

This article is an early release of information from Inform'ACTION No. 32, which will be published very soon.

French Pacific territories workshop

Themes discussed: tuberculosis, dengue fever, influenza, leptospirosis and rheumatic fever



A workshop for the French Pacific territories, held at SPC Headquarters in Noumea from 22 to 25 February 2010, brought together health professionals from French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna. It was organised by SPC's Public Health Division in collaboration with InVS (French Health Surveillance Agency) and WHO.

The purpose of the workshop was to enable the three French territories to discuss common issues, plan responses and solutions that could be applied to each one, and share their

experiences, thus enhancing the public health work carried out by each territory.

Discussions covered updates on the Influenza A (H1N1) and DEN-4 epidemics that affected the French Pacific territories in 2009, and control strategies for tuberculosis, leptospirosis and rheumatic fever. Along with sharing of information and experiences, areas were identified for upcoming joint efforts.

The exchanges between health professionals, both in plenary sessions and work groups, resulted in the formulation of several recommendations designed to improve and harmonise the territories' approaches to the surveillance, diagnosis and prevention of the target diseases.

In addition, a series of more general recommendations on improving surveillance and diagnosis and strengthening collaboration between the territories was formulated.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop are available on SPC's website: www.spc.int/php (under documents & publications / Meeting papers).