



Distribution of leptospirosis in freshwaters of Vojvodina region, Serbia

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Leptospirosis is a globally important zoonotic disease that affects humans on all continents in tropical and temperate climates, now being identified as one of the emerging infectious water born diseases.

There were 67 diagnosed patients with leptospirosis hospitalized on the clinic for infectious diseases "Clinical Center Vojvodina" from all over Vojvodina in the last 5 years. The number of infected people is most probably greater since the proper diagnosis of atypical (without occurrence of jaundice) forms of infection is lacking, while the typical (with jaundice) form is usually combined with renal pathology and other complications like those observed with patients in Infectious clinic in Novi Sad.

The occurrence of leptospirosis in water ecosystems in Vojvodina is detected via the infected patients. The number of treated patients on the clinic in Novi Sad in the last 8 years is such that the probable number of all cases in Vojvodina is larger than 100. According to WHO, this number of patients in relation to the total number of inhabitants directly demands for additional research and detection of infectious centers, since this lethal disease has very similar symptoms as some noxious infections like influenza and other harmless ones. It is also examined the occurrence of leptospirosis in relation to geological and certain water quality parameters and chemical compounds. Furthermore, the analysis of the number of cases regarding the place of infection can reveal

the degree of a health risk and danger for exposure from the specific surface water-bodies. Those locations having large number of confirmed cases should be closely monitored, either regarding the professional prevention or a specific attention of living biota environmental experts and other water analysis programs. Finally, it is of immense importance to implement the timely and adequate info system for the people and medical personnel at the local level on the possibility of occurrence of this sinister disease.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The authors acknowledge financial support of the European Community allotted by the European Agency for Reconstruction through the Ministry of International Economic Relations of the Republic of Serbia within the Neighborhood Programme Hungary-Serbia (Action entitled "Regional Water Resources Investigations in the Scope of Sustainable Development", Grant No.04SER02/01/009).