

TINNET COST Action BM1306: an international standard for outcome measurements in clinical trials of tinnitus

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Reason for the TINNET COST Action

Tinnitus is a common condition that is characterised by sounds in the ears or head. Over 70 million people in Europe experience tinnitus, and for 7 million it creates a debilitating condition.

In spite of its enormous socioeconomic relevance, research funding is limited. There are no standards for clinical management and treatments typically have low evidence levels

One of the problems is the **heterogeneity** of tinnitus. Both in experimental (pre-clinical) research and in clinical trials, many of the reported findings cannot be replicated. Many clinical trials fail to demonstrate a significant benefit, even if individual patients may improve.

The European Union has approved funding for a TINNET COST Action (2014-2018) to create a pan-European tinnitus research network.

The overall aim is to better understand the heterogeneity of the condition.

TINNET COST Action strategy

The TINNET strategy is to standardise and coordinate clinical, neuroimaging and genetic assessment of tinnitus patients and to aggregate data in a large-scale database in order to identify tinnitus subtypes and their neurobiological underpinnings. There are five working groups (WG):

WG1: Defining clinical assessments of tinnitus patients according to common standards

WG2: Managing data in a central database and identifying subtype candidates via meta-analysis.

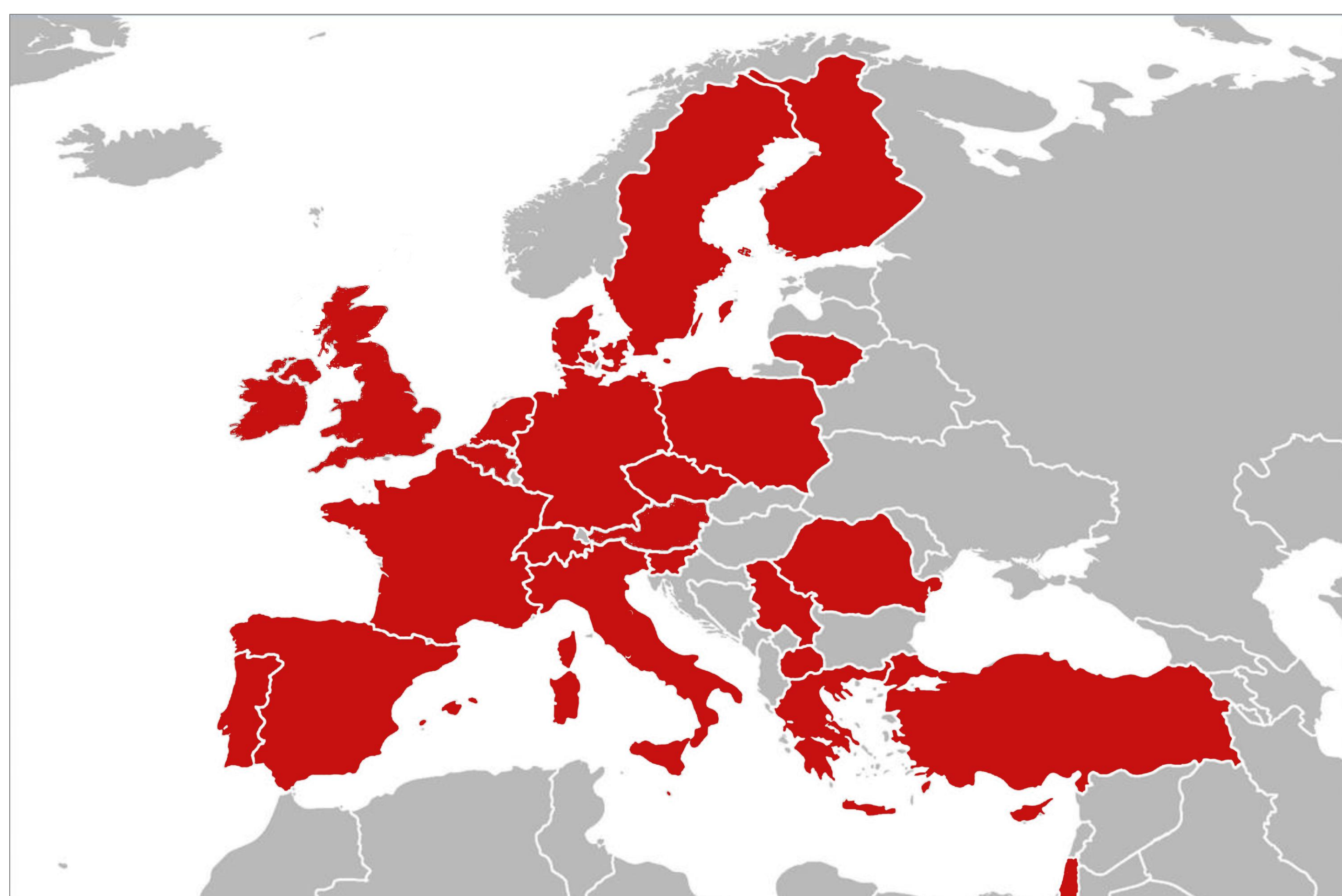
WG3: Developing standards for neuroimaging studies and probing the neurobiological entity of the defined subtypes by large-scale analyses of neuroimaging data.

WG4: Identifying the involvement of genetic factors in the pathogenesis of the different subtypes of tinnitus

WG5: Developing standards for outcome measurements in clinical trials and to facilitate central database management.

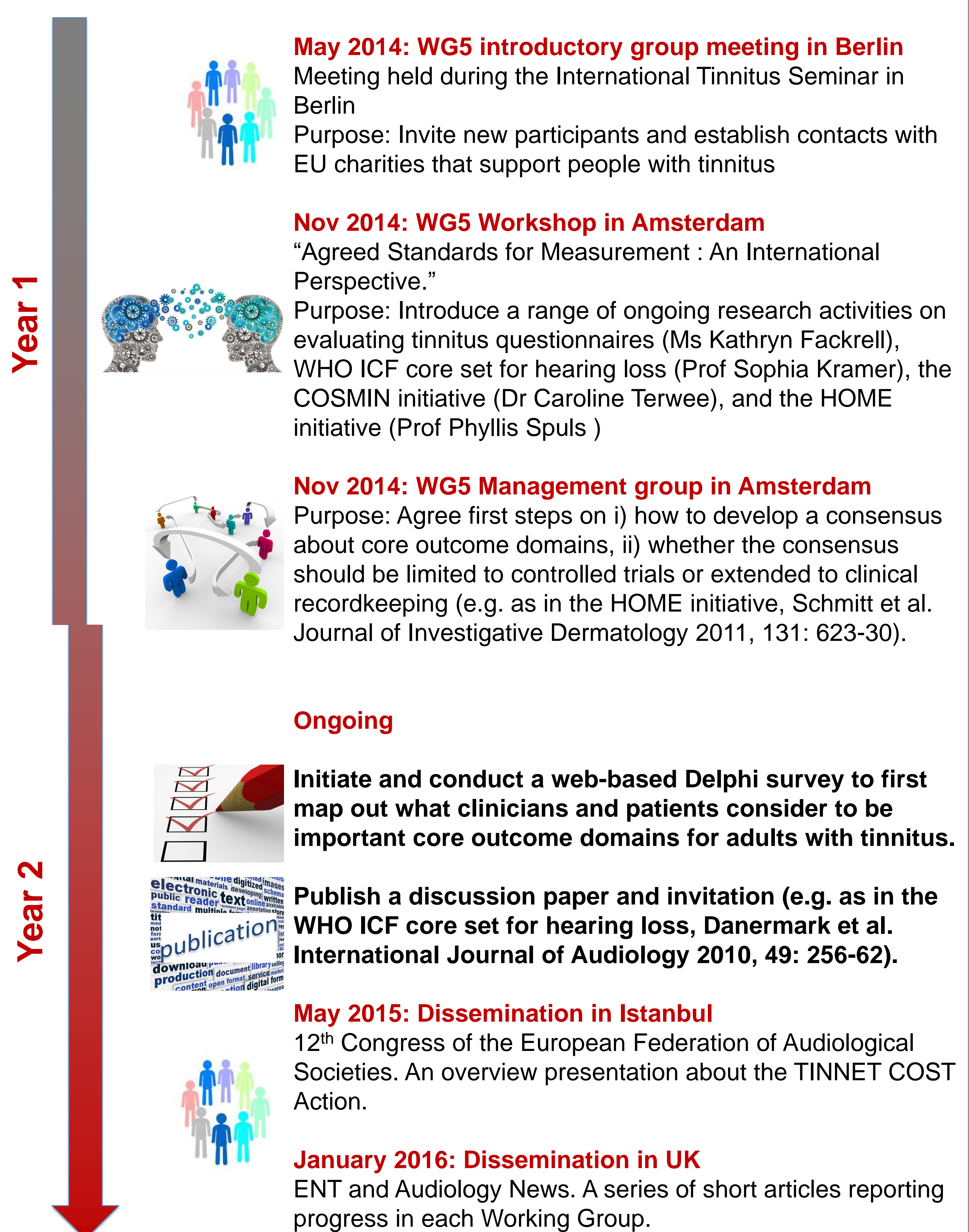
This poster summarises the aims of Working Group 5 (WG5).

26 participating countries across Europe



Austria	France	Italy	Serbia
Belgium	fYR Macedonia	Lithuania	Slovenia
Cyprus	Germany	Malta	Spain
Czech Republic	Greece	Netherlands	Sweden
Denmark	Ireland	Poland	Switzerland
Finland	Israel	Portugal	Turkey
		Romania	United Kingdom

Activities planned so far



Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

What are they? Funded placements (5-90 days) with a leading tinnitus research team.

Who can apply? Clinicians, graduate students or early-career researchers are encouraged to apply especially if they want to actively engage with the rest of the TINNET network, and further afield.

STSM opportunities in WG5:

- (1) Developing expertise in systematic review methodology and strengthening European collaboration across TINNET.** Systematic reviews are important for identifying, without bias, what outcome measurement tools have been so far used in randomized controlled trials of therapeutic interventions for tinnitus. This STSM would enable the visiting clinician or researcher to initiate and conduct the search strategy, record filters and data extraction for a systematic review to define what outcome measures have been used hitherto by our community.
- (1) Developing expertise in Delphi survey methodology and strengthening European collaboration across TINNET.** Delphi surveys provide a well-established methodology for developing consensus-based sets of core outcome domains. An outcome domain is a distinct aspect of tinnitus, such as sleep or quality of life, and typically each outcome domain can be measured by different instruments or scales. This STSM would enable the visiting clinician or researcher to initiate and conduct a key phase of a planned Delphi survey.

For further details speak to Deborah Hall at this meeting (or email)