



# European Reference Laboratory Network for Tuberculosis

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

# Why an EU Reference Laboratory Network?

✓ Situation analysis, 2008:

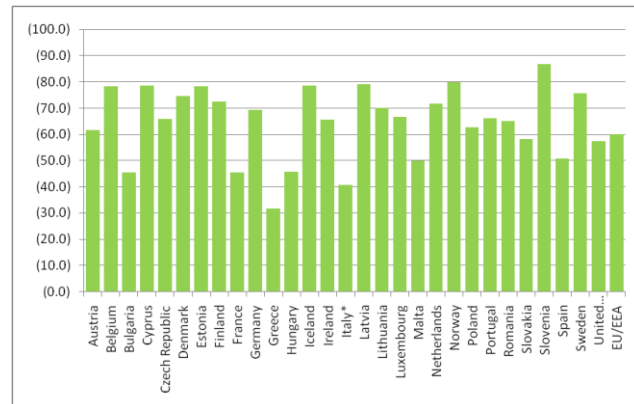
## Research articles

THE ADDED VALUE OF A EUROPEAN UNION TUBERCULOSIS REFERENCE LABORATORY NETWORK – ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

F A Drobniewski<sup>1</sup>, V Nikolayevskiy<sup>1</sup>, S Hoffner<sup>2</sup>, O Pogoryelova<sup>1</sup>, D Manissero<sup>3</sup>, A J Ozin (amanda.ozin@ecdc.europa.eu)<sup>3</sup>

→ Added value for European Reference Laboratory Network for TB

✓ TB epidemiologic situation in the EU, 2008:

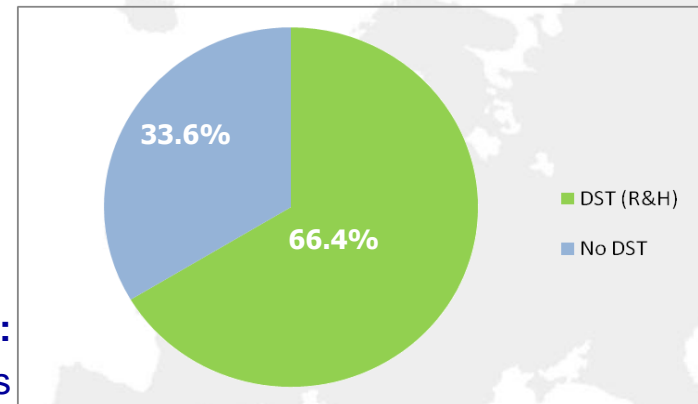


### Culture coverage in 2008:

- ✓ 35-85% culture confirmation
- ✓ Decreased since 2007

### DST on Rif & INH in EU/EEA:

- ✓ Unknown for 1/3 cases



→ Need for improved culture coverage in EU

# ERLN-TB under the umbrella of ECDC

## ECDC Tuberculosis Programme

### European Reference Laboratory Network for Tuberculosis



Consists of officially nominated laboratories from EU Member States, EFTA and EEA countries (& candidate countries).

MDR-TB molecular surveillance<sup>1</sup>

- Services and activities, e.g.:
- Training
  - Harmonisation of methods
  - EQA

- Consortium for Network Support (CNS)<sup>1</sup>**
- Coordination
  - Communication
  - Training
  - Quality assurance

<sup>1</sup> Funded by ECDC

Int'l organisations, associations, initiatives<sup>2</sup>

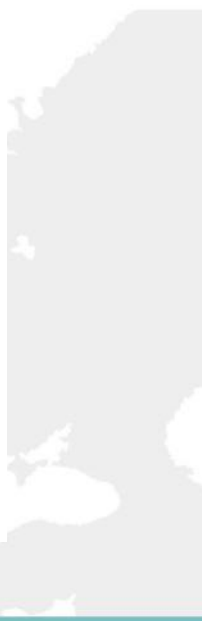
<sup>2</sup> CDC, WHO, KNCV, GLI, WHO/IUATLD supra-national reference laboratory network for tuberculosis

Cross-cutting projects<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> TB-PAN-NET

Academia

Neighbouring countries



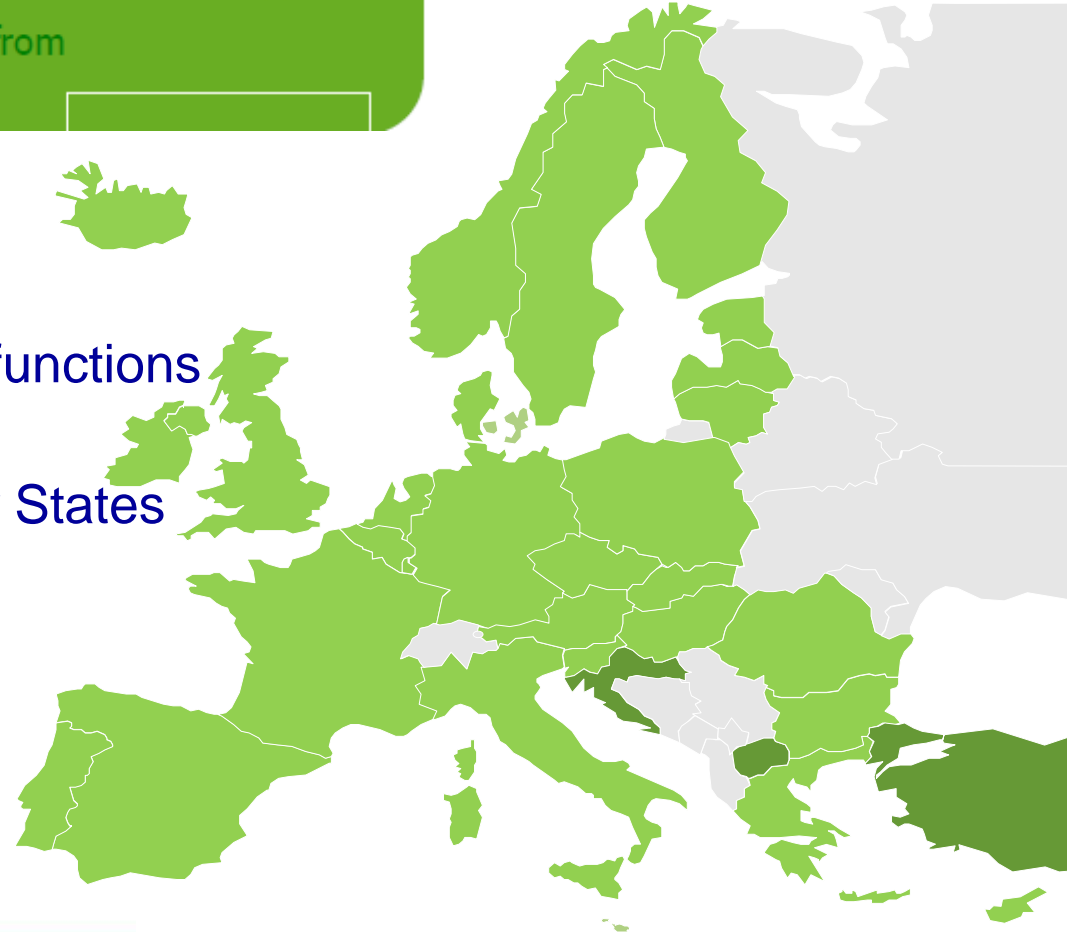
# Who are the ERLN-TB Partners?

## European Reference Laboratory Network for Tuberculosis

Consists of officially nominated laboratories from EU Member States, EFTA and EEA countries.



- ✓ 30 EU/EEA
- ✓ 3 candidate countries
- ✓ 1-2 laboratories with reference functions per Member State
- ✓ Officially nominated by Member States



# The Consortium for Network Support (CNS)

- ✓ Consists of partners (laboratories) from 23 countries.

## Consortium for Network Support (CNS)<sup>1</sup>

- Coordination
- Training
- Communication
- Quality assurance

→ **Support** the ECDC in achieving the objectives of the ERLN-TB.

To reach the ultimate goals with an ERLN-TB:

- ✓ **Methods harmonisation** between TB laboratories.
- ✓ Establishing EU-wide **quality assurance** of diagnostic methods.
- ✓ Increasing human resources through **Training** activities.
- ✓ Liaising with other international initiatives to build **synergy**.

# 1. Establishment and co-ordination of a network

## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting (January, 2010):

- ✓ 35 ERLN-TB representatives present.
- ✓ Establishment of Network and 1<sup>st</sup> activities conducted.

## Handbook of core methods:

- ✓ **Evidence-based** resource for ERLN-TB on diagnostic methods covering:
  - ✓ Microscopy, culture, drug-susceptibility testing, molecular fingerprinting, latent TB diagnosis, biosafety, quality control.

## “Biobook” on all partner laboratories:

- ✓ Who does what – mapping competencies and expertise within the network.

## 2. External Quality Assurance (EQA) schemes

Strengthening and promoting **quality assurance** systems in the EU:

- **Pillar** in assuring quality TB diagnostics.
- In line with WHO-established EQA systems.

1<sup>st</sup> round of EQA - ongoing:

- ✓ Collaboration with INSTAND - WHO collaborating centre for EQA.
  - ✓ Smear microscopy, culture, identification, first line drug-susceptibility testing.
- Establish **baseline** of quality within ERLN-TB.

2<sup>nd</sup> round of EQA - upcoming:

- ✓ Include - **2<sup>nd</sup> line** drug-susceptibility testing, WHO endorsed Line Probe Assays for identification and drug-susceptibility testing of Rif and INH.

# 3. Capacity building

## Capacity building activities at every annual meeting:

- ✓ **Hot topic** year 1 – Biosafety and Internal Quality Control.

## TB Support Experts:

- ✓ Cadre of TB laboratory **experts** within the EU.
- ✓ **Resource** for ECDC in providing country support in laboratory issues
- ✓ Unlimited **spill-over** effect → Important resource for international activities (e.g. WHO laboratory support).
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> cohort selected and 1<sup>st</sup> training module completed.





# Next steps within the ERLN-TB



## 2nd annual meeting:

- ✓ 31<sup>st</sup> January – 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2011.
- ✓ Include next **capacity-building** session.

## Resources within the Network:

- ✓ Develop list available and needed reference services
- ✓ Develop strain collection within the network

## EQA:

- ✓ Plan for 2<sup>nd</sup> round – include 2<sup>nd</sup> line drugs & Line Probe Assays

## Capacity-building:

- ✓ Support Expert training continues – next module in autumn 2010.

# Acknowledgments



## CNS Management Team (led by HPA):

- ✓ Francis Drobniowski – CNS coordinator
- ✓ Sarah Mitchell - CNS Project Manager
- ✓ Vlad Nikolayevskyy - CNS Project Scientist
- ✓ Yen Holicka - CNS Project Administrator

- ✓ Daniela Cirillo
- ✓ Sabine Rusch-Gerdes
- ✓ Sven Hoffner
- ✓ Girts Škenders
- ✓ Vibeke Østergaard Thomsen

## ECDC team:

- ✓ Davide Manissero – TB Programme coordinator
- ✓ Amanda Ozin – ERLN-TB Project Manager
- ✓ Andreas Sandgren – Project scientist
- ✓ Emma Huitric – Project scientist
- ✓ Csaba Ködmön – Project scientist

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