

**Call:** 7th Call - 2018 Network Call on Surveillance

**Title:** Surveillance Of mobilome mediated antibiotic resistance Spread

**Acronym:** SOLIDNESS

**Network composition**

Type	Name	Institute	Country
Coordinator	John Rossen	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Partner	Stefan Schwarz	Freie Universität Berlin	Germany
Partner	Silke Peter	University of Tübingen	Germany
Partner	Alban Ramette	University of Bern	Switzerland
Partner	Spyros Pournaras	University of Athens	Greece
Partner	Martin Sundqvist	Örebro University Hospital	Sweden
Partner	Paulo Damasco	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
Partner	João A. Carriço	Universidade de Lisboa	Portugal
Partner	Annamari Heikinheimo	University of Helsinki	Finland
Partner	Stefano Morabito	Istituto Superiore di Sanità	Italy
Partner	Edward Feil	University of Bath	UK
Partner	Jacob Moran-Gilad	Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Israel
Partner	Henrik Westh	Hvidovre Hospital	Denmark
Partner	Hajo Grundmann	University of Freiburg	Germany
Partner	Teresa Coque	Ramón y Cajal University Hospital	Spain
Partner	Tjaša Cerar Kišek	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
Partner	Engeline van Duijkeren,	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment	The Netherlands
Partner	Joana Azeredo	University of Minho	Portugal
Partner	Adam Roberts	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	United Kingdom
Partner	Holger Rhode	Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf	Germany
Partner	Pieter-Jan Ceysens	Sciensano	Belgium

**Abstract**

Mobile genetic elements (MGEs) are DNA molecules that often carry important genes for the fitness of microorganisms, such as resistance and virulence genes, which may confer an adaptive advantage to recipient bacteria. Hence, they play a pivotal role in horizontal gene transfer. MGEs are one of the

main players in antibiotic resistance dissemination and can be shared by different bacterial strains, species or even genera, which makes them one of the biggest concerns to healthcare stakeholders. MGEs are challenging to characterise through sequencing, due to their chimeric, modular and repetitive nature. Our main objective is to establish a network of excellence for surveillance of MGE-mediated antibiotic resistance spread. This network will improve the access to high-quality and curated MGEs sequencing data that will be shared at the international level. It will result in the production of documents (standard operating procedures, SOPs) by the network detailing 1) harmonisation of high-quality sequencing standards and protocols for MGEs detection; 2) definition of a bioinformatics workflow for MGEs sequence analysis from next-generation sequencing data; 3) definition of new sequence-based typing methods of plasmids for both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. Since the network includes a wide range of stakeholders with diverse expertise, including expertise in classical typing methods, “-omics”, bioinformatics and plasmid-detection, the combination of backgrounds will contribute to the creation of the high-quality and curated MGEs database from different sources. This proposal aims to track the evolution and spread of antimicrobial resistance and virulence in bacteria, mediated by MGEs, and in the future, find ways to prevent it.