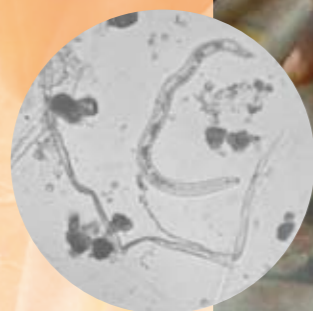


Support to NID in previous Framework Programmes

The European Commission has supported research on neglected infectious diseases as part of the EU's international research cooperation since the early 1980s.

The International Cooperation (INCO) programme was introduced during the EU's 4th Framework Programme for research (1994-1998), and was one of the first international initiatives to fund collaborative research in neglected infectious diseases. In the period from 1997 to 2006, the European Commission has supported 55 NID research projects with some € 70 mill. In the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006) alone, 27 NID-related INCO projects received funding of some € 45 million. These projects covered a wide range of neglected infectious diseases such as leishmaniasis, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, trypanosomiasis, dengue and haemorrhagic fever, echinococcosis, buruli ulcer, childhood infections

as well as health systems and health service issues of disease control. The INCO health projects under FP6 had a global scope, with partners from 46 countries outside the European Union taking part. These projects have provided a wide range of important research results, and have also helped to link up academic institutions, public authorities, private enterprises, NGOs, and other stakeholders in new networks and research partnerships across countries and sectors.



How to participate

During FP7 (2007-2013), the EC will provide support to collaborative research projects, which comprise several research groups from several different countries. Research projects are selected for funding following open calls for proposals that are published in the annual work programme for Health research.

Partners from almost any country can participate in the projects, and participation of researchers and other stakeholders from disease-endemic countries is highly prioritised. Participation of industry partners, particularly from small and medium-sized biotech enterprises is also strongly encouraged, whenever relevant. Where applicable, projects are also expected to include elements of technology transfer, training activities and human capacity building.

The preferred instruments will be large- and medium-scale (EUR 6-12 million and EUR 3-6 million respectively) collaborative projects, as these instruments have the magnitude to gather multidisciplinary consortia with sufficient critical mass to undertake translational research. In some cases, however, small (less than EUR 3 million) collaborative projects or specific support actions (SSAs) will be used to address highly innovative or specific targeted research or coordination activities

Additional information

FP7 in general:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_fr.html

Health Research in FP7:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/home_en.html

Neglected Infectious Diseases:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/neglected-diseases/index_en.html

Detailed information about the rules for participation:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/abouthealth_en.html#workprogramme

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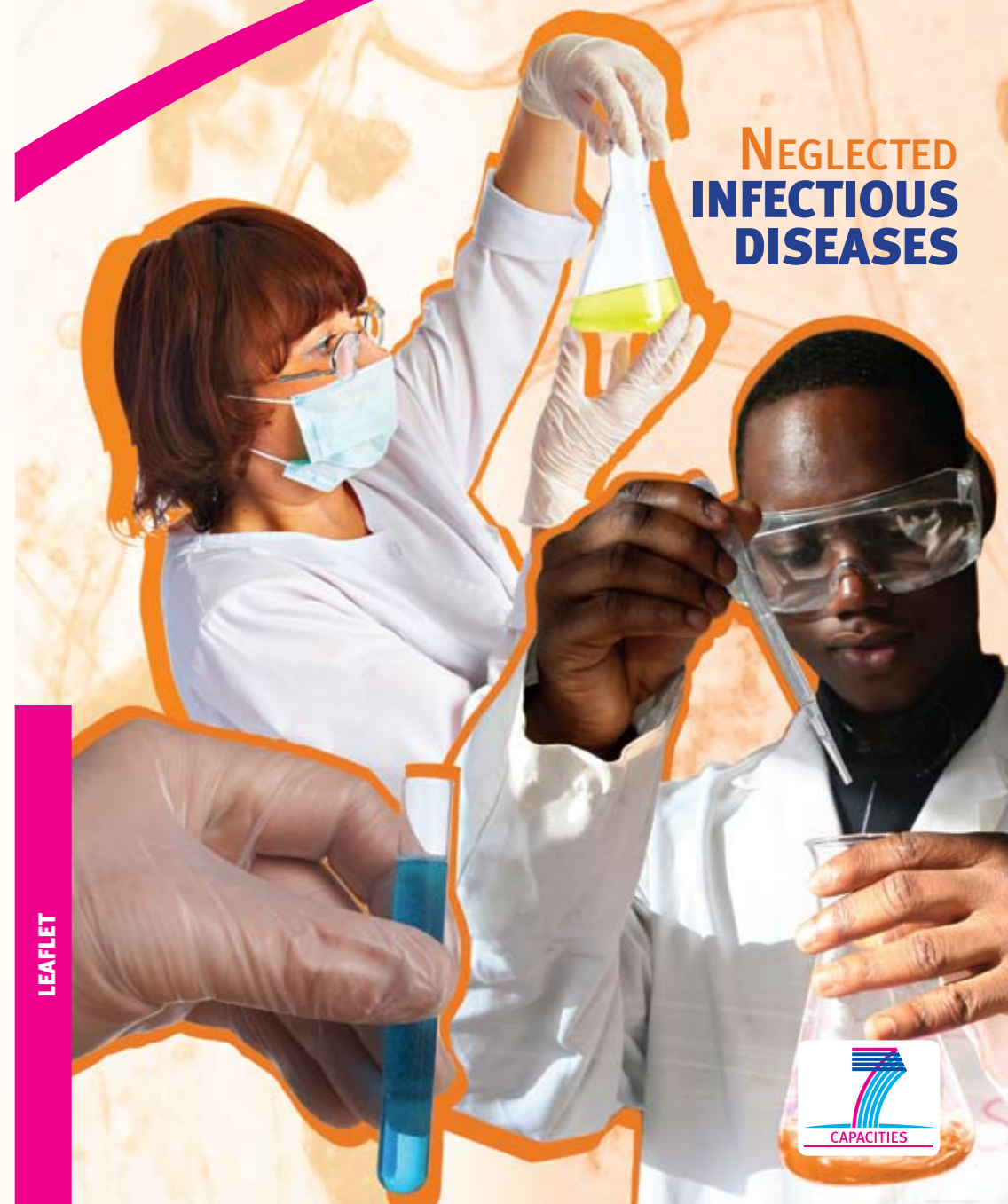


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Neglected Infectious Diseases Neglected No More

The European Commission has significantly increased its support to research in neglected infectious diseases.

Over ONE BILLION people are infected by Neglected Infectious Diseases (NIDs) worldwide.

NIDs impact on people and societies by promoting poverty, stigmatize, disable and inhibit individuals from being able to care for themselves or their families.

Less than 1% of the 1,393 new drugs placed on the market between 1975 and

1999 were developed for infectious, tropical diseases.

Urgent action is therefore needed to develop new drugs, tests and vaccines that are adapted to developing countries' needs, and to make them available at affordable prices.

European Research in Neglected Infectious Diseases

Research into neglected infectious diseases (NIDs) is included as an activity area in the Health theme of the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7: 2007-2013). The objective of the European Commission (EC) in the area of NIDs is to support research and development to improve existing and develop new approaches for preventing, diagnosing, treating, and controlling

neglected infectious diseases; these approaches are intended to be applicable, acceptable and affordable in disease-endemic countries.

The ambitious goal of the EC is to contribute to the long-term control of neglected infectious diseases. The research strategy used to reach this aim has two key components:

1) support of translational research for the development of new promising candidate vaccines and drugs, and

2) research in disease control, including new diagnostics, vector control and health systems research.

These two components will be implemented in parallel, and both should benefit from the interaction and each other's results.

Research Priorities

The main focus will be on NIDs with a major impact on human health, and with clearly defined unmet medical needs. These include diseases caused by protozoal, bacterial and helminth infections, whereas neglected viral diseases are covered by another part of the FP7 programme (Potentially new and re-emerging epidemics under Infectious Diseases).

The following table provides an overview of some important NIDs that may be addressed during the implementation of FP7. However, the list of research gaps should in no way be considered comprehensive or prioritised with respect to future topics in EC work programmes.



The Political Mandate

Within the European Union (EU), the political support to research in neglected infectious diseases has been evident in recent years.

The European Parliament (EP), in its report of 12 July 2001, specifically requested the European Commission to take the initiative for a proposal for neglected infectious diseases; this proposal should provide incentive for the development of drugs and vaccines destined to combat diseases for which there is a limited market.

This was followed by a resolution adopted by the EP in 2005 on "Major and Neglected Diseases in Developing Countries", which called on the European Commission to include neglected infectious diseases in the health research programme.

Disease group	PRIORITY DISEASES	DISEASE BURDEN (DALY/year in thousands)*	GLOBAL PREVALENCE (millions)	ANNUAL DEATHS (thousands)
PROTOZOAL	Trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)	1598	0.3	48
	Leishmaniasis	2090	12	51
	Chagas	667	8	14
BACTERIAL	Buruli ulcer + Leprosy	>199**	>0.4**	>6**
	Trachoma	2329	84	0
	Infantile diarrhoea	6196***	ND	1798
HELMINTHS	Lymphatic filariasis	5777	120	0
	Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia)	1702	207	15
	Soil-transmitted nematodes (Ascariasis, Trichuriasis, Hookworm)	2951	1987	9

Sources: World Health Organization, World Health Report, 2004; Hotez, P. J. et al., 'Control of neglected tropical diseases', NEJM 357:10, 2007.

* DALY [Disability Adjusted Life Year]: the number of healthy years of life lost due to premature death and disability.

** Leprosy only.

*** All diarrhoeal diseases.