WP 6: Establishing a database on migrant TB screening in Europe

Many low-incidence EU countries have a high TB burden in migrants from endemic countries. Migrant TB screening policies vary widely across EU countries. This work package is establishing a multi-country database on migrant TB screening that will be used to inform the identification and harmonisation of cost-effective screening strategies in the EU.

**TB and migration in EU**
- On average 60% of TB cases in low TB incidence EU countries are foreign-born.
- The foreign-born population in EU countries is very heterogeneous, and so is their TB burden.
- Appropriately targeted interventions in migrant populations are needed for achieving TB elimination in EU.
- Early detection of TB and management of latent TB infection are important to diminish the TB burden in this group.

**Migrant TB screening in EU**
- EU countries have very different TB screening policies and different surveillance data on TB screening.
- In most countries, the coverage and yield of the screening is poorly documented, especially screening for latent TB infection.
- Some EU countries have previously evaluated their TB screening strategies, but no multi-country evaluation has been done previously.

**Main objectives**
- To agree a protocol for sharing migrant data between countries on latent and active TB
- To establish a database on latent and active TB in screened migrants
- To collate multi-country data on migrants in low incidence countries in Europe aimed at informing early diagnosis of active and latent TB
WP 6: Establishing a database of latent and active TB in Europe

Key achievements to date

- Survey among all participating countries in order to map available data
- Protocol for data transfer and analysis, as well as a data sharing and pooling agreement developed
- Variable list for the database finalised
- Local ethical approvals and evaluations regarding data that could be collected
- Locally collecting and cleaning data
- Database set up at the Farr Institute at UCL
- Safety training for data base access of data managers finalised
- Uploading to data base is ongoing
- Pooling of first batch of data completed
- A protocol on how to pool and share data as well as on data ownership has been drafted, for smooth future transfer for existing and new partners
- First analysis of data completed and presented
- Agreement drafted with Norway to contribute data
- Meeting in Stockholm February 2019 regarding next steps, including health economic modelling of cost effectiveness of LTBI screening in migrants

Dissemination

- A presentation of the work package was held at the World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health (MERH) in Edinburgh, May 2018
- Presentations and posters regarding preliminary results of the project at the Union World Lung Conference in The Hague, October 2018
- An ERS Webinar on the work package, November 2018
- A paper about the process of building a multi-country database was accepted to the March 2019 issue of International Journal of Infectious Diseases, as part of their World TB day theme.

The E-DETECT TB consortium presenting the project at the World Union Lung Conference in October 2018, with an introduction by ECDC

Last updated 28th February 2019

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Health Programme (2014-2020) under grant agreement No 709624

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