



MIDISS
NEWS

30 Sept 2026

Vector Surveillance Training, 14-18 Sept 2026



Participants & Experts at the Vector Surveillance Training held on 14-18 Sept 2026

On 14-18 Sept 2026, a comprehensive Vector Surveillance Site Visit and Training was held at the HPDP as part of the MIDISS (Malta Infectious Diseases Integrated Surveillance System) Project. The training focussed on introducing the participants to knowledge and skills relevant to the establishment of routine surveillance of mosquitoes and sandflies in Malta.

The training brought together participants from both the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Unit (IDCU) of the HPDP department, as well as staff from the Environmental Health Department, Mater Dei Hospital Laboratory and veterinary and surveillance officers from FSSA (Food Safety and Security Authority).

The training forms part of the MIDISS project (**Malta Infectious Diseases Integrated Surveillance System**), a four-year project running from 2025-2028. Following this training, and building on the knowledge and skills acquired, routine surveillance of mosquitoes and sandflies will start in the coming month, strengthening our national capacity to monitor and respond to vector-borne disease threats.

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The training programme included a series of technical lectures covering:

- Entomological history of mosquitoes and sandflies in Malta;
- Pathogens of public health importance,
- Use of satellite data mapping to support the selection of trapping sites; and
- Trapping and morphological species identification methods.



Participants then applied this knowledge through hands-on field sessions, during which light traps and ovi-traps were deployed at select locations, samples were collected, and practical training was provided on specimen sorting and mosquito species identification using microscopes.

The meeting concluded with stakeholders expressing interest in further upcoming trainings which will be held at least once a year throughout the MIDISS project. Participants also used this meeting to exchange information on related surveillance practices, which is an important part of improving One Health collaborations.

Training was conducted in collaboration with: [Ecostack Innovations](#) and entomologist [Francis Schaffner](#), as well as experts from the [Leibniz Universität Hannover](#) and [Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin](#)



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