"INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE PACIFIC" Main Think Tank Outcomes Papeete 12-14 November 2014



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Main objective of this Think Tank

45+ health practitioners and health scientists representing Pacific (island) countries, countries from the EU and European and International Health Organizations

To share experience, expertise, knowledge and ideas to define:

- How to address current and emerging infectious diseases in the Pacific
- How Europe and the Pacific can mutually benefit from collaborative research to address these public health issue of general importance





An environment that fosters the spillover, spread and amplification of infectious diseases







Outcome 1 – Identify main challenges

Situation analysis (strength, weaknesses and challenges)

- Improve disease diagnosis
- Public Health Policy
- Data management, expertise, knowledge
- Technical cooperation





Outcome 2 – Main drivers to improve disease surveillance, management and control in the Pacific

Drivers of improvement identified through typical case studies (Zika, malaria, measles, leptospirosis, etc)





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Outcome 3 – List priority research of common Pacific/EU interest on infectious diseases

The Pacific island context makes it is easier to understand the dynamics of infectious disease transmission and to implement innovative and efficient ways to prevent them

- Study Pathogen-Vector-Human interactions (ecology, biology, genetics)
 - Survey vectors and reservoirs of diseases in the Pacific
- Diagnosis, surveillance and epidemiology
 - Develop new diagnostic tools to improve capacity for local, on-site surveillance
 - Build maps and models for better risk assessment and prediction
- Environmental and societal drivers of infectious disease transmission
 - Better characterize drivers to improve models and simulations
- Prevent, detect, respond
 - Evaluate innovative approaches to control disease vectors, transition to scale
 - Develop tools to improve community awareness and engagement





EU/Pacific common interest

For Europe

- Improve scientific knowledge on emerging infectious diseases
- Set up an early warning system to help prevent disease introduction into Europe
- Support innovative control strategies to prevent disease outbreaks

For Pacific countries

- Benefit from the European scientific expertise and capacity
- Foster joint collaborations to tackle common public health issues
- Strengthen capacity through education and training

