



Strengthening Europe's resilience to emerging health threats

IDAlert aims to tackle the emergence and transmission of pathogens and spread of zoonotic pathogens by developing novel indicators, innovative early warning systems and efficient tools for decision-makers, and by evaluating adaptation and mitigation strategies to build a more resilient Europe to emerging health threats.

As our planet heats up due to climate change, outbreaks of zoonotic diseases – *diseases that spread from animals to humans* - increase and expand to other parts of the world, in particular Europe. Warmer temperatures, increasing rainfall, and the loss of biodiversity influence the survival and spread of zoonotic pathogens, and the reproduction and geographic location of their vectors, such as mosquitoes or ticks.

Past and recent health crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, have shown there is a need for stronger and more inclusive preparedness and responsiveness to epidemic-prone pathogens at EU and global level. IDAlert aims to tackle this challenge by developing a range of decision-support tools and systems to allow decision-makers to act on time with the right responses.

“The project has chosen an innovative take with a co-creation, participatory and citizen science approach, involving stakeholders from the start to integrate needs and address gaps, and a One Health perspective, recognising the close connection between humans, animals, the environment, and the rise in infectious diseases,” says Joacim Röcklov, IDAlert Project Coordinator, Umeå University (Sweden).

IDAlert will develop new climate and health indicators (i.e. for viruses circulating among wild birds and mosquitoes such as the West Nile Virus) and monitoring mechanisms that are useful, socially differentiated and can inform policy development across sectors, setting a new standard in support of policy and decision-making.

Surveillance, early warning, and response systems will also be developed and made accessible through a user interface that allows to easily visualise and explore data and results, making it easier to undertake effective measures and contain outbreaks.

IDAlert will assess the costs, effectiveness, benefits and policy viability of adaptation measures and strategies to improve the climate resilience of health systems in Europe. Finally,

the project will look at socio-economic aspects, investigating the emergence, transmission and spread of zoonotic pathogens and consequences of climate and health policies on different social and high-risk groups, and how policy can help reduce these impacts.

The validity of the tools and methods developed in the project will be demonstrated in key hotspot sites in Spain, The Netherlands, Greece, Sweden, and Bangladesh, which are experiencing rapid urban transformation and climate-induced disease threats.

The project will maximise its reach and build on its ties with the European Climate and Health Observatory, the Climate-ADAPT platform, and the Lancet Countdown in Europe to guarantee long-term sustainability, policy impact and uptake.

Through its activities and objectives, IDAlert will ultimately contribute to more robust climate policies, guide authorities in public health, veterinary and environmental services, and safeguard the populations in Europe from the transmission and emergence of infectious pathogens due to climate change.

About IDAlert

IDAlert – Infectious Disease decision-support tools and Alert systems – officially started on 1 June 2022. The € 9.18 million project funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe programme will last 5 years.

It gathers 19 organisations from Sweden, Germany, France, Spain, Greece, The Netherlands, Italy, UK, and Bangladesh, with world leading experts in a wide range of disciplines including zoonoses, infectious disease epidemiology, social sciences, artificial intelligence, environmental economics, and environmental and climate sciences.

Project Coordinator:

Joacim Rocklöv,
Umeå University (Sweden) & Heidelberg University (Germany)

More information:

contact@idalertproject.eu
www.idalertproject.eu

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/idalert>

 [@idalertproject](https://twitter.com/idalertproject)



**Funded by
the European Union**