Monitoring West Nile Virus Presence in Serbia

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Changes in mean annual temperatures (upper) mean annual precipitation (lower) for 2 periods (2001-2030 & 2071-2100) acc. Ruml et al. (2012) for the Balkans.
Frequency of different natural disasters in Serbia for the period 2000-2011.

Source: EM-DAT.

Serbia: key challenges, further on

Floods 2014,
Extreme temperatures in summer 2016, 2017
Role of the network of IPHs in monitoring VBDs in Serbia

- Concerning data on VBDs, data are collected within the scope of epidemiological surveillance organized by the Network of local and regional Institutes of Public Health, in cooperation with health care institutions, according to the law.
- IPH of Serbia gathers crude data on weekly and monthly basis,
- More detailed analysis reaches IPHS in regular annual reports done by each local IPHs (23 IPHs for 25 Districts), together with data on gender/age of the diseased or those succumbed to the illnes.
- For most of VBDs data are followed based on the passively gathered information from the continuous surveillance process.
Role of the network of IPHs in monitoring WNV in Serbia

- Along with the other VBDs, mandatory for reporting to the authorities, since 2012. A seasonal monitoring and surveillance process on WN fever in the human population is established.

- Its implementation is defined by the „Guidelines for the implementation of WNV fever surveillance within the human population on the territory of Republic of Serbia“, by Institute of Public Health of Serbia (Last adjustments in summer 2017).
West Nile Fever (Febris West Nile) surveillance
Objectives

• Key objective of Human population WNV surveillance is: continuous surveillance of epidemiological, clinical and virusological characteristics of the WNV in order to implement certain preventive measures essential for the control of WNV spreading.

• Reported cases of disease/death from neuroinvasive form of WN fever in human population are the most precise indicators of WN activity within the human population.
Key stakeholders in the surveillance process

• Veterinary Directorate
• Ministry of Health
• National Institute of Public Health + Network of IPHs
• Ministry of Agriculture
• Ministry of Environmental Protection
• Institute for Biocides & medical ecology (responsible for desinsection, deratization, vector borne diseases prevention)
Ministry of Agriculture

- Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary Directorate shall continue with monitoring on horses, wild bird species and *Culex pipiens* vector mosquitos on the territory of Republic of Serbia in 2017, starting with June 2017.
Confirmed & probable cases of WN fever, Belgrade City
Mosquitoes with confirmed WNV, Novi Sad
Confirmed & probable cases of WN fever, Serbia
Mosquitos with confirmed WNV, Serbia
Further steps?

• upgrading cross-sectoral cooperation (health, environment, agriculture, energy) is needed

• Strengthening local communities in the field of biodiversity and climate change through:
  • Awareness raising
  • Capacity building
  • Law on Public Health as a legal framework
Thanks for your attention!