



Infectious Diseases at the 8th European Public Health Conference

Workshop: The impact of Ebola on public health structures and infectious disease preparedness in Europe

Friday, 16 October 2015

8:30 - 10:00

Suite 3, Milano Congressi (MiCo), Milan, Italy



National Institute for Public Health
and the Environment
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport



Workshop:

The impact of Ebola on public health structures and infectious disease preparedness in Europe

In December 2013, the current Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak began in Guinea and, with subsequent transmission in Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, developed into the largest EVD outbreak ever recorded. On 8 August 2014, the Director-General of the World Health Organization declared the EVD outbreak in West Africa a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The outbreak has caused death and suffering to innumerable persons in West Africa, and induced health impacts wider than just the EVD with additional societal and economic harms extending well beyond the area of the epidemic.

While the vast majority of cases have been reported from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, cases have also been reported from 6 other countries including 2 in Europe: Spain and the UK. More European countries have also provided medical care for EVD workers evacuated from the endemic area following potential breaches of personal protective equipment. So far, the effects of the 2014 West Africa EVD outbreak on public health and health care systems in regions distant from the epidemic area have not been well researched. Member states of the WHO European Region have taken various measures to react and prepare for the possible importation of an infectious disease raging thousands of kilometers away.

A learning concept of public health science requires that these measures are surveyed, presented and analysed in order to learn about their rationale and perceived success, and to prepare for future challenges in infectious disease control.

This workshop will bring together public health policy makers and practitioners from European countries to discuss and exchange concepts and experiences gained.

Presenters

Preventing Ebola in England **Deborah Turbitt**, United Kingdom

Engaging stakeholders in Ebola preparedness: experiences of the Netherlands **Aura Timen**, The Netherlands

Lessons learned from Ebola as guide posts for further preparation **Leslie Edwards**, USA

The European dimension in Ebola preparedness and response **Denis Coulombier**, Sweden

Chair

Mengistu Asnake Kibret, *President of the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)*

Organisation

Organised by the EUPHA Section on Infectious diseases control