

MOBILISE NEWSLETTER #5

The Closing Chapter



Dear MOBILISE subscriber,

In this final newsletter, we take a moment to reflect on MOBILISE's four field missions, celebrate the achievements made possible by our BNITM coordination team and the dedication of our partners, and share our heartfelt farewell as the project comes to a close.

How it started:

- After two weeks of intensive training in February - conducted by BNITM in Hamburg to prepare a skilled pool of operators for deployment - the MOBILISE missions officially launched! This comprehensive Training of Trainers programme provided participants with both practical and theoretical expertise to operate the mobile laboratory safely and efficiently - covering lab setup, biosafety procedures, diagnostics, and sample handling under emergency conditions.



© BNITM/trainings in Hamburg, February 2025

How it continued:

- Building directly on this foundation, the first field mission kicked off on 13 May in Austria. There, trained operators and national authorities took part in a realistic outbreak simulation to test the mobile laboratory's operational readiness, evaluate its diagnostic capabilities in the field, and refine communication and response protocols for future emergencies. For the full brief, see the dedicated newsletter: mobilise-lab.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/mobilise-lab-2nd-newsletter.pdf



© AGES/Hlous – Symposium held on May 6th, which brought together national and international experts

- Following the successful start in Austria, the second field mission began on 9 June in Germany. Key highlights included securing authorisation to handle low- to moderate-risk pathogens, setting up molecular diagnostics for avian influenza detection and subtyping, and validating workflows for challenging sample types. The mission also demonstrated the capacity to detect other pathogens of public health importance, including Oropouche, Chikungunya, West Nile, and Rift Valley fever viruses, while testing autoclave and wastewater sterilisation systems and finalising a four-step fumigation protocol. For the full brief, see the dedicated newsletter: mobilise-lab.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MOBILISE-Newsletter-3.pdf



▮ ©FLI/Mandy Jörn - *Trained FLI operators preparing to launch the mobile lab on the German island of Riems.*

- Starting on 7 July in Greece, the mobile lab was deployed at the Health Care Center of Nea Madytos in Thessaloniki, integrating into the West Nile virus surveillance system during outbreak season. Over two weeks, 51 patient blood samples were collected, processed, and analysed on-site, with all testing negative for WNV RNA. Despite logistical challenges and a severe heatwave, the lab performed reliably, confirming its ability to deliver quick and robust diagnostics in demanding field conditions. For the full brief, see the dedicated newsletter:mobilise-lab.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/MOBILISE-Newsletter-4.pdf



▯ *MOBILISE laboratory stationed in Nea Madytos, Thessaloniki*

Next steps:

- The fourth and final field mission is making steady progress, with ongoing work aimed at testing the lab's diagnostic capabilities under local conditions in Tanzania. These efforts are expected to provide crucial insights and will play a key role in bringing the project to a successful conclusion.

As our coordination team prepares for this last trial this October, we wish them every success as they put the MOBILISE mobile laboratory to the test one final time!

Overall, the missions showed how well the MOBILISE lab works in real-life situations and how much can be achieved with a dedicated project team. As we wrap up the MOBILISE project this month, we thank everyone who has been part of this incredible journey!

Thanks for staying with us.

Warmly,

The MOBILISE Communications Team

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