

STSM Report: One Health Evaluation of Leishmanix, a virtual network for knowledge and data exchange on leishmaniasis

REFERENCE: Short Term Scientific Mission, COST TD1404NEOH

Beneficiary

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Host

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Period: from 24.04.2017. to 30.04.2017

Reference code: COST-STSM-ECOST-STSM-TD1404-220417-083550

1. Purpose of the visit

The STSM was used to work on the One Health evaluation case study entitled **One Health evaluation of Leishmanix, a virtual network for knowledge and data exchange on leishmaniasis**. The aim of STSM to Tirana was to work in collaboration with Teita MYRSELI and other the case study contributors (Ledia AGOLLI and Silvia BINO) in applying the tools from the NEOH handbook for the **One Health assessment** of our case study, to draft the assessment report, and to develop the **process evaluation** for the case study.

2. Description of the work carried out

a. One Health Assessment

To develop a strategy on how to assess the OH-ness of the Leishmanix network, Teita and I analysed the methodology proposed in Chapter 3 of the NEOH handbook and revised the notes from the WG2 Training School in Novi Sad, which Teita had attended. We worked through the tools for describing and scoring the different OH aspects, namely Thinking, Planning, Working, Learning and Sharing. We liaised by email correspondence with the WG2 leaders, and authors who had developed the specific tools, who provided advice and answered specific questions on how the tools should be applied. We also analysed different virtual platforms that focus on leishmaniasis, to make comparisons with Leishmanix.

Discussions were held with Ledia AGOLLI and Silvia BINO, who provided a general background for the case study. I met with Prof. Xhelil KOLECI from the Veterinary Faculty of the Agricultural University of Tirana, who described some aspects of canine leishmaniasis and an informal discussion was had on the social and political drivers of leishmaniasis in Albania with Kujtim MERSINI, Protection and Preservation of Natural Environment in Albania.

b. Process Evaluation

Prior to the STSM, the case study group had agreed that a process evaluation would be the most applicable form of evaluation for the Leishmanix network. A questionnaire was developed and the process of applying for ethics approval was also agreed upon. I spent some time analysing process evaluation references and developing the theory of change.

3. Description of the main results obtained

The main outcome of the STSM was a draft report of our case study NEOH evaluation that contains the assessment of OH-ness as per guidelines from chapter 3 of NEOH handbook and to develop the framework and associated questionnaires for the process evaluation.

Steps 1& 2. Definition of the system and a description of the One Health initiative

The definition of the system and the OH initiative (the Leishmanix network) were completed. The drivers, stakeholders and boundaries of the system were defined and the operations, infrastructure and unintended outcomes of the Leishmanix network qualified.

Step 3. One Health Assessment

The One Health Thinking and Working questionnaires was completed and scores calculated. However, the OH Planning, Learning, Sharing requires responses from the members of the Leishmanix network. These components of the OH Assessment will be completed after analysis of the questionnaires being sent to the network members as part of the process evaluation. We felt that sending one rather than two separate questionnaires that ask similar questions would result in a higher response rate. By the end of the STSM we had therefore complete 2 out of 5 components in their entirety, and partially completed the remaining 3.

Process Evaluation

Teita and I worked through the Theory of Change and began drafting this section. The focus of the process evaluation is to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative (Leishmanix network) with the aim to inform decisions on how the network could be adapted remain active and sustainable. We are developing the questionnaire to be sent to all Leishmanix members, which will form part of the evaluation and quantify the network analysis. The questionnaire is still being constructed and we plan to have ethics approval for the final questionnaire by the end of May with the analysis completed by mid-July.

4. Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)

Collaboration will continue specifically for the completion of the case study. Additionally, further collaboration is envisaged in relation to the planned Training School being organised by my hosts at SECID.

5. Projected publications resulting or anticipated to result from the STSM

It is envisaged that the case study will be submitted for review and potential publication in the Frontiers Research Topic: Concepts and experiences in framing, integration and evaluation of One Health and EcoHealth. Additionally the results of the process evaluation will be submitted for presentation at the 5th International One Health Congress.

6. Confirmation by the host of the successful execution of the mission

As stated by Mieghan BRUCE above the STSM was conducted in collaboration with Teita MYRSELI. The STSM provided a platform for productive discussions and allowed intensive collaboration between Mieghan and Teita, which was necessary to complete the assessment of OH-ness and to develop the process evaluation for the case study.

7. Financial summary

Expenses	Total expenses in EUR	% covered by NEOH grant (EUR)
Travel	€616	81% (€500)
Accommodation	€450	100% (€450)
Consumables(meals)	€240	100% (€240)
Total	€1,306	91% (€1,190)

8. Other comments (if any)

I would like to express my thanks to my hosts at SECID for a thoroughly rewarding STSM.

Although the OH evaluation has clearly defined steps, we found that many of the steps were conducted in an iterative manner. Therefore, some of the components of STEP 3 will be completed or modified after STEP 5 when we receive the questionnaires back from the Leishmanix members.

Signatures

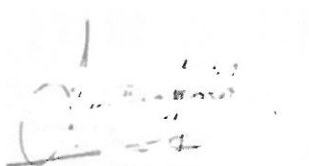
Date: 23rd May 2017

Grantee



Mieghan BRUCE

Host



Ledia AGOLLI