



Cross-Border Migration and Tuberculosis between Romania and Germany

RoGer-TB

Duration

2020 – 2021

Budget/year

approx. 422,000 EUR

Partner country

Romania

Challenges addressed by the project

In order to achieve the World Health Organization’s End TB Strategy goals, in addition to scientific innovations, there is a need for countries and organizations to work together at national and international level. People born in Romania currently make up the second largest group among citizens of the EU countries living in Germany and Romania is also one of the most frequently reported countries of birth for tuberculosis (TB) patients registered in Germany. Many lead a mobile life with regular trips between Germany and Romania. This results in many patients interrupting their treatment, which is a known risk factor for continued disease transmission and also the development of antibiotic resistance.

Objectives

- » Improvement of coordination and support for cross-border TB patient information transfer between Germany and Romania
- » Check the feasibility of establishing cross-border TB partnerships between Germany and other countries with a high TB incidence
- » Development of an educational film documentary to reduce the stigmatization of migrants with TB from Romania in Germany
- » Identification of problems in the management of TB in connection with cross-border migration between Romania and Germany
- » Proof of feasibility for the use of the interactive smartphone application TB Companion as therapy companion in cross-border TB management
- » Strengthening adherence to therapy through a better understanding among TB patients of the disease and its treatment and control so as to maintain interest and motivation

Overview of activities

RKI – Cross-Border TB coordination: Together with the project partners in Romania, the RKI will assume a coordination function at the national level in Germany in order to facilitate the exchange of information between Germany and Romania for TB patients. The RKI will systematically support the patients’ transfer process and support the district health authorities in Germany responsible for their care during the transfer process, as well as monitor the final treatment results.

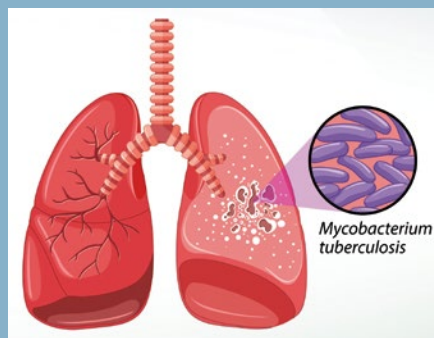
FZB – TB documentary and TB symposium: The FZB will work with a professional team of journalists and filmmakers to document the life of a migrant from Romania who was diagnosed with TB in Germany. In addition, the FZB will hold a three-day international TB symposium in Bucharest, which will facilitate exchange between tuberculosis experts from Romania and Germany from various fields.



Supported by:



on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



Lungs infected with tuberculosis
(Photo ©brgfx, Freepik)



Pills (Photo ©Anna-shvets, Pexels)

DZK and FZB – TB Companion: The German Central Committee against Tuberculosis (DZK) and the Research Center Borstel (FZB) will adopt a recently developed application to support TB patients in the Romanian healthcare system and integrate specific issues related to cross-border TB control. A multilingual smartphone-based interactive system for the education and motivation of TB patients during treatment will be tested and its applicability as a digital “TB Companion” will be assessed.

Partner institutions

- » Marius Nasta Institute of Pulmonology, Romania
- » National Public Health Institute, Romania

Supporting institutions in Germany/Contact

- » Robert Koch Institute
Department for Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Unit 36 | Respiratory Infections
Dr Stefan Kröger kroegers@rki.de
www.rki.de/en
- » Research Center Borstel – Leibniz Lung Center
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