

REVERSE News

Newsletter Issue 3, December 2022

REVERSE AT A GLANCE

REVERSE (pREvention and management tools for rEducing antibiotic Resistance in high prevalence SETTINGS) is an EU Horizon 2020 project running from July 2021 for 5 years.



Emerging antibiotic resistance has become a serious problem not only in Europe but globally. The development and implementation of **effective prevention and control strategies** are a crucial component in combatting **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**. Rather than in separate studies, the goal of reducing AMR in acute care hospitals can only be optimally achieved in a **collaborative approach** where various activities interact together in a large clinical trial that is sufficiently powered to provide

actionable outcomes.

REVERSE focusses on AMR in acute care hospitals in **Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain**. It uses a **mixed-methods approach** combining quantitative research with implementation science and economic analysis. In a sufficiently powered **clinical trial**, REVERSE will answer the question about the real-life effectiveness of infection prevention and control programmes in combination with antibiotic stewardship on healthcare-associated infections due to multidrug-resistant microorganisms: an implementation study that has not been done at this level and scope before.

To achieve this goal, **REVERSE** is supported by a strong consortium from academia, healthcare organisations and governmental bodies, including **12 beneficiaries** from Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, as well as a total of **24 acute care hospitals** in the four southern European countries. REVERSE is led by the coordinating entity **University of Zurich (Switzerland)**, with **PD Dr Walter Zingg** as the coordinator.

Microbiology and Diagnostic Stewardship (MDS) Programme



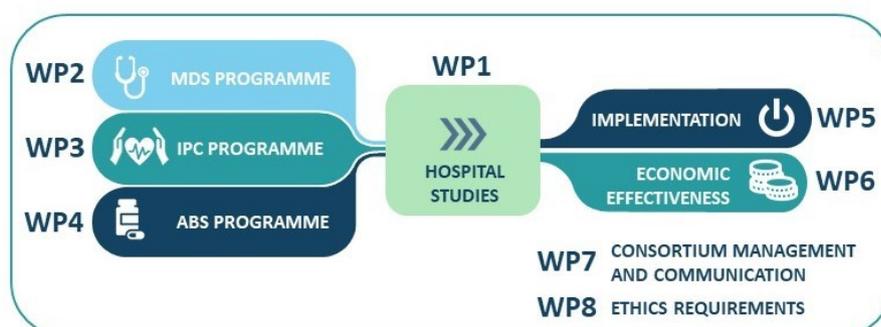
Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) Programme



Antibiotic Stewardship (ABS) Programme



Integrated, evidence-based, modular strategy with complementary intervention programmes for reducing the clinical burden of infections caused by multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria in high prevalence settings.



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Website and Social Media:

www.reverseproject.eu



Contact us:

PD Dr Walter Zingg
REVERSE Coordinator

reverse@usz.ch

Tel: +41 (0)44 255 8634

PROJECT CONSORTIUM



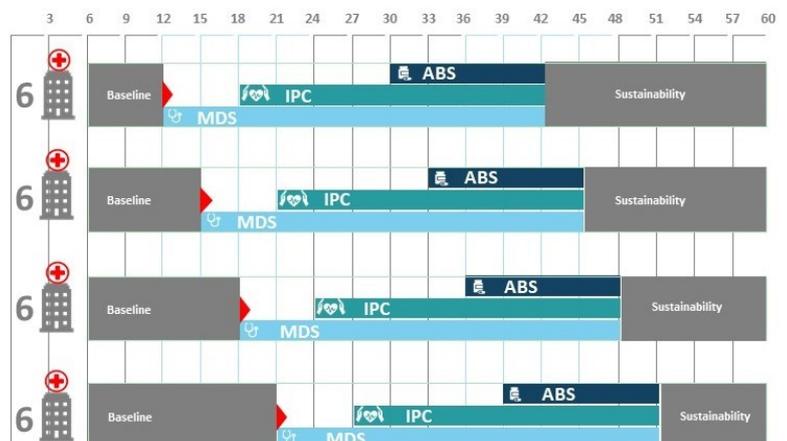
WORK PACKAGE SPOTLIGHT

Work Package 3: Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Programme

Work Package 3 deals with the **Infection Prevention and Control programme** at the 24 acute care REVERSE hospitals in Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain. The main objectives of Work Package 3 are to determine the effects of an IPC programme to **enhance basic and advanced infection prevention and control measures** to decrease the incidence density of healthcare-associated CRE, CRPA and CRAB as well as the prevalence of CRE in repetitive prevalence surveys.

In this WP, we will develop, implement and evaluate a set of **evidence-based IPC bundles**, tools and toolkits to control endemic MDRO and assess their effect on the incidence of healthcare-associated due to MDRO, retrieved in clinical cultures in the participating institutions. The results of the WP5 questionnaires will **support selection and implementation** of the IPC bundle elements.

To learn more about and to stay up-to-date with new developments in Work Package 3, check out the **REVERSE Website**.



▶ Randomisation: 6 hospitals every quarter to start with the MDS programme, followed by the IPC programme and the ABS programme

Robert Koch Prize for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention 2022



Prof. Dr Stephan Harbarth has been awarded the Robert Koch Prize for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention 2022. The jury decision states: "A remarkable scientist in hospital epidemiology and infection control in Europe". The award ceremony took place in Berlin on September 8. 2022.

Stephan Harbarth is a professor at the University of Geneva and the lead of hospital epidemiology and infection control in the Department of Internal Medicine at Geneva University Hospitals. He received this award for "extensive and continuous work in the field of hospital epidemiology and infection control in Europe to improve the scientific basis of infection control measures".

Stephan Harbarth is also the REVERSE Work Package 3— Infection Prevention and Control Programme leader .

Microbiology and Diagnostic Stewardship (MDS) intervention started

The first REVERSE intervention (MDS) started in December 2022 with the six hospitals in cohort 1. Lead Partners for this intervention are the University of Florence (UNIFI) and the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU). The main objectives of this intervention are to improve microbiological diagnostics at the local level in each of the participating hospitals. In particular, MDS will improve the detection of CRE, CRPA and CRAB, and determine the prevalence of CRO and their clonal relatedness.

Implementation Site Visits in Greece

The REVERSE Team, composed of members from WP1, WP3 and WP5, visited three sites in Greece in November 2022. The main objective of WP3 was to learn about the local IPC practices in the hospitals and to understand the IPC setup. The barriers and facilitators with regards to project implementation were of particular interest.



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