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Project N° 791202 "EpiNorth – a framework for communicable disease surveillance, communication and training in Northern Europe, 2004-2006". Grant agreement no 2003216.

## **Final technical implementation report for the period 1.1.2004 – 1.1.2007**

### **EpiNorth – the project fulfilled**

We have achieved all our objectives, with a few minor exceptions as will be described in detail in this report. We believe that the project has been a valuable contribution to communicable disease control in Europe and beyond, especially in the fields of surveillance, communication and training.

We regret that this final technical report of the EpiNorth project is submitted to the Commission some weeks after the deadline.

### **Participants of the project**

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health, situated in Oslo has been the contract holder. The associated beneficiaries were:

- Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- National Public Health Institute, Finland
- Directorate of Health, Iceland
- Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
- Health Protection Inspectorate, Estonia
- State Agency "Public Health Agency", Latvia.

The role of the beneficiaries have been to promote the project, take part in the Editorial board of the EpiNorth Journal, review articles, send data to the EpiNorth Data base, assist with lecturers and facilitators at the EpiTrain courses and other activities to make the project a success.

## **EpiNorth – the third project year (2006) according to plan**

The results from 2006 will not be described in a separate report, but are included in the following. The main difference according to original plan was the organising of an extra training session, EpiTrain IV, in Oslo in December 2006. The reasons for this were requests from the participants of the previous courses for a follow-up course on use of computers for statistical calculations, and that we should fulfil the planned amount of participants x hours of training.

## **EpiNorth – the journal**

The experience gained during the project period 2004-06 and the six previous years of collaboration on EpiNorth Journal was a valuable foundation for the year 2006. The editorial process, the publishing and distribution of the paper version as well as the publication of EpiNorth Data and News on the web-site had found its form. New additions to the collaboration in the form of a special section for translated reports from Russian health authorities on the web-site, translation of key documents such as the Vancouver regulations to Russian, and a special work-shop on translation of relevant terminology, contributed to further improvement of the quality of the publication and the Internet services.

Highlights of 2006 were:

- *The 2006 volume contained four issues.*
- *Surveillance data for eight countries and seven Russian regions were published.*
- *The editorial procedures and language quality of both versions were further improved.*
- *The new distribution-system was in place and allowed for fast distribution of the paper-copies to individual subscribers.*

### *Contents*

The four issues of EpiNorth Journal 2006 contained ten scientific articles. Nine of these articles were original scientific contributions that had not been published elsewhere before. In addition EpiNorth Journal reprinted one article from Eurosurveillance Monthly. This was an article about epidemic intelligence. All articles in the 2006 volume were peer reviewed. The articles had first authors from the following countries: Russia (2), Estonia (2), Sweden (1), Latvia (1), Norway (1). In addition, the 7<sup>th</sup> volume also included two articles submitted by Belarussian authors. Belarus is bordering the collaboration area and the topics of the articles were considered relevant for EpiNorth Journal by the editors.

Titles of the 2006 articles:

- Acute Intestinal Infections of Current Importance in Saint Petersburg (Russia)
- Mumps in Latvia 2000-2003 (Latvia)
- Tuberculosis Surveillance in Northern Europe and Baltic Sea Region, 2004: Urgent Need for Further Public Health Action (Estonia)
- The Impact of Season and Time Served in Remand Prisons on the Development of Tuberculosis (Sweden and Russia)
- Immunity to Rubella Virus among Children and Teenagers in the City of Naryan-Mar, Russia
- First Experience of Teaching Biostatistics in Arkhangelsk (Norway)
- Emergence of *Clostridium difficile* variant 027 Infection (Estonia)
- What is epidemic intelligence, and how is it being improved in Europe? (Eurosurveillance)

- Epidemiological monitoring of influenza in the Republic of Belarus, 1996-2003 (Belarus)
- Rabies in Belarus: epidemiological surveillance of the infection and questions concerning prevention and post-exposure measures for the population (Belarus).

### *Printing and distribution*

Each issue was printed in nearly 4000 bilingual (English and Russian) paper copies. All articles were published in full-text in html and PDF on the home page [www.epinorth.org](http://www.epinorth.org).

Recipients of the paper-version include national institutions and governmental bodies, medical libraries, regional/local surveillance offices, health administrators, universities, hospitals, general medical practitioners, students, libraries and others. Informal feedback indicates that most copies are shared by several people.

All the contents were translated into Russian, according to the contract with the EU Commission. Through extra financing from the Norwegian Barents Health Programme and partner institutes, we managed to maintain printing and distribution of copies to partners in Russia and Lithuania.

### *EpiNorth editorial office*

Kuulo Kutsar from the Public Health Inspectorate in Estonia continued as Editor-in-chief in 2006. This assured a continued high standard of scientific quality. The associated editors in 2006 were Preben Aavitsland (Norway), Markku Kuusi (Finland), Kåre Mølbak (Denmark) and Karl Ekdahl (ECDC). The Editor-in-chief and associated editors are responsible for the scientific content of EpiNorth Journal.

The secretariat in Oslo consists of Stein Andresen (Project manager), Vibeke R. Gundersen (Subeditor) and Elena Torgersen (Senior adviser). The secretariat takes care of the document flow, contact with editors, editorial board members, authors, translators and proofreaders of language, and updates the web-site regularly. Given the bilingual nature of the publication, the editorial process is quite complex (see description below). Translation of scientific terms between Russian and English may also represent some unusual difficulties. A work-shop on this topic was therefore arranged in 2006 (see report below).

### *Editorial process of EpiNorth Journal*

EpiNorth Journal is a bilingual journal (English/Russian). Manuscripts may be submitted, and correspondence with the secretariat in Oslo may be in either of the two languages, depending on which one the author prefers. The bilingual nature of our Journal presents the secretariat with some unusual challenges when it comes to logistics and document-flow. In 2006, the routines were as follows:

If an author submitted an article in English, it was sent directly to one of the associated editors for review, with copy to Editor-in-chief. If it was submitted in Russian, it was translated to English first.

The associated editor identified a specialist at his institute or other relevant institution in his country to act as a referee. If the editor thought that the article was suitable for publication in EpiNorth Journal, he would recommend it for publication in its present form, or ask the authors to make some revisions in line with the recommendations of the referee. The associated editors did not correspond directly with

the authors, but the comments were passed on by the secretariat. If the language of correspondence was Russian, the secretariat provided a translation of the comments for the authors.

Revised manuscripts could be submitted in either English or Russian. If submitted in Russian, they were translated to English again before they were sent to the editor reviewing it for the second time.

When an article was recommended for print by the associated editor, it was sent for proof-reading of English language. If the original language was English, it was translated to Russian for the first time at this stage. If the original language was Russian, the final Russian version was sent to proof-reading of Russian language at the same time. The two language versions were then compared to make sure the corresponded sentence by sentence.

The Editor-in-chief decided which articles should be included in EpiNorth Journal and in which issue.

#### *Work-shop on translation and terminology for EpiNorth Journal and web-site*

Accurate translations, presented in compliance with the style of medical and life science writing in both Russian and English are vital for the credibility of the EpiNorth Journal and its web-site. A special problem when translating scientific texts between Russian and English languages is that the scientific terms do not always correspond, and there are several possibilities for translating one or another term. That is why it was decided to arrange a seminar and work-shop for translators working with texts for EpiNorth Journal and web-site in Norway and Russia. The concrete aim of the seminar and work-shop was to improve the quality of translations further by; getting inspiration in our work (translation can be a rather lonely activity), improving our translation skills and agreeing on how to translate important terms that are often used in EpiNorth texts to Russian language. The seminar/work-shop took place in Oslo, 5-7 February 2006, and was funded by the Norwegian Barents Health Programme.

The first day, an external lecturer talked about important issues in translation in general; problems of translation, cultural issues, the role of the translator and conducted group work where we commented on already translated texts from the field of vaccinology. The two following days, specialists from the NIPH gave short presentation about relevant topics for us in English or Russian. The presentations were followed by group discussions on how to translate relevant terms to Russian. Introduction to the new translation soft-ware was also on the programme.

#### **Participants**

Participants who regularly work with EpiNorth texts were: Elena Kozukhova and Oksana Kosheleva who work in Russia, and Elena Torgersen and Vibeke R. Gundersen who work in the EpiNorth secretariat in Oslo. In addition, Tatjana Carlsson, Natalia Andronova and Anton Baranov who are all native speakers of Russian working at the NIPH participated. Andrej Grjibovski and Elmira Isakbaeva assisted as facilitators. Alexandra Leontiva (lecturer) also took part in the work-shop. Two of our regular translators in Russia; Andrei Tulisov and Larisa Goncharova could not come this year, but received the course material later.

Other specialists with sufficient knowledge of Russian language from NIPH, the Directorate, the Ministry and the LHL had also been invited.

#### **Evaluation**

There was an oral evaluation at the end of the work-shop. It seems that two of the main goals of the work-shop were accomplished. We got inspiration in our daily work with translations, business and

improved our own knowledge and competence. The participants seemed to agree, however, that there was too little time for group-work. The aim of translating and agreeing upon the final versions of all the PowerPoint presentations from the seminar was simply too ambitious given the limited time of the work-shop, and this aim was abandoned after the first day of group works. The next day we concentrated only on the most important words and in this way managed to produce a list of 200 relevant terms which will be used as a reference when translating texts for EpiNorth Journal and web-site.

### **Closing remarks**

This list of translated terms has already proved to be a very valuable tool when translating for EpiNorth Journal and web-site. It has also been imported into the newly acquired translation-software programme “Star-Transit” which we all started using after the work-shop. When using the soft-ware, each translator can easily add new terms to his/her dictionary and also share it with others.

### *EpiNorth Editorial Board and Meetings 2006*

Each of the partner-institutes appoints one member for the EpiNorth’s Editorial Board. They are indispensable local contact persons who market EpiNorth in their country/region, and encourage authors in their institutes/regions to submit articles to EpiNorth, provide data for EpiNorth Data and EpiVax, submit EpiNews and co-ordinate distribution of EpiNorth in their country/region.

Members of the Editorial Board in 2006 were: Haraldur Briem (Iceland), Jurijs Perevoscikovs (Latvia), Milda Zugutiene (Lithuania) who replaced Grazina Mirinaviciute, Anders Blaxhult (Sweden) who replaced Yvonne Andersson, Andrei Chernev (Murmansk), Roman Buzinov (Arkhangelsk), Tatiana Grunicheva (Kaliningrad), Elena Michailova (Leningrad oblast), Oleg Parkov (Saint Petersburg) and Aleksandr Vasilenko (the Saint Petersburg Pasteur Institute).

### **Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 11 May**

The Editor-in-chief, associated editors and secretariat held their annual meeting at the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in Stockholm, 11 May. The minutes of the meeting are attached. Among the topics discussed were the future of EpiNorth after the end of the European Commission Project. Stein Andresen presented the current status of activities and ways of collaborating with ECDC on further funding were discussed.

### **Meeting in Jurmala, Latvia, 22 August**

The Editorial Board met in Jurmala, Latvia in August 2006 in connection with EpiTrain module III, where many of the board members participated. The question of what would happen after the end of the EU-project in December 2006 was discussed, as well as ideas on how to encourage authors to submit more articles for publication in EpiNorth Journal and EpiNews. A short report is attached.



EpiNorth Editorial Board meeting in Jurmala, Latvia, August 2006

### **EpiNorth web-site ([www.epinorth.org](http://www.epinorth.org))**

Highlights of 2006 were:

- *Surveillance data for all partner countries and regions for 2005 were collected and published*
- *53 news items were produced.*
- *Information from the Russian health authorities was regularly translated to English and published on the web-site*
- *The Vancouver regulation was translated to Russian and published on the web-site, so was the introductory chapter of the book by Hønneland and Rowe (2004) "Health as International Politics, Combating Infectious Diseases in the Baltic Sea Region".*

The EpiNorth web site is the centre of the EpiNorth project. This is where all activities and sections are brought together. The web site is the portal to the project. The site is completely bilingual, with all information made available for both English- and Russian speaking readers.

### **EpiNorth Data – annual surveillance data from Northern Europe**

Highlights of 2006 are:

- *The surveillance data for 2005 for 44 diseases from 15 countries and regions were presented in easily accessible tables on the EpiNorth web site and in the EpiNorth Journal*
- *Mass media, public health specialists, decision makers and researchers used EpiNorth Data*
- *Most of the data were entered directly by the Editorial Board members who used remote login to the site.*

Annual data from the national and regional surveillance systems in Northern Europe, including parts of Russia, for surveillance of communicable diseases (EpiNorth Data), were collected for the seventh time in 2006. These standardised key figures are then published on the EpiNorth web site and in the EpiNorth Journal.

For three main reasons the EpiNorth Data is a unique data source that provides value beyond the data provided by WHO EURO in Copenhagen:

1. The data are collected *directly from the source* which are the national/regional centres for infectious disease control in the Nordic and Baltic countries and in the Northwest Russian regions. This allows for early updating and excellent quality.
2. The data are presented in *both English and Russian languages*. This makes it a primary source of information for the Russian-speaking minority in the Baltic countries (and for the many colleagues who knows Russian better than English) and for Russian colleagues.
3. *Data from Russia are presented by region*. Seven Russian regions are included, including most of the regions with borders to six EU/EEA countries (Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Norway).

We experienced several times that specialists, decision makers and media use the data as source material. For instance, EpiNorth Data was referred to in the article by Lars Rowe and Bernd Rechel: "Fighting tuberculosis Northeast Europe: or political rhetoric?" The European Journal of Public Health (2006). The Eurosurveillance home-page informs about EpiNorth Data in their rolling applet under the weekly issue. We encourage such multiple use and synergy between European initiatives.

## **EpiVax – vaccination programmes in Northern Europe**

The EpiVax-pages contain information about the vaccination programmes of the partner countries. There were no major changes to this section of the web-site in 2006.

## **EpiNews – a dynamic news section**

Highlights of 2006 are:

- *EpiNews published 47 regular news items and six items under the Outbreak and investigation section in 2006*
- *Project partners provided ideas for news items*
- *A separate news section called: "Outbreaks and Investigations" was added. It contains translations of official information from Russian health authorities.*

The EpiNews items had the following titles:

1. EpiNorth Journal, vol 7, No 3 available online! [30.12.06]
2. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year [28.12.06]
3. Influenza Crosses the Epidemic Threshold in Seven Russian Cities, for the Child Population [18.12.06]
4. EpiTrain IV – advanced course in epidemiology of infectious diseases is taking place now in Gardermoen, Norway [15.12.06]
5. Eurosurveillance monthly release has just been updated [04.12.06]

6. The HIV/AIDS Situation in the Russian Federation [01.12.06]
7. EpiTrain course – second time this year! [08.11.06]
8. International conference on antibiotic resistance and hospital infections, Arkhangelsk [07.11.06]
9. EpiNorth Journal, vol 7, No 2 available online [29.10.06]
10. Dysentery and diphtheria decreases, while tuberculosis still does not [25.10.06]
11. U.S.-Baltic Health Science Collaboration Workshops [23.10.06]
12. EpiTrain III – advanced course in epidemiology of infectious diseases [05.09.06]
13. Royal Norwegian support for the HIV/AIDS work in Russia [31.08.06]
14. CD News – Communicable disease news from WHO Regional Office for Europe [07.08.06]
15. Information about the Barents HIV/AIDS Programme [03.07.06]
16. EpiNorth Journal, vol 7, No 1 available online [29.06.06]
17. Surveillance of infectious diseases in the Barents- and Baltic Sea Regions 2005 [28.06.06]
18. 11<sup>th</sup> EPIET Scientific Seminar [27.06.06]
19. Eurosurveillance monthly release has just been updated [27.06.06]
20. Update on outbreaks, investigations and control measures in the Russian Federation [09.06.06]
21. First Regional Conference on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Moscow [02.06.06]
22. New Swedish member of the Editorial Board [30.05.06]
23. New Lithuanian member of the Editorial Board [26.05.06]
24. Ready to Work for Better Coordination of Activities in the Northern Dimension Area [24.05.06]
25. New doctoral degree: "Penicillin-resistant pneumococci in Sweden - epidemiology and public health response" [22.05.06]
26. Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals – translated to Russian by EpiNorth [19.05.06]
27. International seminar - Nosocomial infections [18.05.06]
28. Fellowship Programme 2002-2006 for Russian – Norwegian Cooperation [09.05.06]
29. 15<sup>th</sup> Conference on AIDS, Cancer and Public Health [09.05.06]
30. A new issue of Eurosurveillance monthly is now available online [05.05.06]
31. Health as International Politics – Combating Communicable Diseases in the Baltic Sea Region [02.05.06]
32. 7<sup>th</sup> Nordic-Baltic Congress on Infectious Diseases [24.04.06]
33. Representatives of the new Russian public health structure visit the Norwegian Institute of Public Health (NIPH) [07.04.06]
34. New issue of Eurosurveillance monthly [29.03.06]
35. New EU network to combat antibiotics resistance [27.03.06]
36. World TB Day March 24th [23.03.06]
37. Eli Heiberg awarded the Order of Saint Olav [15.03.06]
38. Avian influenza H5 N1 found in dead birds in Sweden [13.03.06]
39. 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Circumpolar Health (ICCH) [13.03.06]
40. Eurosurveillance monthly release has just been updated [10.03.06]
41. EpiTrain module III – the application procedure has started [02.03.06]
42. EpiNorth Journal, Volume 6, No 4, is now available online [09.02.06]
43. Recommendations for prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections [02.02.06]
44. New book on HIV/AIDS in Europe published by WHO/Europe [31.01.06]
45. Job vacancies at the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) [13.01.06]
46. Nordic Summer School in Methods of Infectious Disease Epidemiology [11.01.06]
47. 100 Russians infected by HIV every day [06.01.06].



The Outbreaks and investigations section had the following items:

48. Press-conference by the Head of the Federal Service for Surveillance in the Field of Protection of Consumer Rights and Human Welfare, G. G. Onischenko for the “1 December 2006 – World AIDS Day” 30.11.2006 [01.12.06]
49. On changes in article 9 of the Federal law of September 17th 1998 № 157 -FZ ”On vaccine prevention of infectious diseases” 06.07.2006 [04.08.06]
50. Press release: The avian influenza situation in the Russian Federation 22.06.2006 [27.06.06]
51. On the avian influenza epizootical- and epidemiological situation in the Russian Federation - 07.06.2006 [09.06.06]
52. Press release “The situation in Russia and the world 06.04.2006” [16.05.06]
53. Press release “Information on the epidemiological situation in the Russian Federation” 17.02.2006 [24.02.06].

EpiNews is a joint responsibility for the secretariat, the associated editors and the Editorial Board. Each editorial board member is asked to be active in finding news and publications in his/her country/ region and inform about them. The content could be small pieces from the national bulletins and European newsletters, announcements of congresses and meetings, new trends, outbreak information and news from WHO and European Union Agencies. The subeditor regularly checks official English and Russian language web-sites for relevant information to write about in EpiNews.

## **EpiTrain – two training courses in 2006**

Highlights of 2006 were:

- *Third and fourth modules of EpiTrain courses*
- *All training material was published on the [www.epinorth.org](http://www.epinorth.org) EpiTrain section and distributed to participants as a CD-ROM.*

### *EpiTrain III – Jurmala, Latvia*

#### **Target group and framework**

The EpiTrain course, module III, for senior epidemiologists was the third course in advanced epidemiology of infectious diseases. One of the aims of the project was to run training programmes in communicable disease epidemiology with the purpose of keeping senior epidemiologists updated on current issues and methods in epidemiology, and strengthen the networks in Northern Europe. This module lasted six full days.

#### **Funding**

The funding came from the European Commission’s Public Health Programme (60 %), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) and national institutes. The NCM covered the expenses for participants from Lithuania and Northwest Russia.

#### **Time and place**

The course was held in Jurmala, Latvia, in August 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> at hotel Lielupe. It was organized in co-operation with the State Public Health Agency, Latvia. We rented a conference room and three meeting rooms at the same hotel.

### Lecturers and facilitators

- Preben Aavitsland, NIPH
- Stein Andresen, NIPH
- Elena Torgersen, NIPH
- Barbara Schimmer, NIPH
- Agnes Hajdu, NIPH
- Karl Ekdahl, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- Germain Thinus, Project coordinator, European Commission, DG-SANCO, Luxembourg
- Kåre Mølbak, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- Jurgita Bagdonaitė, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- Anne Mazick, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- Inga Velicko, Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
- Jolita Mereckienė, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Ireland
- Julija Ziamzina, State Agency "Public Health Agency", Latvia.

Preben Aavitsland, State Epidemiologist of Norway, was scientifically and pedagogically responsible for the course. In 2006 we recruited an international team of EPIET fellows to facilitate the course.

### Participants

The popularity of these courses is increasing and this year there were 39 participants that came from Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Russia.

Country/region	No of participants
Estonia	11
Finland	1
Iceland	1
Latvia	3
Lithuania	10
Norway	2
Sweden	1
Arkhangelsk, Russia	2
St. Petersburg, Russia	8

### Topics

Lectures were given on outbreak investigations and their operational aspects, analytical studies in outbreak investigations, role of laboratory, use of EpiData, use of special software for analyses (Excel and EpiSheet), communication during outbreaks, waterborne outbreaks, nosocomial outbreaks, interpreting epidemiologic associations: bias, confounding; outbreak investigation report; event-based surveillance, international epidemic intelligence. Through lectures and practical group work the participants learned to investigate and present case studies of various outbreaks.

A series of short lectures followed by discussions gave participants the update on different networks for infectious disease control in Europe, including the Public Health programme and ECDC in Stockholm. All lectures were given in English without translation.

### **Economy**

The total cost of the advanced course in Jurmala was about 30 000 EUR without overhead-costs in Latvia or Norway. This time for copying of all course materials and lectures we used a Copier SHARP which we bought for the first course in 2004 and presented to the State Agency "Public Health Agency" on condition that we could use it in 2006 during the third module of the advanced course.

### **Evaluation**

Participants received evaluation forms where they could express their opinions and impressions. The majority agreed that the lectures were very useful, the objectives and contents of the case studies were relevant and appropriate to the overall goals and learning needs, with good quality. Some of the participants mentioned that the pace of the topics covering was too fast and the difficulty level of the case studies was too high (on bias and compounding), expressed the need of more assistance with the group work. The majority agreed that some basic epidemiologic and public health concepts needed to be reviewed before embarking on the case study. There was expressed the general need for more individual training with PC and software practice; more practical examples of real investigations.

### *EpiTrain IV – Oslo, Norway*

#### **Time and place**

The course took place on December 11-16, 2006, at Quality Airport Hotel, Gardermoen outside Oslo. We rented a conference room and three meeting rooms at the same hotel.

#### **Lecturers and facilitators**

- Preben Aavitsland, NIPH
- Agnes Hajdu, NIPH
- Stein Andresen, NIPH
- Elena Torgersen, NIPH
- Andrei Tulisov, NIPH and Arkhangelsk
- Jurgita Bagdonaite, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- Anne Mazick, Statens Serum Institut, Denmark
- Jolita Mereckiene, Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Ireland
- Inga Velicko, Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control.

Preben Aavitsland, State Epidemiologist of Norway, was responsible for the scientific content of the course. An international team of EPIET fellows facilitated the course. As the experience from the previous module showed, it was informative and useful for both students and facilitators.

#### **Participants**

The 30 participants came from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Russia.

<b>Country/region</b>	<b>No of participants</b>
Estonia	5
Latvia	3
Lithuania	10
Norway	2

Arkhangelsk, Russia	2
St. Petersburg, Russia	8

### **Topics**

The aim of the courses was to keep the specialists informed on current issues and methods in the field of infectious disease epidemiology, and to strengthen their professional network. The main theme of EpiTrain IV was basic methods for use of the PC in surveillance, outbreak investigations and research. It comprised information design, presentation techniques, building a simple surveillance database, descriptive analysis, analysis of cohort and case-control studies, as well as individual and group work using EpiInfo, EpiData, Excel and PowerPoint software packages.

The programme was fulfilled as planned. Lectures and group works were collected on CDs and distributed among the participants. The schedule for both modules is included in the attached CDs. Lecture notes (the PowerPoint files) and the presentations given by the groups were collected on CDs and given to each of the participants at the closing ceremony, Half of the time was set aside for group works. All the groups presented their work at the plenary session on the last day as was a diploma (copy attached). The full report of the courses is attached on the CD.

### **Transportation**

All the airplane tickets were bought by the secretariat via Internet. It was a rather effective way to organize transportation and avoid complicated refunding in different currencies. From Oslo Gardermoen there was a shuttle-bus to the Quality Airport Hotel.

### **Economy**

The total cost of the advanced course in Gardermoen was about 55 000 EUR, without overhead-costs in Norway.

### **Evaluation**

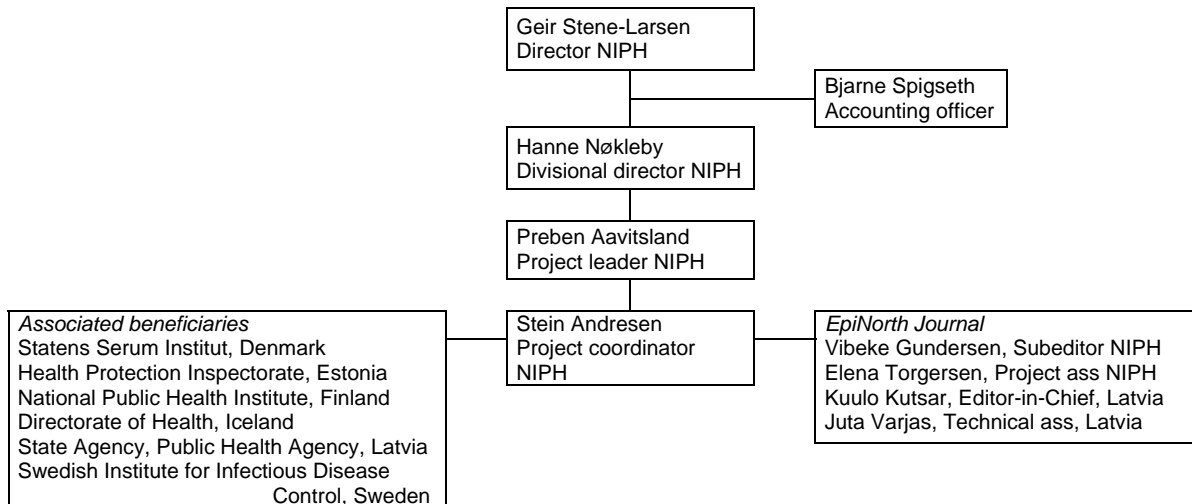
After completion of the third module the participants expressed the need for more practice and computer exercises where everyone would have a laptop for individual training. This need was covered by the fourth module with more focus on group and individual work which started from the first day of the course.

### **EpiLinks - a library of links to relevant web sites**

This section contains links to the Internet sites of the partner institutes and other relevant sites. There were only minor updates to this part of the web-site in 2006.

## Organisation chart

The organisation chart of the project with the main persons /institutions:



## Project management and visibility

The EpiNorth project administration is located in the Norwegian Institute of Public Health in Oslo. The administration organises meetings, provides reports and maintains and updates the home-page [www.epinorth.org](http://www.epinorth.org), and organises the EpiTrain courses. It also maintains the financial aspects of the project in close cooperation with the financial services of the institute. Members of the secretariat in 2006 were Stein Andresen (Project manager), Vibeke Rosvold Gundersen (Subeditor) and Elena Torgersen (Senior adviser).

Visibility of EpiNorth was achieved by activities such as:

- The Northern Dimension - Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being's home page uses EpiNorth Data as background information about the region.
- Eurosurveillance weekly informs its readers when new issues of EpiNorth are published on the Internet. Likewise, EpiNews informs when there is a new issue of Eurosurveillance monthly. The two home pages have links to each other.
- EpiNorth provides Russian translations of the titles for Eurosurveillance monthly, which they present in a special section of their web-page with reference to [www.epinorth.org](http://www.epinorth.org).
- EpiNorth and EpiNorth Data were referred to in the international publication "Fighting tuberculosis Northeast Europe: or political rhetoric?" Rowe and Rechel in The European Journal of Public Health (2006).
- The WHO Rabies Bulletin asked permission to reprint the article "Rabies in Belarus" published in EpiNorth Journal, Volume 7, No 1.

## Completion criteria for the project

In our management plan, dated 8 April 2005, the completion criteria for the project 2004-2006 were outlined. The criteria are fulfilled as the table indicates:

<b>Promise</b>	<b>Results</b>
12 issues of the EpiNorth Journal are published.	12 issues are published on paper format and www.
120 news items are published on www.epinorth.org.	156 news items are published.
60 lectures in PowerPoint format on communicable disease epidemiology are published on www.epinorth.org.	66 lectures are published on the www
3 meetings of the EpiNorth editors and secretariat are organised.	Meeting were organised in Oslo (March 2004), Copenhagen (March 2005), Stockholm (March 2006) and Oslo (March 2007).
2 meetings of the EpiNorth editorial board are organised.	Editorial board meetings were organised in Jurmala, Latvia (October 2004) and Jurmala (August 2006).
3 6-day courses in epidemiology of infectious diseases are carried through.	4 6-day courses were organised in Latvia (October 2004), Estonia (September 2005), Latvia (August 2006), Oslo (December 2006).
An annual report for each of the years 2004-2005-2006.	An annual report on the Norwegian Institute of Public Health's collaboration projects in Northern Europe in 2004 was published in May 2005. A report covering the years 2005-2006 will be published in June 2007.
The average number of visits to www.epinorth.org are 6000 per month.	In 2004 and 2005 we reached our objectives. In 2006, the registration is incomplete due to change of registration company.
The final implementation report is received at the EU Commission.	The report will be sent 10 May 2007.

## The deliverables of the project during the project period

	Promised deliverables 2004	Results 2004	Promised deliverables 2005	Results 2005	Promised deliverables 2006	Results 2006
<b>EpiNorth web site</b> www.epinorth.org	Further developed, duplicated in English and Russian. No of visits per month 4000	English-Russian text. The number of visits was on average approx 3500 per month	Duplicated in English and Russian. No of visits per month 5000	English-Russian text. The number of visits was on average approx 6300 per month	Completely duplicated in English and Russian. No of visits per month 6000	Completely duplicated in English and Russian. No of visits per month not comparable due to a new registration company
<b>EpiNorth journal</b>	In full text, both in <i>html</i> and <i>pdf</i> formats, four issues of 16 pages each, per year	Four issues were published in both paper versions, <i>html</i> and <i>pdf</i> -formats. No 2 and 4 had 16 pages each, no 3 20 pages. The last issue was a double issue; the 2004 "part" had 16 pages	In full text, both in <i>html</i> and <i>pdf</i> formats, four issues of 16 pages each, per year	Four issues were published in both paper versions, <i>html</i> and <i>pdf</i> -formats. The first issue was a double issue; the 2005 "part" had 16 pages. No 2 and 4 had 16 pages each, no 3 20 pages. A new layout was introduced with no 3	In full text, both in <i>html</i> and <i>pdf</i> formats, four issues of 16 pages each, per year	Four issues were published in both paper versions, <i>html</i> and <i>pdf</i> -formats. The first issue had 24 pages, while no 2, 3 and 4 had 16 pages each
<b>EpiNorth Data database</b>	A tabular presentation of annual surveillance data of 44 diseases covering the Nordic and Baltic countries and seven North-western regions of Russia	Fulfilled as planned. The data base was totally revised to allow remote log-in and input of data	A tabular presentation of annual surveillance data of 44 diseases covering the Nordic and Baltic countries and seven North-western regions of Russia	Fulfilled as planned	A tabular presentation of annual surveillance data of 44 diseases covering the Nordic and Baltic countries and eight North-western regions of Russia	Fulfilled as planned
<b>EpiVax database</b>	A tabular presentation of vaccination programmes and of the Nordic and Baltic countries and Russia	Updated vaccination calendars for all countries were published	Updated presentation of vaccination programmes and vaccine coverage of the Nordic and Baltic countries and Russia	The information is updated. But we have problems in receiving data from our partners on vaccine coverage	A tabular presentation of vaccination programmes and vaccine coverage of the Nordic and Baltic countries and Russia	The vaccination calendars are updated. The data on vaccine coverage is not complete

<b>EpiNews</b>	A dynamic news section on the web publishing at least 40 infectious disease news items relevant for specialists in the project region	Starting on 16 June, 34 news items were published on the web	A dynamic news section on the web publishing at least 40 infectious disease news items relevant for specialists in the project region	73 news items were published on the web	A dynamic news section on the web publishing at least 40 infectious disease news items relevant for specialists in the project region	53 news items were published on the web
<b>EpiTrain on the web</b>	20 lectures on communicable disease epidemiology in PowerPoint format	22 lectures on communicable disease epidemiology in PowerPoint format were published	20 new lectures on communicable disease epidemiology in PowerPoint format.	20 lectures on communicable disease epidemiology in PowerPoint format were published	20 new lectures on communicable disease epidemiology in PowerPoint format were published	24 new lectures on communicable disease epidemiology in PowerPoint format were published
<b>EpiTrain training programme</b>	Module I: A six-day course in epidemiology of infectious diseases. 30 participants, venue Latvia. Report and CD.	Module I was organised in Jurmala, Latvia, 25-30 October. 23 participants from seven countries. A report was made, and CDs with training material given to all participants	Module II: A six-day course in epidemiology of infectious diseases. 30 participants, venue Estonia. Report and CD.	Module II was organised in Tallinn, Estonia, 4-10 September. 33 participants from ten countries. A report was made, and CDs with training material given to all participants	Module III: A six-day course in epidemiology of infectious diseases. 30 participants, venue Latvia. Report and CD.	Module III: A six-day course in epidemiology of infectious diseases. 21-26 August, Jurmala, Latvia. 39 participants from eight countries.  Module IV: An extra six-day course in epidemiology of infectious diseases. 11-16 December, Oslo, Norway. 30 participants from five countries. Reports were made, and CDs with training material given to all participants
<b>EpiLinks on the web</b>	A library of links to communicable disease epidemiology web sites in Europe and Russia	EpiLink has a collection of links to relevant sites related to infectious disease control	A library of links to communicable disease epidemiology web sites and national bulletins in Europe and Russia	EpiLink has been updated. A new system for updates developed in 2005	A library of links to communicable disease epidemiology web sites in and national bulletins Europe and Russia	EpiLink has been updated



<b>EpiNorth meeting of editors</b>	Venue Oslo, 6 participants. Minutes from the meeting	The meeting took place in Oslo 9 March with 8 participants. Minutes were made	Venue Copenhagen, 6 participants Minutes from the meeting	The meeting took place in Copenhagen 10 March with eight participants Minutes were made.	Venue Stockholm, 6 participants Minutes from the meeting	The meeting took place in Stockholm 11 May with 6 participants. Minutes were made
<b>EpiNorth meeting of editorial board</b>	Venue Jurmala, 8 participants Minutes from the meeting	The meeting took place in Jurmala 26 October with 12 participants. Minutes were made	No meeting planned	No meeting	Venue Tallinn, 9 participants Minutes from the meeting	The meeting took place in Jurmala 22 August (due to practical reasons). 16 participants. Minutes were made
<b>Contact with Eurosurveillance</b>	At least one contact with Euro-surveillance every month + taking part in the Editor's meetings	Fulfilled as planned	At least one contact with Euro-surveillance every month + taking part in the Editor's meetings	EpiNews presented the titles of Eurosurveillance monthly each time a new issue was online. Eurosurveillance published these titles in Russian language on their own web-site. Our Editor-in-chief took part in Eurosurveillance meetings	At least one contact with Euro-surveillance every month + taking part in the Editor's meetings	Fulfilled as planned
<b>Reports</b>	No report expected	No report	Annual report 2004. Technical and Financial reports, Management plan.	Annual report 2004 in English and Russian was sent to the Commission in May-June. Management plan was sent 8 April. Technical and financial reports for 2005 were sent 28 February	Annual report 2005. Technical and Financial reports.	Technical implementation report 2004-06 and financial reports 2004-06 are sent 10 May 2007  A report for 2005-06 of the activities of NIPH's activities in Northern Europe will be published in May 2007

## **The years ahead**

27 March 2007, we met with representatives from ECDC and Eurosurveillance in Oslo to secure the results obtained in EpiNorth 2004-06, and organise new activities in the years to come. Minutes of meeting are attached.

After discussions, a contract was signed in May for the collaboration between the EpiNorth partners and ECDC/Eurosurveillance for the year 2007. The Centre for Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control in Lithuania was invited as associated beneficiary.

In October 2007, an Editorial meeting will be organised in Stockholm where plans for 2008-09 will be discussed.

28-30 March 2007, our project manager was invited to Rome for the first meeting of EpiSouth. He gave a presentation of "The EpiNorth experience" - a copy of the presentation is attached. It is a pleasure to conclude that the ideas of EpiNorth of a trustful collaboration between infectious disease institutes, centres, health officers and authorities, now are catching speed in our part of the world.

Yours sincerely

Geir Stene-Larsen  
Director

Preben Aavitsland  
Project leader

### Enclosures:

1. EpiNorth Journal 1-2-3-4 2006
2. Print-out of the welcome-page at [www.epinorth.org](http://www.epinorth.org) (English and Russian versions)
3. Print-out of EpiNews (two examples in English and Russian versions)
4. Schedules, diplomas and CDs from EpiTrain modules III and IV
5. Minutes from EpiNorth Editorial Meeting 11 May 2006 in Stockholm
6. Short report from the meeting of the Associated Editors, Jurmala
7. Information to authors on the editorial process in EpiNorth (English and Russian versions)
8. Uniform requirements (Vancouver rules), translated into Russian
9. EpiNorth – A Collaboration Project for Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control in Northern Europe. A Power-point presentation at the 7 Nordic- Baltic Congress of Infectious Diseases, Riga 19 September 2006
10. The EpiNorth experience. A Power-point presentation at the first EpiSouth meeting, Rome 29 March 2007
11. Short report from follow-up meeting with ECDC and Eurosurveillance, in Oslo 27 March 2007.

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