

Subject: Participation in Second VectorNet Annual General Meeting

Place: Antwerp, Belgium

Date: 15th - 19th February, 2016

Procurement plan: Training, line 5

Mobility is intended for the employer of BTF, Igor Pajovic as a part of WP2d. This particular Work Package - 2d is aimed to increase visibility of MCM through knowledge sharing, network building and exposure of MCM staff to an international environment through active participation of the applicant's research staff at international conferences.

The researcher will actively present research results of LOVCEN and MCM, promoting research excellence reputation and the visibility of the Montenegrin researchers.

Mobility goals and activities WP 2 d

VectorNet (Guy Hendrickx is general coordinator; Veerle Versteirt is scientific coordinator) is the European network for sharing data on the geographic distribution of arthropod vectors, transmitting human and animal pathogens. It is funded both by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Stockholm, Sweden) and the European Food and Safety Authority (Parma, Italy).

From April to October 2015, the first Pan-European VectorNet fieldwork programme was implemented in 25 different countries. One of them is Montenegro over LOVCEN Project.

The locations for the surveillance activities were identified mainly based on a gap analysis driven by data gathered during VBORNET. Specific sampling strategies were adopted for each vector group and are available upon request. Besides 'filling gaps in distribution maps', this fieldwork programme aimed also at building local capacity, provide technical and scientific support and strengthen regional/local activities.

The second VectorNet Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in Antwerp, Belgium from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th of February 2016. As an entomologist or vector-borne disease specialist Project Leader of LOVCEN Project is personally invited to attend this AGM.

During this meeting, an overview will be given of the VectorNet outcomes of the first period linked to the strategic planning of the project. Moreover, the new online data collection tool will be presented with ample time for questions and hands-on demonstration. In various working group sessions invitees will be requested to contribute on a series of important challenges linked to the future VectorNet activities: (i) data collection methods for seasonality and abundance, (ii) use of qualitative data in the database, (iii) key aspects of future fieldwork activities.

In process of selection of participants, done in consultation with ECDC and EFSA, priority was given to (i) experts who provided input to the VectorNet field campaign of 2015 and those actively contributing to the vector distribution maps; (ii) newly identified experts in key-areas and to (ii) experts from priority sampling areas.

During this mobility it is planned to have meetings with the main science EU experts from the vectors and vector borne diseases.