



## EU SHIPSAN ACT Joint Action - Agreement Number: 2012 2103

The impact on maritime transport of health threats due to biological, chemical and radiological agents, including communicable diseases

### Table top exercise “Mapping the communication routes for information sharing in response to public health events in the maritime transport”, Friday 4th March 2016, Larissa, Greece

#### Summary of the TTE report

##### 1. Background

Recent public health events related to maritime transport and the new legal framework in the European Union (EU) including Directive 2010/65/EU and Decision 1082/2013, have created a new setting in the way that information is exchanged between the different actors when responding and following up public health events.

This table top exercise was decided to be organised after the ad hoc meeting of the joint action Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) officer, the joint action coordinator and the Head of Unit of Surveillance and Response Support of European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), which took place on 11th of November 2015 in Stockholm, in order to clarify the communication flows and to explore the added value of a European database for storing the Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) submitted in the National Single Window (NSW) (Directive 2010/65/EU), as well to explore how this will enhance the value of SIS as a communication tool to share information among ports.

##### 2. Type of exercise

This was a discussion-based table top exercise. Five scenarios of public health events that occurred on cruise ships or cargo ships were discussed by participants.

##### 3. Aim and objectives

The aim of the table top exercise was to explore the added value of a European database for storing the MDH submitted in the NSW (Directive 2010/65/EU) as well to explore how this will enhance the value of SIS as a communication tool to share information among ports.

Each scenario has specific objectives, which can be summarized as follows:

- To map the communication flows when different types of events are reported and followed up by using various communication means, documents and systems at local, national and European levels.
- To clarify the communication flows of the MDH within each EU MS and how this links with the EU information systems Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) and Epidemic Intelligence System (EPIS) taken into account the Decision 1082/2013.

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- To review the content of health documents including the MDH and the Ship Sanitation Certificate (SSC) in order to ascertain what epidemiological information can be useful to the competent authorities for risk assessment.
- To identify how the epidemiological information from various sources is communicated when responding and following up events.

#### 4. Participants roles and function

Thirteen persons participated in the exercise and their names, functions and affiliations are listed in the following table.

##### Function of participants

The roles and responsibilities of participants were the following:

- The **Controller** was responsible for exercise project management, including delegation of responsibilities. He instructed the players and was a passive participant in the conduct of the exercise, responsible for injects during the exercise and ensuring that the exercise runs smoothly.
- The **Facilitator** was responsible for keeping participant discussions on track and in line with the exercise objectives. This included making sure all issues and objectives were explored as thoroughly as possible within the available time.
- The **Evaluator** developed evaluation criteria, logged exercise activity, evaluated exercise activity, analysed results and completed the evaluator's form.
- **Players** were given the following roles:
  - Public health authority at port
  - Ministry of Health (MoH) – Coordination of port health authorities
  - National Surveillance centre
  - NSW
  - International Health Regulations (IHR) NFP
  - EWRS NFP
  - European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance (ELDSNet) NFP
  - ECDC EWRS Coordination and EPIS