

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

ix European Member States (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Poland and UK) participated in the project. The National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece, as a leading partner, was responsible for the scientific coordination and management of the project. The academic and research institutions that participated in the project are:

— **DEPARTMENT OF HYGIENE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY, ATHENS MEDICAL SCHOOL, NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS – GREECE**

— **PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH ASSOCIATION SAXONY, MEDICAL FACULTY OF DRESDEN, UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, DRESDEN – GERMANY**

— **NOFER INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE, LODZ – POLAND**

— **FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MEDICAL UNIVERSITY, SOFIA – BULGARIA**

— **INSTITUTE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH "PROLEPSIS", ATHENS – GREECE**

Please visit the project's website at: www.ethreat.info to find more details on the project, its results and products.



ETHREAT



BACKGROUND

New threats to health resulting from deliberate attacks with biological, chemical and radiological agents create new needs for the diffusion of knowledge on the available response methods and strategies.

The training of health professionals stands out as a priority that should be coherently addressed at the European level as part of a long-term strategy to respond to the changing environment of public health threats.

European Training of Health Professionals on Rapid Responses to Health Threats (ETHREAT) is a European public health project funded by the European Commission and implemented in the period from May 2005 to April 2008. The goal of ETHREAT is to develop a training tool to disseminate knowledge on the management of health threats to front-line health professionals, so as to rapidly recognise and adequately respond to public health threats, such as attacks with biological, chemical and radiological agents.

OUTCOMES

ETHREAT EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE

The main deliverable of the ETHREAT project is an educational package aimed at enhancing the European human capital on the timely identification, management and response to events that could be the result of deliberate attacks with biological, chemical and radiological agents.

The educational package includes practical guidelines, as well as background information, on:

- biological agents of high threat,
- classes of chemical agents of high threat
- basic principles of infection control (standard, contact, droplet and airborne precautions)
- radiological emergencies
- the management of contaminated patients
- triage
- psychological effects of terrorism, and
- basic principles in handling relevant health crises.

The educational material is available to health authorities and health professionals across Europe and can be easily reproduced.

Additional products of the project include:

- A databank with identified sources of information, e.g. existing courses and training material on new public health threat topics, providing electronic links when available.

- An inventory of algorithm guides of actions to be undertaken at the national level in the event of terrorist attacks. The inventory includes algorithms for most European Union (EU) Member States.

- A report from the analysis of the needs assessment questionnaires addressed at Front Line Health Professionals (FLHPs) and Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) experts. A total of 255 questionnaires were completed from CBRN experts in 16 EU countries and front line health professionals in 23 EU countries.

Despite the fact that training courses on CBRN threats exist in many countries at various educational levels, feedback from the CBRN experts suggested that:

- ✓ >75% of the FLHPs would not be able to recognize an incident involving a chemical, biological or radiological agent,
- ✓ >75% of FLHPs are not fully aware of the various preparedness plans and their role in them, and
- ✓ >50% of FLHPs need re-training in various issues regarding the management of patients involved in a CBRN incident.

- A pilot course that took place in Athens on May 23-25, 2007. During the pilot course, trainers presented practical information to be incorporated in the educational package to 30 selected FLHPs from 18 European countries. Participants of the pilot course evaluated the material presented and had their comments incorporated in the review of the educational material.