Arboviral infections (including West Nile virus) and their impact on public health in Europe

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Background (1)

• The problem
  – Recent epidemic in US
  – Impact on public health (morbidity, mortality, clinical aspects, risks, travel and transportation, prevention and control, etc)

• The role of Public Health Directorate
• Knowledge
• Report WNV infections through the existing EWRS
• Expertise
• Standardised approaches
What should the public health in Europe address? (1)

- Added value for EU?
- Need for improving knowledge?
- Need for dynamic exchange of information?
- Need for surveillance at EU level?
- Need to standardise the diagnostic methods?
What should the public health in Europe address? (2)

- Need for a co-ordinated effort in surveillance and response?
- Need for a consensus on best practices?
- Need for a co-ordinated effort with the research programs?
Specific questions to be answered (1)

• What’s the actual situation of WNv epidemic in US? Lesson learnt for Europe?
• What’s the impact of arboviral infections on human health? Are the arbovirus a relevant threat to health in Europe?
• State of art in lab diagnosis: what are the major needs?
• Need for surveillance system(s)? If yes, with which kind of strategy?
Specific questions to be answered (2)

- Need to address the risk of transmission with blood transfusion, organ transplantation and plasma-derived medicinal products?
- Need for vaccination?
- What’s the lesson learnt considering the different country experiences?
How to obtain an added value for EU?

- Creating a common knowledge
- Exchanging information in a dynamic way (process)
- Responding in real time to potential threats
- Using a common data set for different purposes
What should the public health in Europe address? (What the mandate for EU?)

- Need for improving knowledge
- Need for dynamic exchange of information
- Need to strengthen the communication with the public
- Need for surveillance at EU level (projects)
- Need to standardise the diagnostic methods
- Need to bridge with other disciplines
- Need for sharing expertise