



## Development and Implementation of European Standards for Mobile Diagnostic Laboratories

# EMiL

### Duration

2020–2021

### Budget/year

approx. 190,000 EUR

### Partner countries

Global

### Challenges addressed by the project

Health emergencies experienced in outbreaks have endorsed the importance of timely and effective testing capacities that can contribute to informed strategic response. Therefore, the deployment of Rapid Response Mobile Laboratories (RRMLs) has supported and boosted the provision of diagnostic capacities, as experienced in COVID-19 pandemic. However, minimum standards for RRMLs are not established in the global response landscape yet. Therefore, this project addresses this gap by developing precise minimum standards for boxed-based RRMLs, in support of accountable and responsible response. These standards will further strengthen existing RRMLs and pave a guiding road to other institutions wanting to establish such capacities. Furthermore, the unpredictable nature of outbreaks highlights the importance of preparedness as a crucial element that can inform a predictable response. Therefore, the project will contribute to outbreak preparedness activities that can identify weaknesses and strengths in existing rapid response capacities. At the same time, the EMiL project addresses harmonization mechanisms among local and international rapid response capacities during field deployments, in order to enhance their interoperability in an effective and locally respectful manner.

### Objectives

- » Defining precise minimal standards for box-based RRMLs as an example for the development of all RRMLs types
- » Designing of an audit system for RRMLs minimum standards as a basis for a future RRMLs mentoring programme
- » Implementing of RRMLs minimal standards and testing the RRMLs audit system during a joint full-scale field exercise
- » Establishing links between RRMLs and other rapid response capacities such as Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)

The strengthening of the interdisciplinary emergency response aimed at by this project reflects the importance of the German contribution to international public health protection mechanisms.



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
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A box-based Rapid Response Mobile Laboratory during preparation for field deployment



Arrival of the European Mobile Laboratory on Lesbos, Greece, to support the migrant and refugee camp RIC Kara Tepe in the COVID-19 response, September 2020



Presentation of the Rapid Response Mobile Laboratories classification system at the “1<sup>st</sup> Stakeholder Meeting on Classification and Minimal Standards of the GOARN Mobile Laboratory Rapid Response Capacity”, October 2019

## Overview of activities

- » Developing minimum standards for boxed-based RRMLs, to be finalised as an agreed document among partner institutions
- » Developing an audit checklist system for boxed-based RRMLs based on the minimum standards
- » Planning and implementing a table-top and a joint full-scale field exercises for RRMLs and other Rapid Response Capacities (RRCs) as an operational opportunity to test the minimum standards and the checklist system, to further identify gaps and needs to improve interoperability between different RRCs
- » Organizing international meetings with relevant partner institutions to share the project development, allowing feedback and continuous exchange of knowledge and experiences in the field of rapid response capacities
- » Working on activities that improve the decision-making process of RRMLs deployment, including the development of an informative in-field needs-assessment

## Partner institutions

- » UK Public Health Rapid Response Team (UKPHRST), United Kingdom
- » The Institut Pasteur, France
- » The Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor), Russia
- » Centre de Technologies Moléculaires Appliquées (CTMA, UCLouvain), Belgium
- » World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), Denmark
- » Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
- » Bernhard-Nocht-Institute (BNI), Germany
- » Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology (BMI), Germany

## Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

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