ECDC guidelines for the surveillance of invasive mosquitoes in Europe

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On 28 August, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) released a technical report providing guidelines on how to implement the surveillance of invasive mosquito species (IMS), possible vectors of diseases in Europe [1]. The report was elaborated with input from a team of experts from Belgium, Italy, Serbia and the Netherlands.

The report consists of three parts. The first part addresses strategic issues and steps to be taken by the stakeholders for the decision-making process, depending on the aim and scope of surveillance, its organisation and management. Three likely scenarios have been identified: no established IMS (but with risk of introduction and establishment), locally established IMS, widely established IMS. The second part details all operational issues and steps to be implemented, i.e. key and optional procedures for mosquito collection, identification of IMS, collection of population and environmental parameters, pathogen screening, data management and analysis, and strategies for data dissemination and mapping. The third part provides models to estimate the cost of surveillance activities and suggestions to evaluate the surveillance process.

The recent notifications of autochthonous transmission of dengue and chikungunya fever in Europe [2–5] show the vulnerability of areas where Aedes albopictus is present. Strengthening surveillance of IMS in areas at risk of importation or spread of IMS is therefore required. Consequently the targeted audience includes decision- and policy-makers, stakeholders in public health, professionals involved in surveillance or control of mosquitoes, as well as non-experts in the field. Targeted IMS are Ae. albopictus, Ae. aegypti, Ae. atropalpus, Ae. japonicus, Ae. koreicus and Ae. triseriatus.

References