



EUCO-Net



Title

European Network for global cooperation in the field of AIDS & TB

Acronym

EUCO-Net

Project duration

18 months (Nov 2008 - April 2010)

Requested funding

827.264 €

Scientific Coordinator

Prof. Andreas Meyerhans, Saarland University, Germany

Project Manager

Claudia Giehl, Eurice GmbH, Germany

More information

www.euco-net.eu

Project Idea

Objective

The objective of this support action is to provide an **overview of the state of the art in HIV and TB research** and disease management in the different partner countries, to **identify global research priorities** and to **boost international cooperation** between leading HIV and TB experts from Europe and those countries mainly affected by the two diseases - Russia, Latin America, South Africa and India.

Implementation

Each participating country/region is being represented by one HIV and one TB scientist in the EUCO-Net consortium, forming the “core group of experts”. Europe will be represented by two experts per disease and other members with cross-thematic expertise.

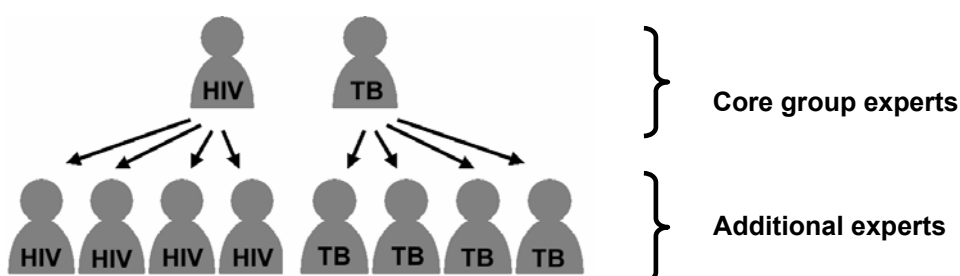
1) Country-based analysis

Within the first 7 months of the project, this core group of experts will intensively explore and analyze the current situation of the respective diseases in their countries and summarize their findings in a country report, including information on

- a) the epidemiological status
- b) the state of the art of research
- c) existing research projects
- d) existing national funds
- e) medical treatment standards
- f) diagnostic standards
- g) scientific challenges/topics for further research

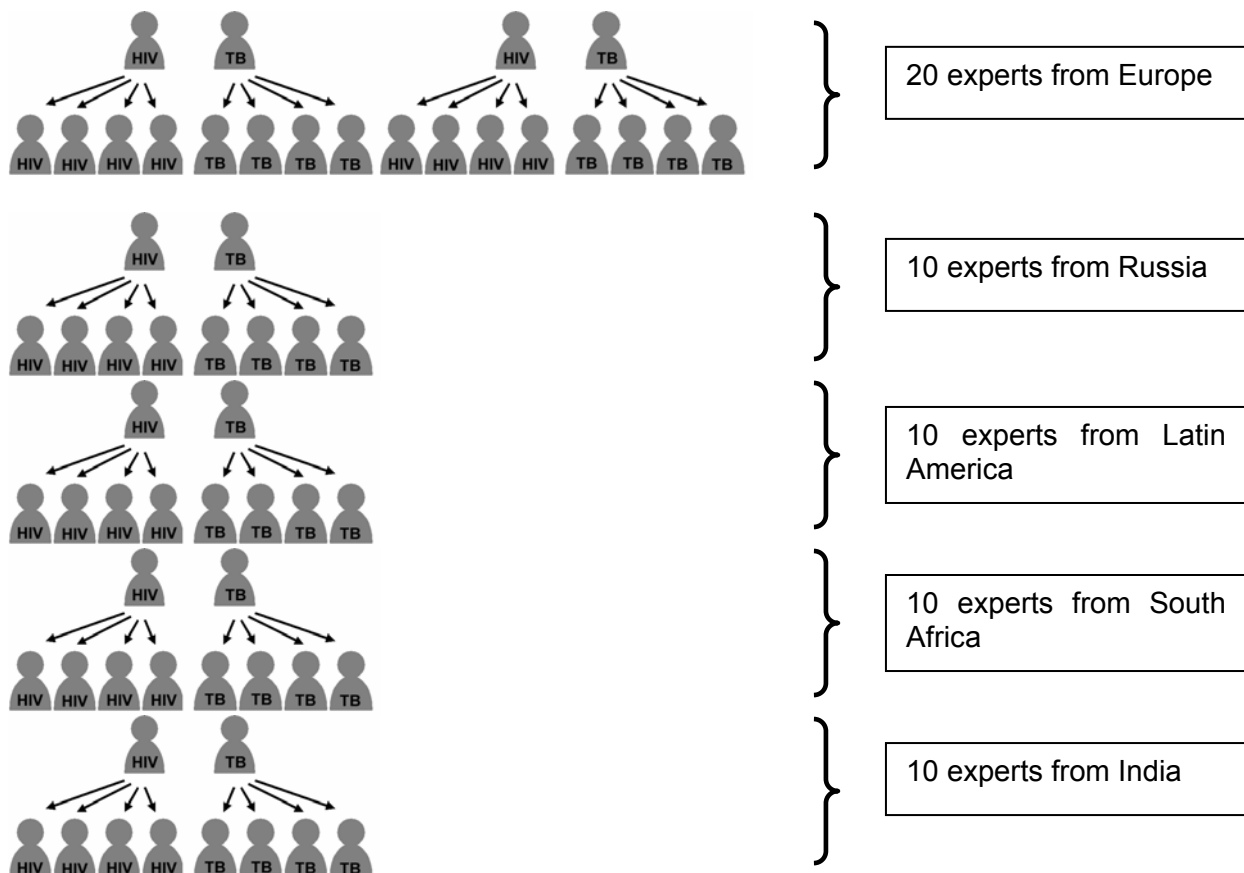
During these first months, each member of the core group of experts will identify four **additional** leading specialists from their country/region who should extend and complement the core group’s experience for both HIV and TB and who are willing to participate in an HIV/TB workshop on research challenges and opportunities for future collaboration.

Representation of each country/region



2) Workshop

After 7 months, the **AIDS/TB workshop on research challenges and opportunities for future collaboration** will bring together the core group experts and all additional experts from the participating countries. Travel grants for the additional experts will be provided. This workshop will be attached to the **5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention**, which will take place from July 19th to 22nd, 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa (www.ias2009.org).



The workshop, bringing together a select circle of leading scientists in order to allow for concerted action and targeted scientific discussion, has the following aims:

- to present and discuss the **country reports** on each of the two diseases
- to raise awareness for the special implications and research challenges of **HIV/MTB co-infection**
- to identify **common research priorities** and describe topics for future collaboration between European and 3rd country scientists
- to inform about **EU and national funding opportunities**

3) Roadmap & conference follow-up

In the months following the workshop, the country reports will be revised according to the discussions and outcomes of the workshop, and joined together to a **Roadmap on AIDS and TB** which will then be distributed to the scientific community and the broad public.

Expected results

- international consortia willing and ready to work together on projects in the field, especially under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission
- sustainable net of experts in the field
- publication of country reports
- publication of AIDS/TB Roadmap

Potential Applications

- preparation of future Community research and technological development policies
- support to development of national policies and programmes in the EUCO-Net target regions
- decisions on topics to be published in future FP7 work programmes
- raising further awareness for the issue of co-infection in Europe as well as EUCO-Net target regions

EUCO-Net Consortium

Country	Role	Partner
Europe	COO	Universität des Saarlandes , Germany (Andreas Meyerhans, Martina Sester) supported by Eurice GmbH , Germany (Claudia Giehl)
	TB	Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine , Belgium (Juan-Carlos Palomino) Regional Reference Center for Mycobacteria , Italy (Enrico Tortoli)
	AIDS	Fraunhofer Society, Institute for Biomedical Engineering Germany (Hagen von Briesen) Instituto Superiore di Santà , Italy (Stefano Vella) European AIDS Treatment Group (EATG) , Belgium (Michal Odermarsky)
Russia	TB	Central Research Institute of Tuberculosis of Russian Academy of Medical Sciences , Russia (Olga Demikhova)
	AIDS	Ivanovsky Institute of Virology Russian Academy of Medical Sciences , Russia (Eduard Karamov)
India	AIDS/TB	Seth Research Foundation , India (Pradeep Seth)
South Africa	AIDS/TB	University of Stellenbosch and NHLS , South Africa (Wolfgang Preiser, Gerhardt Walzl)
Latin America	TB	CONICET , Argentina (Viviana Ritacco, Alejandra Alvarez)
	AIDS	FIOCRUZ , Brazil (Mariza Morgado, Valdilea Veloso)
	AIDS/TB	Universidad de Antioquia , Colombia (Luis F Garcia, Jaime Robledo)