



İSTANBUL
BÜYÜKŞEHİR
BELEDİYESİ



HACETTEPE
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ
CERİRAHİPAŞA

İSTÜN
İSTANBUL SAĞLIK VE TEKNOLOJİ
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



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Press release of the Annual Conference in Istanbul

Third Annual Conference of Aedes Invasive Mosquitoes COST Action CA17108

2-3 September 2021

Halic Conference Center, Istanbul & Online

Aedes Invasive Mosquitoes (AIMs) can present a significant health risk to humans, due to their capacity to transmit virus such as Dengue and Chikungunya. The European Funded AIM-COST Action has been working towards “harmonizing invasive mosquito surveillance, implementing control interventions and dissemination of information” in Europe and beyond. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, a very successful Europe-wide invasive mosquito-sampling programme - the AIMSurv Initiative - was carried out in 27 countries in both 2020 and 2021. In Istanbul, the work was done with the collaboration of Hacettepe University, Istanbul University-Cerrahpasa and Metropolitan Municipality of Istanbul. These three institutions are now organizing the hybrid 3rd Annual Conference of AIMCOST. We expect to host scientists from 13 European countries in person and from more than other 35 countries worldwide online.

Previous AIMCOST Annual Conferences have built up the professional and academic networks which have been strengthened with training schools, workshops and short-term scientific missions. The 2nd Annual Conference focused on surveillance and now this 3rd one is centered around mosquito control. The main focal points will be surveillance to improve the precision control operations, novel approaches to invasive mosquito control and the assessment of mosquito control activities.

Enhancing communication between stakeholders is one of the AIM-COST Action’s most important tasks and we are proud to host a meeting that will strengthen ties between decision makers, field technicians and scientists. To accomplish this, a workshop “Towards invasive Aedes surveillance and control in Istanbul” will be held on August 31st 2021, with international experts and the Turkish ground teams discussing the latest information about the new invasive mosquito species in Turkey (*Aedes aegypti* and especially *Aedes albopictus*), which we be followed by a round-table discussions with decision makers the next day. In second parallel workshop, will focus on the socioeconomic impact of *Aedes* invasive mosquitoes.

Covid-19 pandemic has shown the impact of viral diseases on everyone’s lives. AIM-COST Action’s conference and workshops are aimed to create awareness and build capacity on other public health relevant viruses and their mosquito vectors.