



COST Action CA17108, Questionnaire workgroup meeting
COST Office Avenue Louise 149 1050, Brussels
1 - 2 April 2019

Minutes AIM QUEST- 1-2 April 2019 Brussels

Willy Wint opened the meeting reviewing the steps that have been made regarding the survey/questionnaires. The questionnaires were presented at the IAEA meeting in Vienna and they were then validated initially by 15 super users with experience in surveillance and control of mosquitoes and then distributed during the annual meeting in Athens in February where 99 questionnaires were completed. In a subsequent conference organised by EMCA a further 16 answers were given plus a questionnaire in hard copy that was handed in to Francis Schaffner. There are currently 115 questionnaires completed. Later Willy Wint, Kelly Martinou and Miguel Miranda presented the results and comments of the preliminary analyses of the 99 questionnaires including Fred Jourdain's results and comments, which were then discussed.

Some of the points that were made based on the preliminary analyses were the following:

- There are gaps in knowledge regarding AIM surveillance and control even among the elite of European mosquito experts
- Citizen science is considered as a useful tool in improving coverage and reducing costs however the participants are 50-50% when it comes to having citizens employing control methods
- The best method for dissemination of guidelines is the training seminars (for technicians, researchers and control companies)
- According to the results of our questionnaire, most control and surveillance is undertaken at local or regional level and also from private companies therefore we should reach them and ask them for their needs
- Lack of funding, unqualified or limited personnel but also low public awareness were all seen as obstacles in trying to implement guidelines
- When participants were asked how many traps they use for their surveillance programmes the number of traps per km² were too low and only 18/99 people who have answered the questionnaire are actively involved in surveillance or control programmes through a responsible authority in their country (based on their job description at the beginning of the questionnaire)
- It was pointed out that some of the questions due to the way they were structured will present difficulties in subsequent analysis, that we will need a larger number of participants to be able to produce robust statistical results that will be used for the report but also for a peer-reviewed publication and that it we will still need to reach out and capture more opinions from public health practitioners

Dusan Petric suggested that upon the completion of this survey (Phase I) and the first report, a second survey (Phase II) will need to follow with simple but concise questionnaires with a maximum of 5-10 questions that will focus a) on surveillance, b) on control, c) on citizen science activities regarding mosquito surveillance and control and that will be distributed to local stakeholders in each country by MC members with an aim to reach public health technicians of public and private companies and perhaps also citizen-science groups.

All the participants worked together in order to define the aim and the objectives of this questionnaire in order to structure their analyses around these objectives. Based on what it was discussed a preliminary definition of the aim and objectives is given below:

Aim: Understand the state of the art for surveillance and control of AIM in Europe

Objectives

1. To review the current activities in surveillance and control of invasive mosquitoes in Europe including citizen science activities in order to optimize surveillance and control approaches
2. To establish which guidelines or guidance documents exist in Europe (LIST) and understand who is using them and how
3. To find out what are the constraints to the implementation of guidelines

On the second day of the meeting analysis of specific questions were assigned as follows

Dusan Petric: 3, 4, 5, 26,

Cosmin Salasan and Dusan Petric: 10, 11

Filiz Gunay: 6, 18, 23, 27

Beniamino Caputo and Mattia Manica: 7, 8, 9, 15, 22, 24

Antonis Michaelakis : 12, 13,14, 16, 17 **Willy Wint:** preparation of master results spreadsheet

Francis Schaffner: 25 (list of people not for the report)

Francis Schaffner and Miguel Miranda: 19,20,21

Additional tasks were allocated and deadlines set as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Allocated tasks and deadlines for Quest survey Phase I

Quest expert	Task	Deadline	Comments
Francis	Check the list of proposed people to contact	10.04.2019	
Willy	Produces a table with info on Francis proposed list of people to contact with their affiliations (sectors, experience, country)	15.04.2019	
Francis	Open the survey for Francis list of experts and ECDC NFPs	23.04.2019	
All quest group	Preliminary analyses of the questionnaires sent to Willy and Kelly	23.04.2019	Not compulsory but if in any doubt please send
Willy	Survey for Francis list of experts and NFP closes	07.05.2019	
Francis	Contacts people who have not replied by the 07.05.2019	15.05.2019	
Willy	Sends extra answers from NFPs and Francis contacts	20.05.2019	
Kelly	Produces a short report/ feedback for COST participants (2 pages of conclusions + pictures)	15.06.2019	
All quest group	Returns the analyses of their questions to Willy + Kelly	30.06.2019	Antonis, Cosmin, Dusan, Miguel, Francis, Mattia, Beniamino, Filiz
Willy & Kelly	Sends the compiled questions to Mattia and Cosmin for statistical appraisal	15.07.2019	STSM Willy to Cyprus-Mapping 1 st week of July
Mattia & Cosmin	Returns their recommendations to the group	25.09.2019	Mattia & Cosmin STSM Novi-Sad
All quest group	Skype meeting or meeting/Decisions on Phase II approach	30.09.2019	? Depending on budget Grand period 2 meeting in Novi-Sad after Cosmin's and Mattia's STSM

As close collaboration is required for these analyses and reports it was proposed to apply for two STSMs: one between Willy Wint and Kelly Martinou and one between Mattia Manica and Cosmin Salasan. It was also suggested that a meeting in year 2 will take place at Novi-Sad (subject to funding availability) which will look at Phase II and how to proceed.

The meeting was closed on 02.04.2019 1730.

Useful links

Survey: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/AIMCOSTSURVEYFEB19/management/results>