

## Highlights

### **Entomological and Epidemiological monitoring networks**

Since the beginning of May, Ecodevelopment S.A. has initiated the entomological (adult mosquitoes) and epidemiological (adult mosquitoes and poultry) monitoring in the regions of Central Macedonia, Western Greece and Thessaly, the results of which are used for operational and scientific purposes. Notably, adult mosquitoes are collected every 15 days in the region of Central Macedonia in 60 sites, in the region of Western Greece in 20 sites and in the region of Thessaly in 10 sites.

The monitoring is carried out by the installment and, after 24 hours, by the removal of special traps designed for catching adult mosquitoes (carbon dioxide / light type CDC), the storage, identification and transport of biological material to detect the presence of WNV. The implemented protocol complies with modern scientific standards and the identification of mosquitoes is performed at the genus and / or species level.

In order to monitor the circulation of the West Nile Virus (WNV) in poultry within the settlements, blood sampling will begin during June within 50 selected settlements of the region of Central Macedonia, 50 settlements of the region of Western Greece and in 20 settlements of the region of Thessaly.

This first iteration of blood sampling (5 young hens per henhouse per selected settlement) provides important information regarding the circulation of WNV at the operational level, but also at the level of epidemiological risk forecast. The second iteration of blood sampling, depending on the results of the first, will be undertaken from late July to mid-August.

The results derived from the above process are used for decision-making at the operational level and for scientific purposes as well such as: for the classification of breeding sites, for the overall monitoring of population evolution and for the assessment of epidemiological risk in relation to the presence of the West Nile virus. The laboratory testing is performed in collaboration with accredited laboratories (Laboratory of Microbiology, AUTH Medical School, Prof. A. Papa, Laboratory of Microbiology, AUTH School, Prof. Chr. Dovas).