

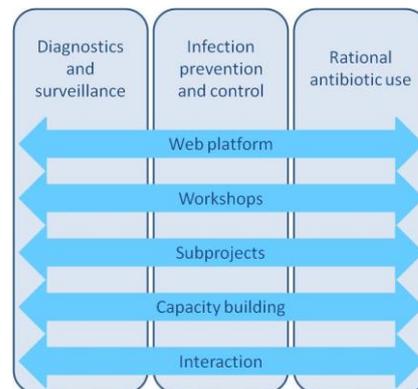
The Baltic Antibiotic Resistance collaborative Network, BARN, creates possibilities for informal collaboration between practitioners from different fields concerned with antibiotic resistance. The members are active in areas such as infection prevention and control, microbiology, primary health care, public health and clinical specialties. BARN promotes projects with hands-on implications in everyday practice based on policies and strategies declared by the high level initiatives “from declarations to action”.

A comprehensive multidisciplinary approach is needed to counteract the spread of antibiotic resistance (ABR). The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared ABR as one of the three greatest threats to public health. BARN provides a platform for action against ABR, with a focus on raising awareness and exchanging knowledge and experience among practitioners on effective interventions in health care settings within as well as between participating countries in the Baltic Sea region. The network stimulates projects in which basic, evidence-based practices are adapted to specific needs in each setting, where they can be quickly implemented and improved.

BARN has developed into an expert network with participants from Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine.

The BARN concept is based on models for evidence-based methods within three focus areas identified as key for the containment of antibiotic resistance:

- ❖ **Microbiological diagnosis and antibiotic resistance surveillance**
- ❖ **Infection prevention and control**
- ❖ **Rational use of antibiotics**



Subprojects within the network with components from at least one of the three focus areas are:

- ❖ Collaboration on infection control to combat antimicrobial resistance and hospital infections
- ❖ Expansion of network and improvement of lab capacity for better AMR surveillance
- ❖ Perioperative Antibiotic Prophylaxis
- ❖ Happy Audit 2
- ❖ The Baltic ESBL epidemiology project
- ❖ The BARN hand hygiene project

Subproject outcomes provide tools for health professionals in their everyday practice as well as information for decision makers on the local, regional and national levels.

BARN was founded in 2010 as a joint initiative by national and regional actors under the leadership of the Swedish Ministry of Social Affairs. Funding is currently granted until August 2016 by the Swedish government through the Swedish Institute (SI). A great part of the work is done as in kind and by voluntary support.

Web: www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/barn

Contact: barn@folkhalsomyndigheten.se or

anette.hulth@folkhalsomyndigheten.se (BARN coordinator, Public Health Agency of Sweden)