EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR INTERVENTION EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING

Lazareto de Mahón, Menorca, Spain

27 September – 16 October 2004

Surveillance

Exercise

Source: EPIET 2000
Major revision: EPIET 2004
Minor revision: EPIET 2004
Exercise on surveillance
The purpose of this exercise is for participants to carefully determine the attributes required for a surveillance system in relation to a specific disease or pathogen.

After this exercise the participant will be able to
- understand the disease as a public health problem
- understand the current or planned public health strategy
- describe the objectives of surveillance: what action is planned and how the surveillance data will contribute to this action
- use the comprehensive list of the attributes of surveillance systems, and identify the key characteristics needed to ensure that the system is capable of achieving its objectives.

Exercise in two facilitated sessions
Each group will be assigned a disease, pathogen or event.

The first group session (3.5 hours, including break) will be used to review the major features of the disease, pathogen or event of interest, the public health importance of the given topic, and the public health strategy to deal with it, in order to set the scene for a detailed consideration of the specific objectives of surveillance.

The statement of the specific objectives should include a clear description of the purpose of the surveillance system and activity / information required to serve this.

During the second session (1 hour), the following day, the group will prepare a five-minute presentation in PowerPoint on the surveillance system they have described. In the past, some groups have found it helpful to draft their slides as they progress through the exercise.

The PowerPoint presentation should include:
- one slide on the public health importance of the disease
- one slide on the public health strategy/ intervention
- one slide stating the specific objectives of surveillance
- two slides describing the key attributes of the surveillance system.

No slide should contain more than five bullet points.

Presentation, discussion and feedback
In this session, each group will be allocated 20 minutes – 5 minutes to deliver their presentation and 15 minutes for discussion and feedback. Electronic copies of the presentations are required for the archives and should be provided to the respective facilitator.
Surveillance exercise
Framework for implementing a surveillance system

You have been asked to implement a surveillance system in your country. We would like you to consider the following issues in designing the system.

Rapid clinical overview

Public health concern

Prevention and control measures

Objectives

Indicators and data

Type of indicators

Data and analysis needed to get indicators

Who calculates indicators and how often?

Are indicators already available?

Action resulting from the outcome of the system

System design issues

Flow of information

Incoming data

Outgoing information

Ethical issues

Evaluation

Are we where we should be?