

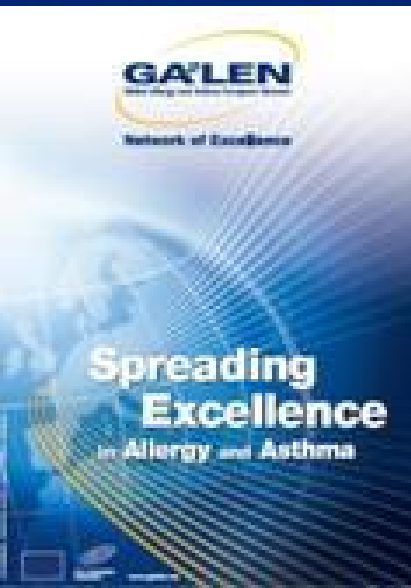


Network of Excellence

GA²LEN



- Global Allergy and Asthma European Network
- EU 6th framework programme for research (FP6)
 - Theme: Food quality and safety
 - Topic 42: allergy and asthma (2003)
 - Network of Excellence



Fact sheet



31 Partners

27 research institutes,
2 societies (EAACI, EFA) & 2 SMEs

More than 50
collaborating centres

Open call for participation

Researchers involved

About 500
more than 20 European countries

Co-ordinator

Paul van Cauwenberge
University of Ghent, Belgium

EC scientific officer

Dr. Ana Nieto Nuez

EC contract number

FOOD-CT-2004-506378



Network of Excellence

GA²LEN Partners



 **Coordination: University of Ghent**



EAACI – European society



EFA – European Patients' association

 University of Vienna Medical School

 Odense University Hospital

 Helsinki University Central Hospital

 INSERM, Paris

 Charité Berlin

 LMU, Munich

 Technische Universität, Munich

 National University of Athens

 CNR - div. Palermo & div. Rome

 University of Genoa

 AMC, Amsterdam

 University of Utrecht

 Voksentoppen BKL, Oslo

 Jagellonian University Kraków

 Medical University of Lodz


 Universidad de Coimbra

 IMAS, Barcelona

 Autonoma University of Madrid


 Göteborg University

 Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm

 University of Zurich, SIAF

 University of London

 Imperial College London

 University of Southampton

 AW Communication sprl, Belgium

 Custodix nv, Belgium



Network of Excellence

Objectives

- Enhance the quality and relevance of research for all aspects of allergic diseases
- Accelerate the application of research results
 - clinical practice & policy development
- Prevention & treatment for the benefit of the patients
- Create a permanent and durable structure

GA²LEN Work packages

1. Integration activities
2. Joint research actions
3. Dissemination knowledge
 - to scientists, health professionals, patients and policy makers
4. Management of the consortium

1. Integration work packages

- Emphasis on networking to develop common tools and methods
 - Eg. Birth cohorts database; bio-banks...
- Standardise procedures to ensure quality in research and clinical care

<i>Integration Activities</i>		
<p>WP 1.1 Instruments of integration and platform architecture <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, partner 1</p>	<p>WP 1.2 Integrating Research Activities: coordination</p> <p>1.2.1 Epidemiological and clinical studies <i>Peter Burney</i> Imperial College, London, Partner 31</p> <p>1.2.2 Patients registries <i>Jean-Baptiste Watelet</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>	<p>WP 1.3 Quality management System <i>Torsten Zuberbier</i> Charité, Berlin, Partner 8</p>
<p>WP 1.5 Birth Cohorts <i>Susanne Lau</i> Charité, Berlin, Partner 8</p>	<p>WP 1.7 Intellectual property management <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>	<p>WP 1.8 Ethical and gender issues <i>Paul van Cauwenberge</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1</p>

2. Joint Research activities

- Early life events & allergic sensitisation
 - Genes, nutrition, environment, IgE sensitisation,...
- From allergic sensitisation to allergic disease
 - Nutrition, environment, occupation, T-cells, airways remodelling...
- Persistence and aggravation
 - Eg. Severe asthma, virus exacerbations,...

2. Joint Research activities

Joint Research Activities

<p>WP 2.1 Nutrition <i>Philip Calder</i> University of Southampton, Partner 27</p>	<p>WP 2.2 Infection 2.2.1 Environmental and occupational exposure 2.2.2 Genomics <i>Erika von Mutius</i> LMU, Munich, Partner 9 2.2.3 Virus exacerbations <i>Nikos Papadopoulos</i> NKUA, Athens, Partner 11</p>	<p>WP 2.3 Indoor & Outdoor environment <i>Bert Brunekreef</i> University of Utrecht, Partner 16</p>
<p>WP 2.4 Occupation + Adolescents <i>Jan Paul Zock</i> IMAS Barcelona, Partner 21</p>	<p>WP 2.5 Gender <i>Bénédicte Leynaert</i> INSERM, Partner 7</p>	<p>WP 2.6 2.6.1 IgE sensitization and allergic diseases <i>W. Fokkens</i> AMC Amsterdam, Partner 15 2.6.2 Regulatory T-cells <i>C. Akdis</i> SIAF Zurich, Partner 28</p>
<p>WP 2.7 Early influence on airway remodelling 2.7.1 Airway remodelling <i>Mark Gjomarkaj</i> CNR Palermo, Partner 12 b 2.7.2 ENT specialists/ patients airway <i>Claus Bachert</i> University of Ghent, Partner 1 2.7.3 Aspirin Sensitivity <i>Andrew Sczceklik</i> JUMCK, Krakow, Partner 18</p>	<p>WP 2.8 2.8.1 Clinical care and quality of life <i>Kjell Larsson</i> KI Stockholm, Partner 24 2.8.1/b Severe asthma <i>Sven-Erik Dahlen</i> KI Stockholm, Partner 24 2.8.2 Sport and Asthma <i>K.H Carlsen</i> Voksentoppen Oslo, Partner 17</p>	<p>WP 2.9 Genetics, genomics and post-genomics <i>Francine Kauffmann</i> Inserm, Partner 7</p>

Achievements

- GA²LEN Birth cohorts database
- Epidemiological & clinical studies
 - common tools and shared samples
- Reviews and position papers
- Training programme for young researchers
- Guidelines for scientists and health professionals

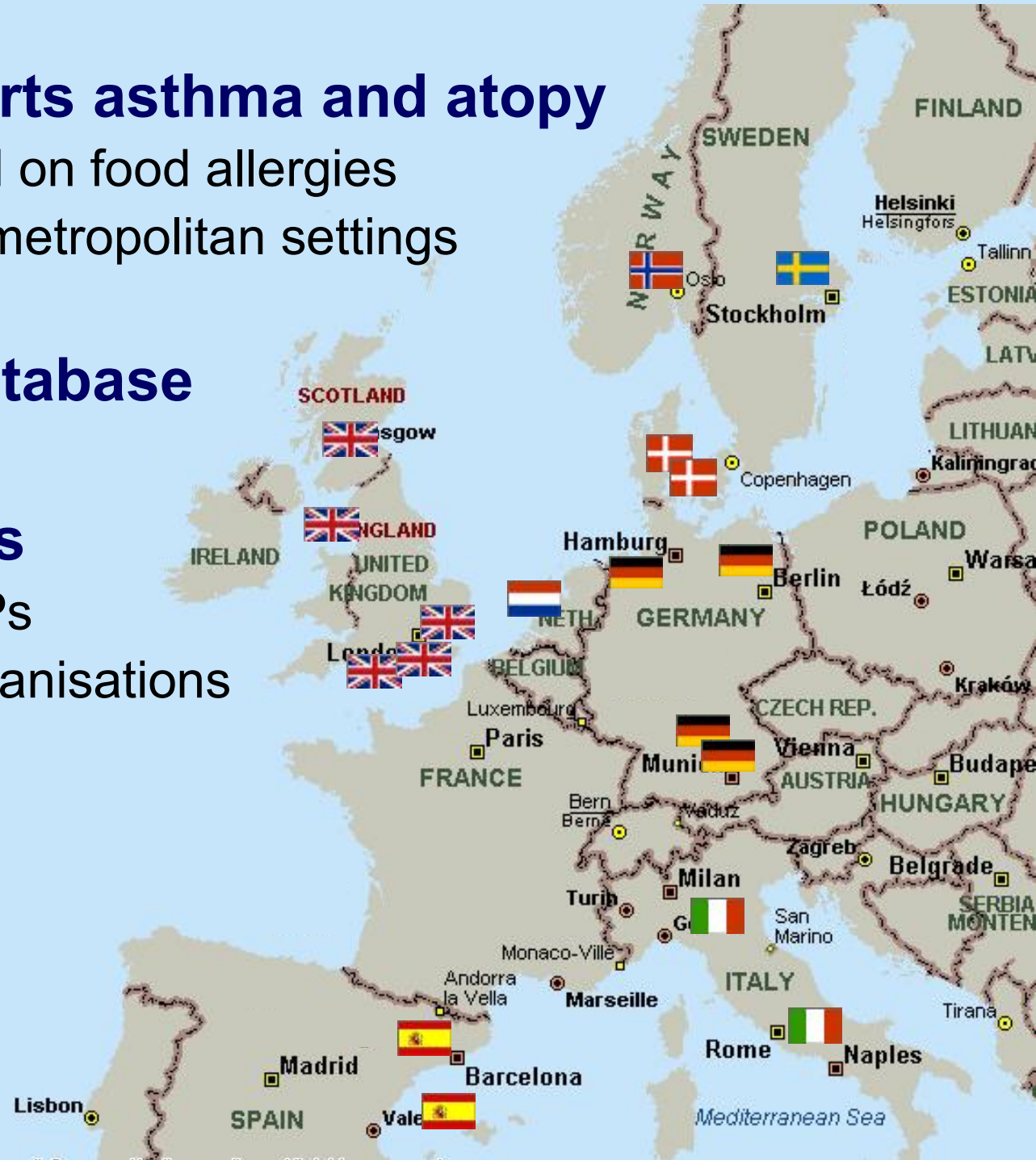
- **18 Birth Cohorts asthma and atopy**

- 6 also focused on food allergies
- mainly urban/metropolitan settings

- **A common database**

- **Collaborations**

- with other WPs
- with other organisations



Reviews & Position papers

- Mechanisms of virus-induced asthma exacerbations
- Tissue remodelling in nose and lungs
- Nutrition and allergic disease
- ARIA updates (in collaboration with GA²LEN)
 - Pharmacologic and anti-IgE treatment
 - Rhinitis and asthma in athletes
 - Complementary and alternative medicine
 - Effectiveness of measures to change indoor environment

Training & Education

- EAACI-GA²LEN Allergy schools
 - 4 organised this year
- GA²LEN Exchange programme
 - 7 exchanges already
- PAPRICA Symposium
 - Prime Allergy for Primary Care Physicians

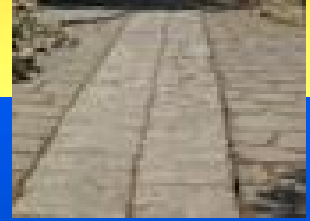


Guidelines for scientists & health professionals



- Pan-European standard for Skin prick test
- Quality criteria set for Allergy centres of Excellence
- Joint guidelines with the EAACI on
 - Urticaria: classification, diagnosis & management
 - Atopy patch test: present status
 - Aspirin hypersensitivity: guidelines for diagnosis and challenge tests (in press)

Perspectives



- An integrated, sustainable platform for research in allergy and asthma
 - Harmonised research methods and tools
 - Training and Education activities
 - Communication platform
 - New (FP7) projects hosted by the Network
- Further extension of the network



Thank you

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