

MOBILISE NEWSLETTER #4

Greek Mission in Focus



Dear MOBILISE subscriber,

We are pleased to announce that our project has reached another milestone: the successful deployment of the mobile laboratory in Greece.

Building on the initial trials in Austria and Germany, the Greek mission put the lab to the test under real-life conditions, yielding valuable insights for future developments.

Read the full brief below ↓.

Training and Preparation in Athens (30 June – 4 July)

The mission began on 30 June in Athens, where the Greek team of the National Public Health Organization (EODY) received hands-on training in molecular testing for WNV with trainers from the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine (BNITM), and in using a rapid diagnostic test developed by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT).



Additionally, the training confirmed that the core lab systems functioned smoothly, giving confidence for the next phase.

Field Deployment and Performance in Thessaloniki (7 – 18 July)

After the training was completed, the field mission at the Health Care Center of Nea Madytos in Thessaloniki started on 7 July. During this activity, MOBILISE integrated the West Nile virus surveillance system carried out by EODY during the WNV outbreak season. Over a period of two weeks, 51 patient blood samples were collected, processed safely, and analysed on-site. Using PCR tests, all samples tested negative for WNV RNA.



▮ MOBILISE laboratory stationed in Nea Madytos, Thessaloniki

Challenges Faced

Moving and stabilising the heavy lab truck was more complicated than expected, nonetheless the team ensured a quick setup.

The field mission highlighted some technical difficulties; however, the team managed a steady daily output, proving the lab can operate effectively in demanding conditions. Even in a severe heatwave, the 11-tonne truck remained fully functional, with air conditioning keeping the lab stable and safe.



▮ *MOBILISE laboratory stationed in Nea Madytos, Thessaloniki*

Key Lessons Learned

Overall, the Greek mission confirmed that the MOBILISE lab can deliver quick and reliable molecular diagnostics. The strong performance of PCR tests, the dedication of a small operator team, and the lab's resilience in extreme heat showed its real-world potential.

At the same time, the challenges gave the project valuable direction on what to improve. These lessons will guide the next round of technical fixes and workflow adjustments, helping the mobile lab grow into a fully trusted tool for outbreak preparedness across Europe.

Next stop: Tanzania – field mission in progress!

Thanks for staying with us.

Warmly,

The MOBILISE Communications Team

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