



Photos 1 and 3: Vétérinaires Sans Frontières
Photo 2: Severine Thys, ITM

Editorial

The OH-NEXTGEN FP7 co-ordinated action started in October 2011 for a period of four years. Our main objective is to provide a new generation of medical and animal health scientists with adequate knowledge and competence to fight efficiently neglected zoonoses prevailing in the Sahel and Maghreb regions. The project will focus on five neglected zoonoses: brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, cystic echinococcosis, leishmaniosis and rabies. These infectious diseases have been eradicated or controlled in most industrialised countries through vaccination, animal test-and-slaughter, industrialisation of animal production and general hygiene improvement. The fact that some of them are still threatening industrialized countries (e.g. bovine tuberculosis and rabies) is evidence that the epidemiology of these zoonoses can be very complex and that their transmission is difficult to suppress, especially if wildlife is involved. To make things worse, epidemiological factors vary widely across the world and are usually

severely modified by local habits and practices.

Consequently, the purpose of the OH-NEXTGEN initiative was to improve the local knowledge and understanding of the targeted zoonoses. Thus, medical, veterinary and wildlife scientists should be trained appropriately, using a One Health approach. The objective of OH-NEXTGEN is to provide them with advanced knowledge of the biology and control methods for each of the five zoonoses in their particular sociological and ecological contexts; namely, epidemiological, socio-economic, policy-setting and social scientific (including communication, sociology, anthropology and ethical considerations). Students who follow the course will be in a better position to define research priorities and advise decision makers on disease control.

The course is essentially web-based. OH-NEXTGEN will produce all course materials both in French and English and train Francophone and Anglophone

tutors to coach the students. This initiative is supported by international organisations such as WHO, OIE and FAO.

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