



SPOT

Harnessing sequencing-based technologies for pandemic preparedness using a One Health-based approach in Tunisia and neighbouring countries

Context

Endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases pose a threat to the health of humans and animals and to global health security. In Tunisia, due to its geographical position between sub-Saharan Africa and Mediterranean Europe and the mounting effects of climate change, the risk of zoonotic spillover events is increasing, requiring the adoption of preparedness measures. SPOT applies a One Health-based approach with a view to enhancing the ability of Tunisia and neighbouring countries to rapidly detect and respond to potential future zoonotic outbreaks. It generates novel data on the presence and distribution of zoonotic viruses in Tunisia and neighbouring countries and implements sustainable laboratory systems for rapid identification of endemic and emerging pathogens. The project's target groups are researchers and the academic community, who benefit from training and networking opportunities, policy-makers and funding agencies, who can use the study findings to inform future pandemic preparedness plans, and the general public, who become more aware of the risks posed by zoonotic viruses, thanks to communication and science education activities.

Objective

Building capacity for the early detection of zoonotic viruses in Tunisia and neighbouring countries to improve pandemic preparedness.

Key facts

Duration

1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

Budget

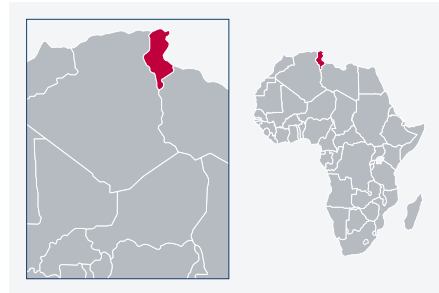
~ EUR 540,000

Partner countries

Tunisia

Region

Northern Africa



Implemented by

Robert Koch Institute (RKI)

Commissioning party

German Federal Ministry of Health (BMG)

Thematic focus

Surveillance and reporting

Laboratory diagnostics

One Health

Activities



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Establishing sequencing-based technologies for virus detection at IPT; developing a surveillance concept for zoonotic viruses in Tunisia



RESEARCH AND PROVISION OF EVIDENCE

Performing a proof-of-principle study for the surveillance of zoonotic viruses in Tunisia, using sequencing-based technologies



PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Procuring items, materials and laboratory equipment to equip laboratories and field teams



TRAINING AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Training personnel in the use of sequencing-based technologies for pathogen detection



NETWORKING AND COOPERATION

Strengthening South-South networking between research institutes in the North African region through joint exercises and capacity building workshops

In cooperation with

- Institut Pasteur de Tunis (IPT), Tunisia

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GHPP, the Global Health Protection Programme of the German Federal Ministry of Health, promotes networking, exchange and cooperation between specialized German and international public health actors. By reducing health risks and strengthening health systems at the national, regional and international level, in particular relating to pandemic and epidemic preparedness and response, the GHPP fosters public health protection – worldwide.

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