



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje
Croatia



Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative
for South Eastern Europe

Pandemic of influenza affecting global security

Dates 9th – 11th November 2009

Venue RACVIAC, Rakitje, Stari hrast 53, 10437 Bestovje, Croatia

Background The pandemic of influenza has been declared for some time now, but the number of human cases is still substantially increasing in many countries, even in those that have already been affected for a long time. Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic is still in its earliest stages of development and over the coming weeks and months it will evolve, with possible changes in the epidemiological and clinical characteristics of the infections. The Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) noted that its recommendations reflect the pandemic's current estimated severity and that, as the situation evolves and more evidence becomes available, the recommendations may need to be revised. Since the pandemic is increasingly threatening our normal daily life, the WHO recommended the countries to take action. However, without a common approach, all the measures taken can prove useless. Therefore, the national action plans need to be redeveloped and the international cooperation strengthened.

Purpose & Objectives The purpose of this seminar is to increase understanding of the problem and the actions that need to be taken in fighting the new pandemic. It also aims to encourage South East Europe (SEE) countries to develop their national influenza pandemic action plans and enhance the international cooperation.

The objectives of the seminar are:

- To present experiences and future steps of the international experts, scientists working on development and implementation of projects initiated in the international community
- To share expertise, opinions, lessons learned, as well as to identify problems, possible solutions, and to explore the future steps among the regional countries
- To provide recommendations and suggestions on how to proceed with the development of national pandemic action plans
- To deepen contacts between representatives of national organizations and agencies engaged in the accomplishment of security and confidence building measures
- To add a real value to the Southeast European (SEE) region showing fields and ways as how to work in the future as a platform for cooperation on national, regional and international level.

Participants

This seminar is designed for the experts involved in national protection / security in the field of pandemics, coming from the respective ministries, agencies and other organizations in RACVIAC Member States and other countries beyond the SEE region. The seminar will also gather representatives from other public institutions dealing with the Influenza A (H1N1) pandemic. (WHO, ECDC, national experts).

Methodology

The seminar will consist of a combination of lectures / presentations from the experts, followed by open discussions. It will also comprise short 20-minute countries' presentations on their national preparedness and actions taken, followed by open discussions. The seminar language will be English with no translation.

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Captain Jože ČEBULAR Tel.: 00 385 1 333 0 821, Fax: 00 385 1 333 0 829;
E-mail address: jcebular@racviac.org; web: www.racviac.org