

**European Regional Meeting  
of  
Institut Pasteur International Network  
Sofia, Bulgaria, 5-7 May 2008**

**List of the participants:**

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**Public Health**

- A very broad panel of activities concerning surveillance activities for infectious diseases has been identified
- These activities are situated in different national contexts (national reference centres, WHO reference centres, emergence activities,....) related to the different histories of the respective institutes
- **Action:** inventory of these activities and their national context should be established in order to promote this expertise
- **Action:** workshop to share existing tools and expertise as well as experience and difficulties in management
- **Action :** workshop to standardize and exchange on outbreak/emergence diagnosis/identification activities

*Possible overlapping activities:*

- 1 Polio
- 2 Diagnostics and surveillance of respiratory diseases

**Research**

- General comment: an important richness in scientific activities has been outlined
- The following common research axes have been identified:
  - 1 Resistance to anti-virals
  - 2 Autoimmune diseases
  - 3 Vector borne diseases
  - 4 Flu and respiratory diseases
  - 5 Host/pathogen interactions
  - 6 Hepatitis
  - 7 Anti-viral research

**Action:** Scientists will identify (Letters of intent) projects of common interest within their institutes before July 2008 to target next ECONET call (beginning of 2009)

### **Technical platforms:**

**Expertise of technical platforms which could be shared:**

- animal models
- cellular models
- microscopy
- imagery
- others....

**Action:** IPH agreed to coordinate more information on the TP in the different RI

#### **Licensing:**

- The need has been expressed to have some information/training concerning IP (Patents), Licensing...

**Action:** DAI Paris will explore the possibilities of organising a Regional Workshop on these issues.

### **Funding:**

- Presentation of the possibilities of funding by the French Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and structural funds from the EU presented by a representative of the French Embassy in Sofia (contact):
  - 1 Econet program (sept 2009) and
  - 2 National PAI program (May 2008)
  - 3 Structural funds from EU (Bulgaria)-sept 2008
- Presentation of the focal point for FP7 calls in Bulgaria (contact)
- Promise to explore further ways of funding by e.g. Collaborations with Industry.

## **Communication/ Need to share information**

**There has been a mutual agreement on the sharing of information**

**Action: DAI Paris will provide:**

- 1 A document to be filled by each institute concerning the major research axes of the institutes, ongoing projects....**
- 2 A better visibility and link between the different institutes by organising an adapted web site (part of the international site) with:**
  - ongoing projects
  - most recent publications
  - courses
  - ....

**Action: The individual Institutes will have to provide the necessary information for such a site to Paris by September 2008.**

### **Recommendations and remarks for further regional meetings:**

- **Next Regional meeting for the European region will be organised by the colleagues of Institute Cantacuzino : it will be necessary to start with the organisation 4-6 months before the meeting.**
- **Better separation of scientific information and other topics (funding possibilities, strategy issues, typical RIIP issues...)**
- **This network will have a higher chance of success with pro-active partners.**

### **Conclusion from the discussions:**

- **Reinforce public health activities for infectious diseases at the European level including National Reference Centres**
- **There is a need to share information on the different activities of the different Regional Institutes in order to identify possible complementarities, interactions, overlapping activities**
- **The need for an exchange and standardisation of methods was expressed**
- **Setup of research programs**
- **Sharing of technical platforms at the European level.**

## **Time table:**

### **DAI Paris**

- 1 **June 2008:** providing of file to be completed by each institutes regarding information on the scientific activities, training, recent publications
- 2 First version of the **website** should be available by November 2008 and the final version by December 2008
- 3 **July 2008:** Providing of file to be completed by each reference laboratory (activities, national connections, national label, international label....)

### **Each Institute:**

- 4 **July 2008** letter of intent **Research project**
- 5 **September 2008:** Provide the expected information (institute and reference centres)
- 6 **July 2008:** Feed back from the scientists of each institute on possible collaboration axes and identification (of partners?) and of a scientific manager. This proposition should be formulated as a letter of intent and should indicate the identified tool for financing.