

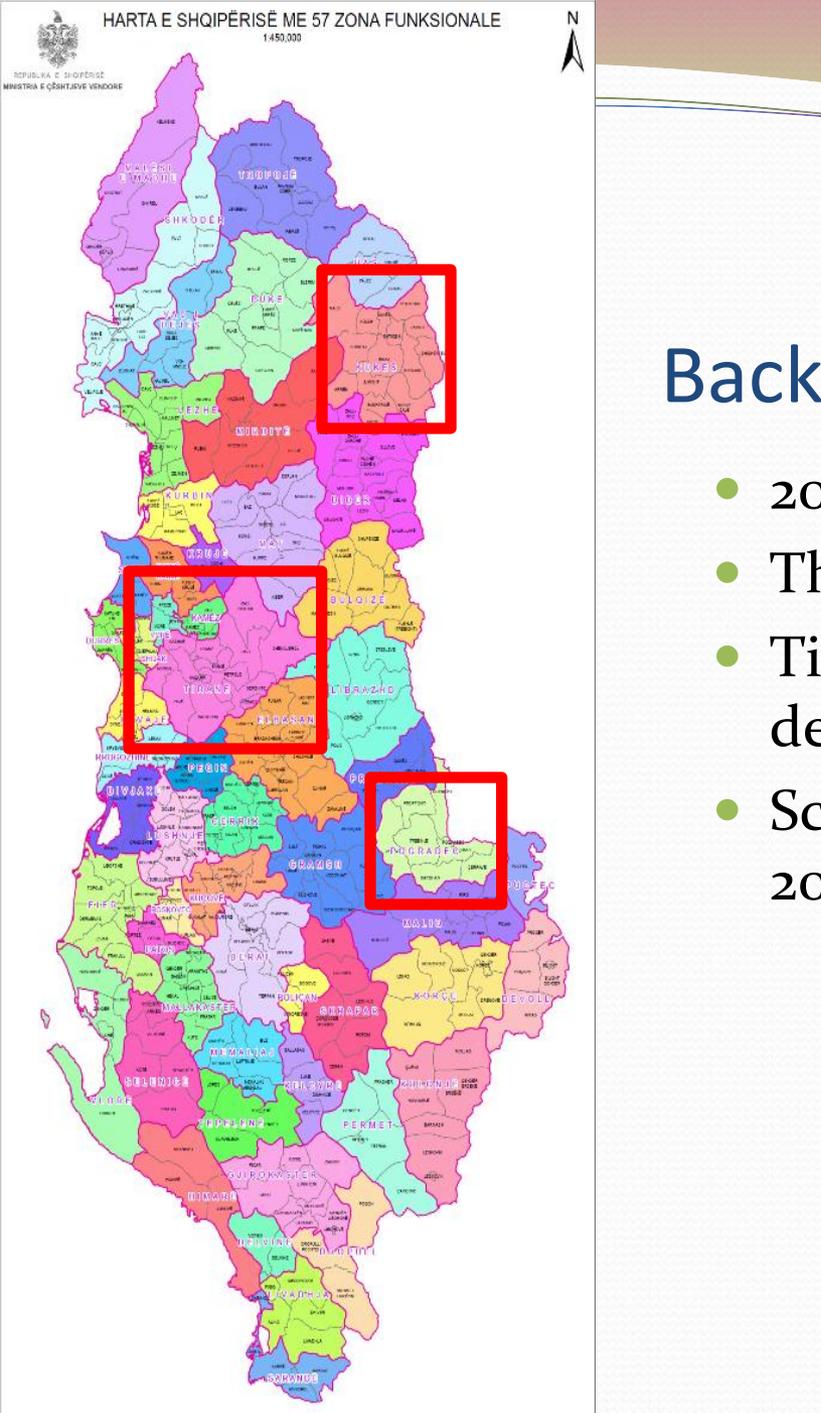


Implementation of hearing screening in Tirana, Albania



WP7 objectives

1. Wide-scale implementation study of an evidence-based, cost-optimised neonatal hearing screening programme in the regions of Tirana, Kukes, and Pogradec in Albania.
2. Increasing the competences of nurses in performing the hearing screening tests by theoretical and practical training, assessment of competence, and accreditation.
3. Improve the awareness in parents of the importance of early detection and treatment of hearing loss in young children.
4. Creation of a monitoring and evaluating system of activities in the study, which could be expanded to a national level after the study.
5. Creation of a registry of cases of failed screening tests, that could be expanded to a national level after the study.

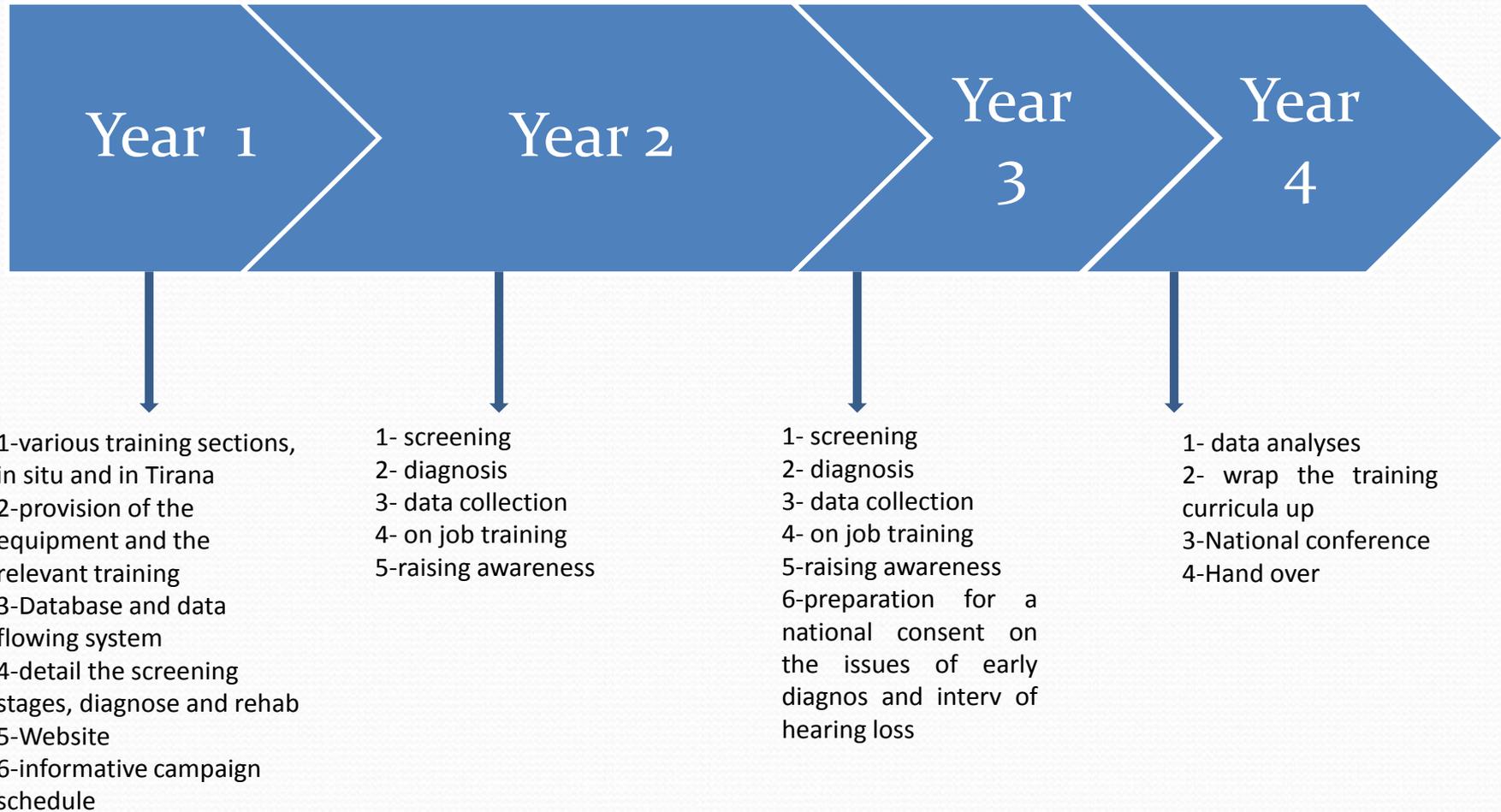


Background

- 2017 preparatory stage
- Three districts – 4 institutions
- Tirana around 11,000 annual deliveries
- Screening planed to start on Jan 2018



General implementation plan

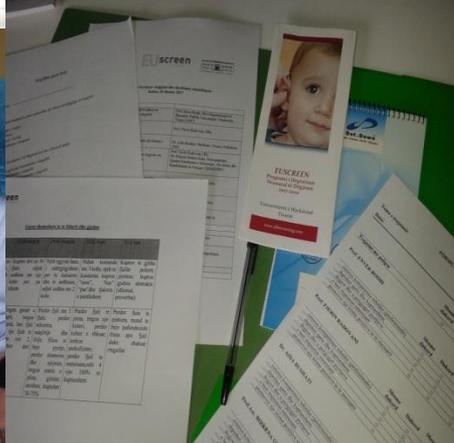
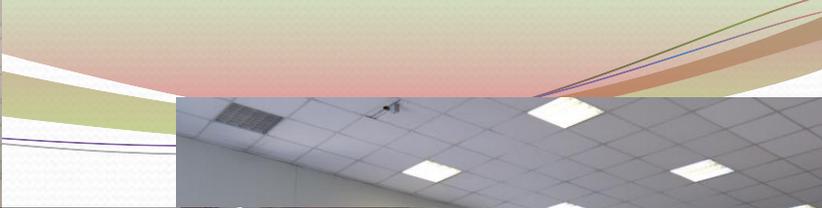


Preparatory stage

- Training curricula prepared by multi –disciplinary staff
- Training of medical personnel on screening issues
 - Kukes, 49 partic.
 - Pogradec , 38 partic.
 - Tirana, 31 partic.
- Specific ‘hands on’ training of the screening teams . Training on data collection, exchanging information with parents, where to go, what to do. Training on reporting, where how?
- Additional practical sections in each area Decemb 2017 – 24 project staff

Devices

- Two types of devices delivered in each site , together with manual of use in Albanian, baby modules, informative leaflets and consumables.
- Completing the audiometric diagnostic booth at ENT clinic, UHC “Mother Teresa” in Tirana, the only one meeting standards nationally.
- The booth was acoustically treated and the some devices already provided. The rest will be supplied within 2018.





Preparatory-stage

- Screening sequences
 - Tirana: OAE- OAE- aABR ward and aABR- aABR in NICU
 - Kukes: aABR-aABR
 - Pogradec: OAE-OAE-aABR





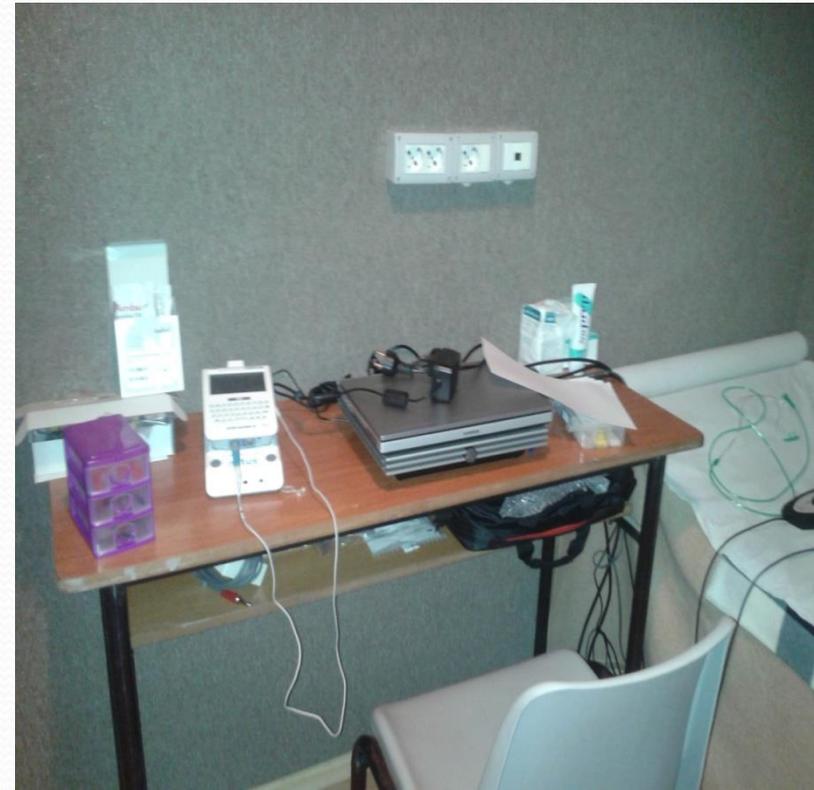
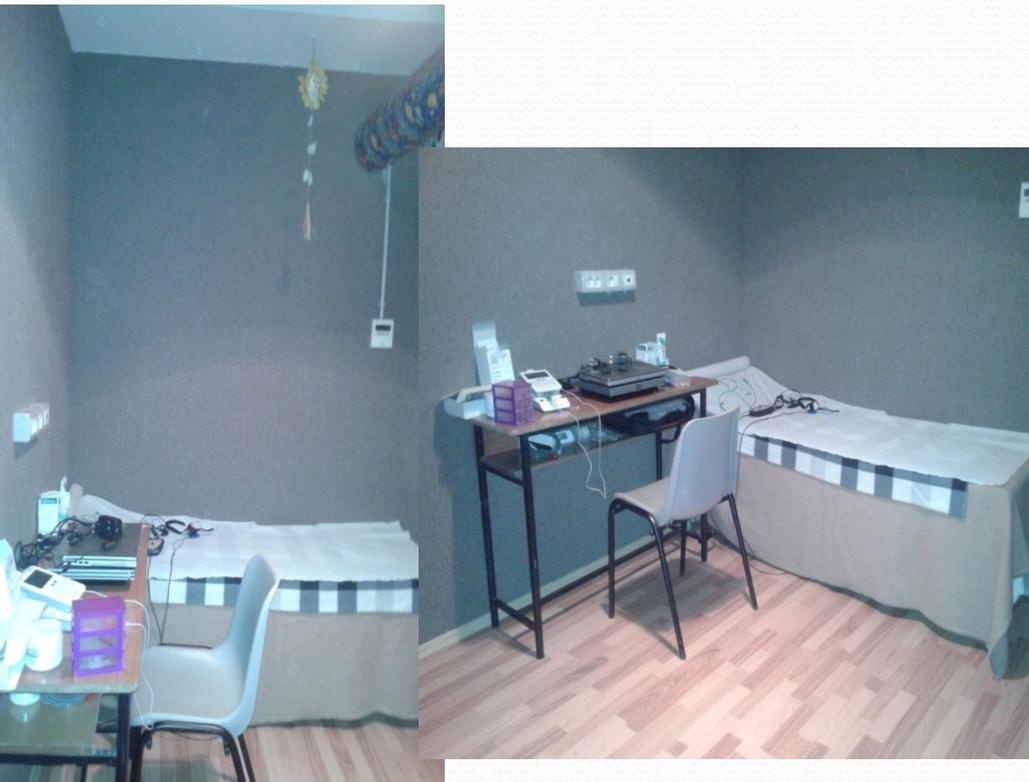
Preparatory stage – equipment (1)

Institution	OAE	aABR	ABR diag.
Mat “M Geraldine”	3	2	
Mat “K. Gliozheni”	3	1	
Mat Kukes	0	2	
Mat Pogradec	2	1	
Tirana Univ. hospital	1		1
Child rehab center, Tirane			1

- Internet and room furniture secured for each site

Preparatory stage – equipment (2)

- Audiometric booth in Tirana Univ. Hospital
- ABR room in Child Rehab Center



Publications/ meetings

- [Inventory of current EU paediatric vision and hearing ... - Europe PMC](#)
- 2018 annual conference of EUSCREEN in Rumania
- [human reproduction and andrology - Koco Gliozheni](#)
www.suogj-kgliozheni.gov.al/.../ (July 2018)
- [Neonatal hearing screening and EUSCREEN project- info day](#) (October 2018)
- [The neonatal hearing screening \(NHS\): the challenge of professionals, the health system or the population -](#)
4th International i Multidisciplinary Medical Congress in Albania - Nov 2018
- Annual ENT conference- Nov 2018

Dissemination & communication

- <http://www.dritare.net/2018/01/23/doktoreshe-qirjazi-apel-prinderve-mos-i-denoni-femijet-me-shurdheri-ja-cfare-duhet-te-beni>
- [UMT website info](#)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zA85yW9_bvU
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljpRR7aUJ_Ss



Tirana specifics

- The highest number of annual deliveries (40% of which from other cities/ towns)
- Proper NICUs that collect cases from all over Albania (40% of babies come from outside Tirana)
- Around 1000 deliveries in private facilities
- Period of staying at hospital after normal delivery very short (sometimes <24h)
- Very noisy environment inside the facilities

screening



- 3 stages, 2 different protocols (WB/NICU) and paper work
 - Parental informed consent
 - Tracing
 - Home testing
 - Visibility
-
- Staff performance (brainstorm meeting-Pogradec Nov 2018)



data

	Annual deliv	First stage screening coverage	Second stage coverage	Third stage refer
Mat 1	6620	90%		
Mat 2	3868	96%	67,2 %	56%



From screening to diagnosis

- April 2018- training on ABR and diagnosis of hearing loss
- Two devices in two sites
- Babies tested under sleep- some tests inconclusive, need to be repeated

Normal	- 3 subjects
Unilateral hearing loss	- 5 subjects
Inconclusive	- 4 subjects
Moderate –profound bil	- 7 subjects
Mild hearing loss	- 1 subject



From diagnosis to rehabilitation

- Capacity building

Two training rounds with the staff of the Child Rehab center and others

- 1- April 2018 –hearing loss, communication development and strategies for developing spoken language in early identified infants (3 days)
- 2- Dec 2018 - Assessment, monitoring and promotion of communication, language and speech development in babies and infants and strategies for family Centred early intervention.

Hearing loss and its effects on language development, communications and the importance of amplification; evaluation and monitoring of the early development of communication, speech and language; strategies for enhancing language and communication, development of active listening and alternative modes of communications etc



- Curriculum was based on the needs expressed by the staff itself. (3 consecutive days, 21CMEs)
- *emerging care pathway* formed- though some subjects are lost on the way
- a liaison meeting with the Albanian Deaf Society, was held, to ensure they were aware and informed about the programme and future potential involvement



Issues to be addressed

- Parental awareness about the early diagnosis
- Health workers awareness about screening issues (child consultancy centers) and interconnection between various specialists
- Unification of strategies and
- Gaps between diagnosis and rehab
- Scaling up



Points to be to be considered and decided upon for the future

- Capacities already in place
- Scaling up or maintain the existing sites?
- Budget and political issues
- Parents and the interest group weight/ extra questionnaires
- Enhancement of the visibility
- Strategy to be proposed along with the financial bill