CARE: Story of success

CARE (Common Action Against HIV/TB/HCV Across The Regions Of Europe) is one of the many projects that have received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme back in 2018, started its research activities in early 2019, and is about to end on June 30, 2021. It has Italian Euresist Network Geie as coordinating institution and 12 participants, including 2 Russian research centers: Gamaleya Research Centre For Epidemiology And Microbiology (Moscow) and Saint Petersburg Research Institute Of Phthisiopulmonology (St. Petersburg).

CARE aims at analyzing and addressing the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis (TB) and hepatitis C (HCV) epidemics across Europe and Russia, by establishing new networks and consolidating previous cooperative actions between the European Union and the Russian Federation.

On 15 June the CARE Consortium held their final meeting to present and discuss outcomes and findings from CARE Common Action and other projects and initiatives in the frame of recent collaborative research in the WHO European Region. Discussions on numerous subjects based on the CARE project were opened: results and future perspectives in novel diagnostic and treatment approaches in tuberculosis, hepatitis C and HIV, as well as a panel discussion on the perspectives and impact of the scientific cooperation for addressing HIV, TB and HCV epidemics and other infections as SARS-COV-2 in the WHO European Region.

Russia, as well as other partners, played an essential role within the project. “The project allowed us for the first time to collect a massive array of biological samples and patient data for future studies, says coordinator of the Russian team Marina Bobkova from The Gamaleya Research Institute. New directions of research were initiated, in particular, the analysis of the human genome in association with HIV infection. Invaluable experience has been gained in document management for large projects. We are ready to share this experience with other researchers in Russia”.

According to Marina Bobkova, it was important for Russian scientists to get involved in the project due to the possibility of acquisition of valuable experience and the ability to preserve their laboratories in the face of a reduction in funding for science in Russia. In exchange for foreign experience, Russian participants presented a collection of biological samples which will serve as a base for research over the next several years. In Europe, data on new variants of the HIV and human genome, typical for Russia, was obtained, and this will enrich the global data on these biological objects.

During 2,5 years of the project, the CARE consortium collected large amounts of information regarding diagnostic and treatment of infectious diseases, developed new research protocols and bioinformatics programs. The consortium plans to continue their meaningful work and produce further outstanding results together.

Useful links:
- Project website: https://www.careresearch.eu/
- CORDIS page: http://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/825673