

## AEDnet Exchange Programme

### Researcher details:

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### Details of Secondment:

Home Institute:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Puglia and Basilicata, National Reference Center for Anthrax, Foggia, Italy
Host Institute:	- G.Eliava Institute of Bacteriophages, Microbiology and Virology, Tbilisi, Georgia - NCDC Tbilisi
Dates of secondment:	26/09/2015-04/10/2015

### Description of the Activity:

During my secondment I carried out many activities.

On 29<sup>th</sup> September I attended the Workshop "Anthrax countermeasures: Vaccine and environmental decontamination" that has been held at the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia in Tbilisi. In this Workshop there were many scientists involved in 2 projects, the AEDNet project and the NATO project (Basic Research and Anthrax Vaccine Exploration) which seeks to characterize the human immune response of individuals exposed to anthrax. It was great meeting because bring together a number of anthrax researchers in one venue has created an environment which encourage new collaborations.

In the first part of this workshop many scientists presented their work on vaccine against anthrax. It was really interesting to listen all presentation and above all it was a good opportunity to talk with them about eventual future collaborations.

In the second part of the Workshop, all coordinators of AEDNet project showed through Powerpoint presentations the research activities carried out in their lab within AEDNet project. During my presentation, I talked about my Institute, about the major tasks performed in the Italian Reference Centre for Anthrax and then I showed all activities that georgian researchers and ukrainian researchers completed in our lab during their secondments (isolation of spores from soil samples via GABRI method, qPCR, canSNPs analysis, MLVA, SNR analysis,...). In my presentation there were information on the deliverables generated during the previous activities within AEDNet project, like the poster "Investigation on *Bacillus anthracis* circulating in Bangladesh through the analysis of soil samples in areas at risk and imported animal feed", in which there are the names of 2 georgian researchers. It will be presented in the next Bacillus Act Conference 2015 in New Delhi (India).

After this step, we held a project meeting to review the progress and to discuss about the milestone and deliverables of the project. It was very useful meeting in which we planned the future secondments and we decided to work on *Bacillus anthracis* strains isolated in Ukraine, we should genotype this strains. Also we decided to "try" the cocktail of phages on some burial sites located in Georgia.

On 30<sup>th</sup> of September I visited the laboratory of The George Eliava Institute of Bacteriophage, Microbiology and Virology. During this day I met the Director of this Institute, Dr Mzia Kutateladze and I discussed with her about the next secondments that are scheduled from her lab to my lab in Italy. Moreover we decided that the georgian researchers who will come to

IZSPB will work on our soil samples collected in the National Natural Park of Pollino (Italy) to isolate phages. After this meeting, I remained in the Laboratory of Gene Engineering and Biotechnology, in which the Mzia's equipe was working on phages. I saw all steps of the technique used to isolate phages in BL-2 lab and then the georgian researchers gave me the protocol in manner that I can try this technique in my lab.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> of October I visited the NCDC (National Center for Disease Control) of Tbilisi, another Partner involved in the AEDNet Project. I had a discussion with Dr. Lile Malania who is taking care of AEDNet project in this Institute and with her I talked about the secondments scheduled in my lab. We decided to achieve this secondments in the first part of the next year and then we discussed about future cooperation. During the secondments of researchers from NCDC in IZSPB, we will work on soil samples to isolate *Bacillus anthracis* strains and carry out the genotyping.

Definitely, this my visit in Georgia has been very helpful to meet all my colleagues involved in the AEDNet project and to organize the work that we have to complete in the next period. Furthermore this my stay in Georgia gave to me good opportunity to tighten collaboration with other Institutes. Unfortunately I was not able to stay longer time because I had to go back in my lab, but if will be the possibility in the future, I will back in Georgia and stay longer (my Institute has another secondment planned to Partner's lab).

Foggia  
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