

Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

Description

A training programme aimed to enhance health security in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea region by supporting capacity building for prevention and control of natural or man-made threats to health posed by communicable diseases through the implementation of a long-term regional Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), Training of Trainers activities, Annual Scientific Events and other networking activities.

Specific objectives

- Train regional cadre of field epidemiologists.
- Train national trainers and supervisors and provide support to cascade trainings.
- Disseminate experience, knowledge, and skills ("on-job-training") among non-EU partner countries, EU partners and other key actors in the field; foster synergies between MediPIET and other FETPs.
- Foster country commitment, ownership, and regional networking in support of sustainability of the programme.

Background

The programme was set up in 2013 at the initiative of the European Commission with the aim to reinforce capacities across the whole region. MediPIET has been implemented across three phases, with the fourth phase led by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) under the EU Initiative on Health Security.

Phase	Implemented by	Period
Preparatory¹	ECDC	2013-2014
First implementation² (Cohorts 1 and 2)	FIAPP+ISCIH	2014-2017
Second implementation³ (Cohort 3)	ISCIH+FCSAI	2018-2021
Third implementation⁴ (Cohorts 4 and 5)	ECDC	2021-2025

Partner countries

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo⁵, Lebanon, Libya, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine⁶, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye and Ukraine.

Engagement with MediPIET partner countries

Each partner country designates a MediPIET Training Centre and a MediPIET National Focal Point (NFP).

MediPIET NFPs jointly comprise the MediPIET Training Centres Forum (TCF). The role of TCF is to represent the regional network and to provide guidance to the MediPIET Secretariat at ECDC.

¹ „Establishment of a Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)" (IFS/2012/307-293).

² „Further development and consolidation of the Mediterranean Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)" (IFS/2013/329-859).

³ „Mediterranean and Black Sea Field Epidemiology Training Programme network to increase security in the EU Neighbourhood (MediPIET)" (IcSP/2018/400-697).

⁴ „EU Initiative on Health Security" (ENI/2020/415-420).

⁵ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

⁶ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Gustav den III:s Boulevard 40, 169 73 Solna, Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 58 60 10 00 - Fax: +46 (0)8 58 60 10 01

www.ecdc.europa.eu

In order for a MediPIET Training Centre to be eligible to host a fellow, the institution has to undergo a Training Site Appraisal. Once appraised, the institution becomes a MediPIET Training Site.

Programme structure

MediPIET training programme is set up in a format, which allows the partner countries to decide on the scale of their involvement, depending on the specific partner country needs. The programme includes:

FETP	A fulltime 2-year fellowship comprising of nine modules and other compulsory activities , during which selected fellows work at a MediPIET Training Site in their home country and attend MediPIET modules.
Ad-hoc participation to modules	For countries without fellows, external experts nominated by the MediPIET NFP can take part in the modules.
Trainings of Trainers (ToTs)	ToTs offered to supervisors and nominated participants on regional priority topics decided by the partner countries.
Online activities	E-learning, webinars and other ad hoc activities.

Regional network

MediPIET nurtures a regional network of field epidemiologists and other public health specialists through an Annual Scientific Event and other network activities. ECDC is also supporting establishment of a MediPIET Alumni Network, which will further strengthen the regional network and contribute to the programme sustainability

Achievements to the date

- Creation and maintenance of a strong network of institutions and experts
- Establishment of a comprehensive training infrastructure with demonstrated early impact on partner countries (13 appraised Training Sites)
- 32 fellows graduated (Cohorts 1-3)
- 16 fellows in active training in Cohort 4 (2021-2023)
- 16 fellows in active training in Cohort 5 (2022-2024)
- 13 fellows in active training in Cohort 6 (2023-2025)
- 350 senior experts trained in ToT activities
- Over 500 junior and mid-career professionals trained through ad hoc participation in MediPIET modules
- Over 90 projects carried out
- More than 48 outbreaks investigated
- 50 surveillance system projects conducted (11 new systems developed and implemented)
- Over 40 epidemiological research studies carried out
- 50 international assignments undertaken (ten at ECDC)

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