



Supranational TB Reference Laboratory Network, recent progress

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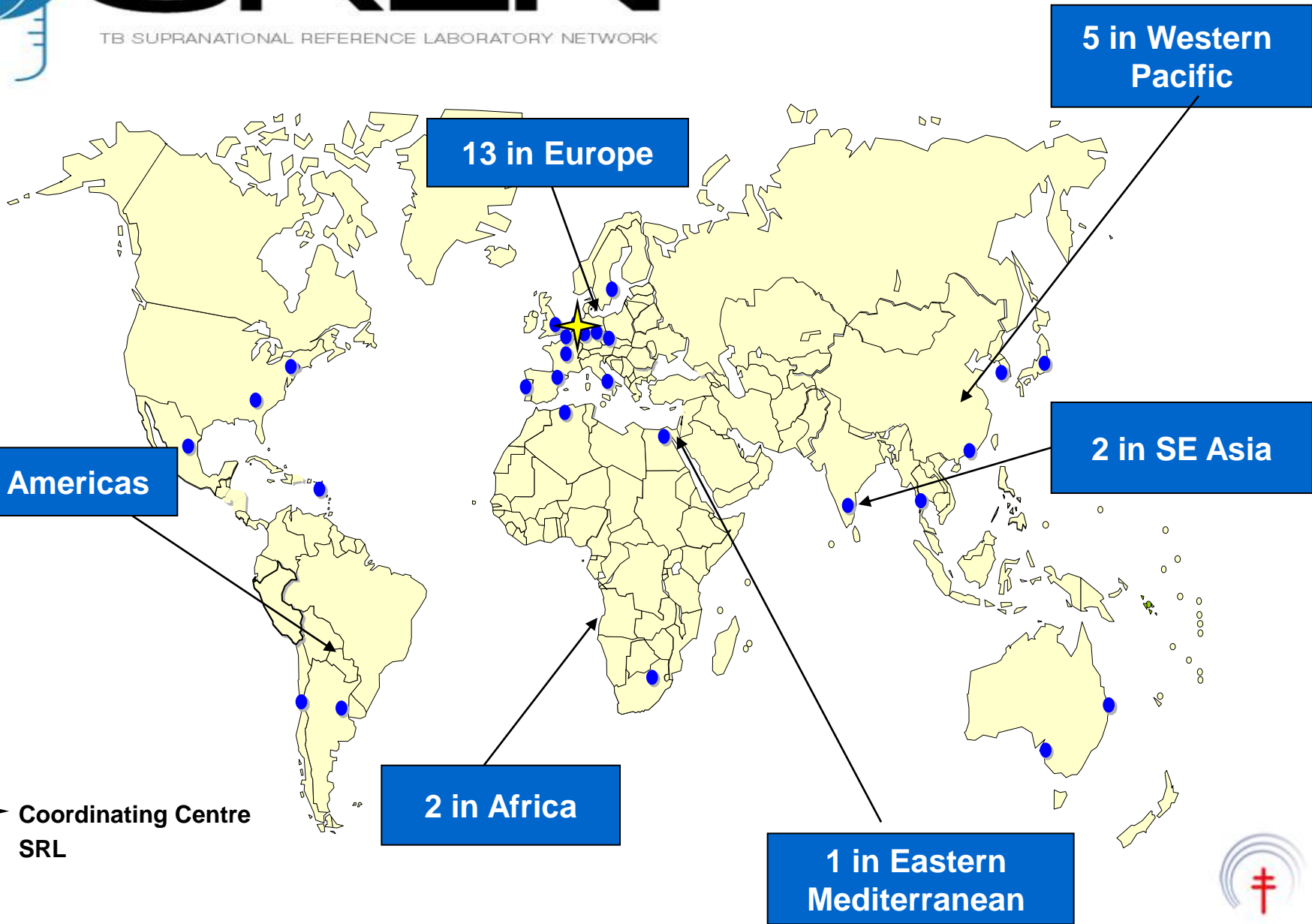


SRL network expansion



SRLN

TB SUPRANATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORY NETWORK



Current status of the SRLN

- Still very few in low-income
 - Africa: only Algeria and S. Africa
- Pipeline
 - Oman: first successful proficiency testing round
 - TBCAP supported labs in Africa



TBCAP SRLN projects

- 3 projects focusing on Africa
 - East African NRL: targeting new SRL
 - Benin NRL: targeting new SRL
 - optimization of SRLN in Africa
 - identify suitable candidates
 - regularization and rationalization of SRL-NRL links
- Ending soon; expected output:
 - one new SRL technically ready
 - + one conditional to completion of renovation
 - two to three more good candidates



TBCAP SRLN projects (2)

- Further work required
 - assessment visits candidates
 - further tutoring if required
 - under new TBCARE project ?
 - NRL-SRL links regularization
 - confusing response on current links via questionnaire
 - consultation WHO & SRL ongoing
 - endpoint: formal agreements signed and endorsed





OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

SRLN Terms of Reference

- Consensus reached on revised TOR, April SRL meeting
 - TB control focus, following WHO recommendations
 - various aspects of quality assured good laboratory practice
 - provide TA covering all main techniques and activities important for national TB programmes (eventually in collaboration)
- Together with consensus on eligibility criteria
 - TOR endorsed by MoH in-country
 - technical capacity meeting WHO standards; sufficient work volume
 - rounds participation; proven DST proficiency in at least 2 rounds
 - TA link with at least 2 countries



SRL Technical Working Group

- To address DST challenges met, for instance
 - interpretation of difficult to classify strains
 - drugs to be covered in DRS and DST proficiency testing
- To compile data on non-SRL PT
- To rationalise distribution of panel strains

Workgroup coordination: Antwerp SRL



SRLN and technical assistance

- SRLN recognised as an important resource for lab capacity building
- Need to promote activities as a network
 - different capacities, e.g. microscopy network, or molecular expertise...
 - rationalization, efficiency
- Funding mechanisms explored
 - ad hoc solution: channel existing TA funds to SRL
 - DRS and EXPAND funds



Current SRL

PAHO	AFRO	EMRO	EURO	SEARO	WPRO
Atlanta	Algiers	Cairo	Antwerp	Bangkok	Adelaide
Boston	Pretoria		Barcelona	Chennai	Brisbane
Buenos Aires			Bilthoven		Hong Kong
Mexico			Borstel		Seoul
Santiago			Gauting		Tokyo
Guadeloupe			London		
			Milan		
			Porto		
			Prague		
			Riga		
			Rome		
			Stockholm		
			Zagreb		

