



PROJECT TITLE	Genomics, socio-behavioral and clinical data to prevent HIV transmission in migrants: an innovative approach – Ref ^a . PTDC/DTP-EPI/7066/2014
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	The HIV-1 pandemic is composed by multiple epidemics with different characteristics. Migration is a major factor influencing the epidemiology of HIV in Europe. To better prevent HIV spread, it is crucial to understand determinants of transmission in specific subepidemics. A high level of compartmentalization is evident, since different subtypes infect different risk groups and individuals originating from different geographic regions. By using molecular epidemiology and phylogenetics to analyze viral strains that infect migrant populations with, the patterns of transmission and migration of the virus can be better characterized.
OBJECTIVES	Identify subtypes causing HIV epidemics and characterized clusters of transmission of HIV infection among migrants; develop a software to automatically detect HIV transmission chains; quantify and characterized transmission of drug resistance mutations; identified socio-behavioral and geographical patterns associated with transmission of HIV infection.
IMPLEMENTATION	Combining molecular epidemiology with socio-behavioral and drug resistance data can help to pinpoint more detailed transmission patterns of HIV-1 subepidemics. The new parameters estimated by several different disciplines can be fed into mathematical and statistical models to provide deeper knowledge about the transmission dynamics of these subepidemics.
FUNDING AGENCY	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT)
DURATION	2016-2019
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR	Ana Abecasis
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