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The Parasitology group of the Associate Laboratory LA CMDT – IHMT presents here a summary of the group activities.

This was a relevant area of RD, influencing and determining at times, funding for other thematic areas within this Associate Laboratory being parasitic diseases the model for their research and also demonstrating and confirming the interaction between groups.

It was through Parasitology that entering Brazil, São Tomé e Príncipe, Angola, Mozambique and G Bissau was made possible to the LA, through programmes supported by Portuguese funding or the EU (5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> FWP) ; other than participation in a number of international networks, a project supported by the EU on neglected diseases using Chagas disease as an example of reemergence, has influenced the 7FWP calls on neglected diseases. The basic studies carried out on malaria in Saõ Tome Príncipe have facilitated future work, by other partners on a malaria control programme in the islands. A workshop in B Aires looked indirectly at diseases of poverty through the problems of urbanization and a publication on the subject (La inequidad en la Salud, Hacia un abordage integral) on Health Inequity was published and highly requested in the region.

A doctoral plan of support with Angola has not yet raised to expectations but did open a programme on training that demands a continuous updating in methods and clarification of aims. Networking was also made possible through Parasitology (Malaria and Leishmaniasis) and influenced the opening of

new thematic RD projects on animal diseases. From the Portuguese Malaria Network, we later expanded into RIDES MALARIA with the Portuguese speaking countries, with major support from Brazil, or, we also established the Iberian Malaria Platform – 34 groups - with strong activity in mobility and workshops.

The MCTES programme on Ciência Viva brought, for the first time, with local civil support (Planalto School), the visit of school youngsters from Mozambique who attended simple courses with colleagues from Lisbon and other secondary schools. Today Portugal has a number of groups working in tropical diseases and many of these investigators were trained here, in their early steps of research learning.

For the future we need to adjust to the economic problems that exist, to the needs and requests of the countries which require our support, and we must guarantee our place and assume some responsibility in the making of a better society mainly where it is necessary. These are strategies to be discussed and implemented whenever necessary.

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