

# ND4BB

# COMBACTE

# COMBATTING BACTERIAL RESISTANCE IN EUROPE

## COMBACTE LAB-NET

### What is COMBACTE?

The COMBACTE project is one of the seven projects part of the "New Drugs For Bad Bugs" (ND4BB) programme. COMBACTE is an EU-initiated consortium of industry and academic partners, formed to combat bacterial resistance and to develop new antibiotics against multi-resistant pathogens.

Project start: January 2013  
Project duration: 7 years

### What is LAB-Net?

LAB-Net is the Laboratory Network within COMBACTE. The network will be composed of routine, diagnostic laboratories, microbiology research specialized laboratories, and a highly qualified central laboratory. LAB-Net will be supported by providing 'state-of-the-art' laboratory investigators needed to underpin the development of optimal diagnostics in the different clinical trials.

This network is fully complementary to COMBACTE CLIN-Net and closely linked with the clinical studies.

### Main achievements of LAB-Net since 2013

- Development and launch of a LAB-Net baseline questionnaire, aiming to assess the capability of laboratories to participate in a clinical trial, as well as the quality of the laboratories, and the need for capacity building and training.
- Preparation and organization of two training programmes (Pristina, Kosovo\* in 2013 and Skopje, Macedonia in 2014) for laboratories in several Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.
- Establishment of a laboratory network in the Western Balkans within LAB-Net and sustainable collaboration with laboratories in the region in the framework of the upcoming COMBACTE clinical trials.
- Online training for local laboratories involved in SAATELLITE covering all laboratory procedures relevant for that clinical trial.
- Extensive support and contact with labs in the LAB-Net network, writing of protocols and laboratory and research manuals for clinical trials (SAATELLITE, ASPIRE-ICU).



Participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LAB-Net workshop on antimicrobial resistance in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, 14-16 November 2014

\*According to the United Nations Security Council resolution 1244/99 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

### LAB-Net Baseline Questionnaire

Data collected from 95 laboratories from 22 countries in Europe (62 laboratories from Balkan countries).

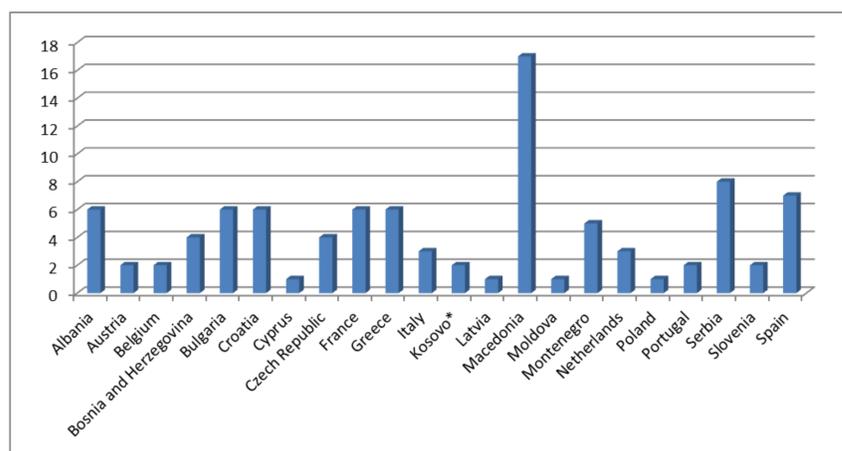


Fig. 1. Number of laboratories that filled the LAB-Net baseline questionnaire until March 2015.

### Upcoming LAB-Net Activities in 2015

- Development of LAB-Net questionnaires targeting methodologies for detection of multi-drug resistant Gram-negatives.
- Preparation and distribution of external quality assessment panels to assess the performance of labs to participate in clinical trials.
- Selecting laboratories for participation in Phase II and III clinical trials of antibacterials against MDR Gram-negatives.
- Preparation and organization of another training on antimicrobial resistance on the Balkans.
- Continuous support of labs involved in clinical trials.

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Unique in its scale, ambition, and its potential benefits for patients, public health and pharmaceutical research in Europe, COMBACTE has the potential to become the powerhouse of anti microbial drug development in Europe that could serve as a standard for other groups. [Join us!](#)

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