

ESSTI Newsletter No.2

September 2006



The ESSTI steering group met in London, for the first time since 2004, during June 2006. This was the first opportunity for the steering group to meet the new project team. We also welcomed Magid Herida, as a representative of ECDC, and

Stine Nilsen from WHO - Euro to the meeting. The meeting began with a series of brief presentations on ESSTI 2001-2004. This was then followed by a presentation on the objectives and deliverables of this phase of ESSTI. Lively discussions then

ensued on a number of issues relating to taking ESSTI forward and achieving the objectives for each of the work packages. A series of working groups has since been set up to work on particular issues. The results of these discussions will be presented to the network at the collaborative group meeting in November. Feedback on this first ESSTI meeting has been very positive with the typical British gastropub where the steering group recovered after the first day being particularly warmly received. The full meeting report is available on the ESSTI website www.essti.org.

Upcoming Events and Activities

ESSTI Collaborative Group Meeting

ESSTI are pleased to announce that the first collaborative group meeting of this phase of the network will be held on the 28th and 29th November 2006. The meeting will be hosted by the Health Protection Agency in Colindale, London. All ESSTI surveillance and microbiology collaborators are invited to attend this meeting. Further information regarding travel and accommodation will be sent via email shortly.

ESSTI Symposium

The first ESSTI seminar day will be held this year at the 15th Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) in Rhodes on the 4th October. The programme includes talks on The Development of ESSTI, Trends in STIs in Europe, STI outbreaks in Europe, Development of Euro-GASP, Chlamydia screening in England and Wales and Trends in *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* infections: Lisbon 1991-2005. The symposium is being run as an EADV Sister Society Session and therefore registration to the EADV Congress is not necessary to attend the ESSTI symposium. For further information please visit <http://eadv2006.com/index.php>

Epidemiology News

Thank you to the new collaborators who have recently completed the surveillance questionnaire. ESSTI have also contacted all other member states asking them to confirm that the information ESSTI holds on their surveillance systems is still correct and inform us of any changes in STI surveillance that have occurred since 2002/2003. Please can this information be returned to the project team as soon as possible as it is crucial for the planned activities of this phase of the network which includes the collection of routine STI surveillance data. Thank you to the countries that have already done this.

Training in the Second Generation HIV/AIDS Surveillance

The knowledge hub on training in HIV/AIDS surveillance will be running a training module on Biological HIV/AIDS Surveillance between the 6th and 10th November 2006 at the School of Public Health in Zagreb, Croatia. Topics covered will include ANC based serosurveillance, monitoring resistance to anti-retrovirals and adherence to treatment. For further information please visit <http://www.surveillanczagreb.org/training.php>



ESSTI Steering Group at HPA Holborn Gate, London, June 2006

Contact details of the ESSTI Team at HPA

For further information on latest developments on ESSTI please contact:

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ESSTI Newsletter

If you have an article or a short news piece that you would like included in future editions of this newsletter please contact Edmund Donovan at essti@hpa.org.uk.