

## Report on the outcomes of a Short-Term Scientific Mission<sup>1</sup>

Action number: **CA17108**

Grantee name: **Lusine Paronyan**

### **Details of the STSM**

Title: **Implement Mosquito Alert Armenia project**

Start and end date: 30/05/2022 to 03/06/2022

### **Description of the work carried out during the STSM**

Description of the activities carried out during the STSM. Any deviations from the initial working plan shall also be described in this section.

*(max. 500 words)*

Visiting the theoretical and Computational Ecology Group at the Centre for Advanced Studies (CEAB-CSIC) I learned in detail about the “Mosquito Alert” project, the stages of its implementation, and the best practices of its implementation in different countries. At the host institution colleagues (Frederic Bartumeus and his team) showed all the details of how the “Mosquito Alert” project works; the operation of the mobile application and the website. With colleagues (Santi Escantin) I had a chance to participate in educational activities, organized in one of the Barcelona schools and knew how it is being done to involve children and have adherent teachers and children as collaborators and how it is helpful. With the communication team (Alex Richter-Boix, Aitana Oltra) I learn the best practices of coordination and communication to ensure citizens’ involvement in the project. The outreach materials were provided to translate and use in Armenia. Also, I had an opportunity to learn about entomological surveillance and other research done in CEAB (Santi Escantin, Laura Blanco) in Marimurtra botanic garden on *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. On Friday I visited entomolab in Barcelona whereby Roger Eritja and his team I was explained how entomological expertise of photos sent by “Mosquito Alert” application users and how Armenian entomologists can be involved and collaborate in the framework of the project. We discussed and designed the future implementation of the “Mosquito Alert” in Armenia; I was given valuable and practical advice. I got acquainted with the training materials, training tools, leaflets, posters, already started to translate the application into Armenian to make its use possible in my country.

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<sup>1</sup> This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

Additionally, during the STSM, with great interest, I knew about the other projects being conducted in CEAB and envisaged new possibilities for collaboration.

### **Description of the STSM main achievements and planned follow-up activities**

Description and assessment of whether the STSM achieved its planned goals and expected outcomes, including specific contribution to Action objective and deliverables, or publications resulting from the STSM. Agreed plans for future follow-up collaborations shall also be described in this section.

*(max. 500 words)*

After the STSM I have a clear understanding how does the Mosquito Alert platform works and how can be expanded its use to Armenia. It is very valuable experience and advance practices to give an opportunity for citizens' participate in alert system to improve the management of invasive mosquito species and minimize the risk of disease transmission. We are very concerned because of expansion of the area of *Aedes albopictus* Due to limited recourses, routine entomological surveillance efforts conducted by field entomologists working in NCDC branches are not enough for this. Engaging the public of the affected areas and possibly other regions in mosquito surveillance will allow having a more clear understanding of the distribution of *Aedes albopictus* and possible *Aedes aegypti* in Armenia.

After getting all official permissions (now I'm working on this) I'll organize meeting with the entomologists in NCDC regional branches, to let them be aware about the Mosquito Alert platform and it's activities. We will finish the translation of the Application and public outreach materials and get ready for field visits, to meet regional authorities / active citizens in the communities (teachers, doctors, nurses, municipal workers etc.) to deliver seminars/talks and also public outreach materials. we will start from the region where we found *Aedes albopictus* but other regions also will be involved. Students of the National institute of health (where I'm a part-time lecturer), as well as the Field epidemiology training program (FETP) (where I'm a lecturer and mentor) fellows/alumni (epidemiologists of the regional branches of NCDC) will be involved during the fieldwork. NCDC; MoH, NIH websites and social media pages will be used to create public interest and awareness. We also will organize interviews by regional TV channels.

I clearly understand that because of biological and ecological features it is not possible to control the spread of invasive *Aedes* species without citizens' participation. By implementing the "Mosquito Alert" application and using citizens' participatory alert system will help us to improve the management of invasive mosquito species and minimize the risk of disease transmission. On the other hand Armenian entomologists can contribute in mosquito identification and will collaborate with European colleagues.