2nd partner meeting was hosted in Thessaloniki. The Greek Laboratory on Arboviruses and Viral Haemorrhagic viruses shared diagnostic protocols and protocols for metagenomics and collaborated with other partners on writing scientific articles. Two staff members of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki were trained on next generation sequencing data processing.