STSM Report: Application of the framework for OH evaluation of West Nile integrated surveillance in Northern Italy

REFERENCE: Short Term Scientific Mission, COST TD1404NEOH

Beneficiary
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1. Purpose of the visit

The STSM was used to work on the 'One-health' evaluation of the case study **'West Nile virus integrated surveillance in Northern Italy'**, within the WG2, together with the other case-study leaders (Barbara Vogler and Giulia Paternoster). To progress in the evaluation according to the framework proposed by WG1, our objectives during this week were to further the **assessment of OHness**, and make advances in the **process evaluation** of our case study.

2. Description of the work carried out

a. Assessment of OHness.

In order to develop a strategy on how to assess OHness, we thoroughly analysed the methodology proposed in the chapter 3 of the handbook (HB), and revised the notes and slides of the WG2 Training School in Novi Sad. We decided on which tables and questionnaires are useful to describe and score the OHness of the different OH aspects (Thinking, Planning, Working, Learning, Sharing) and answered them to the best of our knowledge. To correctly apply the methodological tools, we engaged in fruitful discussions/exchange of e-mails with WG1 leaders. The gained insight into the concepts of OHness evaluations enabled us to

provide proposals for changes to the assessment tools in order to clarify concepts and facilitate their use.

b. Process evaluation.
We got acquainted to the procedure of 'process evaluation' by reading and discussing the publications used as reference in the HB (Moore 2015, Saunders 2016, CDC 2009). On the basis of a detailed description of the system (i.e. the different surveillance plans of our study areas) that we had been compiling over the past two weeks together with the other case study leaders (Marco Tamba, Mario Chiari, Antonio Lavazza), we elaborated a strategy to discuss with our collaborators involved in the case study evaluation. In detail, we prepared a list of discussion points based on the pillars of process evaluations ('fidelity', 'dose delivered', 'reach') and discussed these with our collaborators during a Skype call. This resulted in defining critical points and aspects of the initiative in need for further investigation. Finally, with the help of sociologists collaborating in the case study evaluation, we formulated questions that will be posed in three separate focus groups (i.e. one for each study region) with the actors involved in WNV surveillance.

3. Description of the main results obtained

a. Assessment of OHness.

OH planning and OH sharing
During the STSM we completed and scored the questionaires on OH planning (Table 3, page 12 of chapter 3) and OH sharing (Appendix 10).

OH learning
We also completed and scored the questionnaire on OH learning (Appendix 9). However, since this questionnaire shall reflect the perceptions of the actors, we additionally started to distribute a translated questionnaire to three representative actors (one veterinarian, one human doctor, one entomologist) of each study area.

OH thinking
We partially completed the "OH thinking assessment tool" provided by Ilias Chantziaras. At the end of the STSM we were still engaged in productive discussions with Ilias aiming to clarify the complex system and suggesting further definitions and or ideas for facilitation.

OH working (transdisciplinarity and leadership)
We made the least progress on OH working (Appendix 7), as tables and questionaires are currently lacking a scoring system

In conclusion, by the end of the STSM we had calculated scores for 3 out of the 5 aspects of OHness. And were still engaged in discussions with WG1 leaders to re-edit their questionnaires. We finished off by compiling a "guideline for the assessment of OHness"

which reflects our successful strategy to assess OHness given the information from the handbook and our notes from the WG2 meeting in Novi Sad in June 2016. This guideline shall be provided to other case study leaders by mail and is free to editing.

b. Process evaluation.
The focus of our process evaluation is to detect strengths and weaknesses of how the initiative (regional surveillance plans) is implemented, in order to fine-tune and improve it. To assess this, we will interview the opinion of the actors participating in the surveillance initiative. The interviews will be performed in focus groups; each focus group will include experts of different disciplines (human medicine, veterinary medicine, entomology). We will investigate: 1. how the surveillance is performed; 2. if the performed activities completely correspond to the planned (by law) activities; 3. what are the critical points of surveillance; 4. how is the initiative and the problem of West Nile disease perceived; and 5. general opinions on the approach of the initiative. The questions are still being discussed among us and we plan to ideally carry out the focus groups by the end of October.

4. Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

Collaboration will continue for the conclusion of the assessment of OH-ness and process evaluation. In December, Dr. Barbara Vogler will perform a STSM to the University of Torino, where we aim to finalize the work, prepare the report for the Malta meeting and prepare the ground for the publication on OH evaluation of WNV surveillance on Northern Italy. Since Barbara is also working on West Nile virus, we hope to stay in touch and also collaborate after the conclusion of of the COST Action.

5. Projected publications resulting or anticipated to result from the STSM

Our evaluation will be presented in the NEOH meeting in Malta (January, 2017) and results will be published, according to the other case study evaluations (Spring 2017).

6. Confirmation by the host of the successful execution of the mission

As stated by Dr. Laura Tomassone above, the STSM was carried out as planned. The STSM provided the platform for productive discussions and allowed the intensive collaboration necessary to substantially drive forward not only the assessment of OHness, but also the process evaluation of the case study.

7. Financial summary

Expenses	Total expenses in EUR	% covered by NEOH grant (EUR)
Travel	275 EUR	72.7% (200 EUR)
Accommodation	560 EUR	92.8% (520 EUR)
Consumables(meals)	280 EUR	100% (280 EUR)
Total	**1115 EUR**	**89.7% (1000 EUR)**

8. Other comments (if any)

Signatures

Date 29/09/2016

Grantee

Host