



Where there is no lawyer: fair research contracting – Experience from EDCTP grants



Where there is no lawyer: Meeting on fair research contracting

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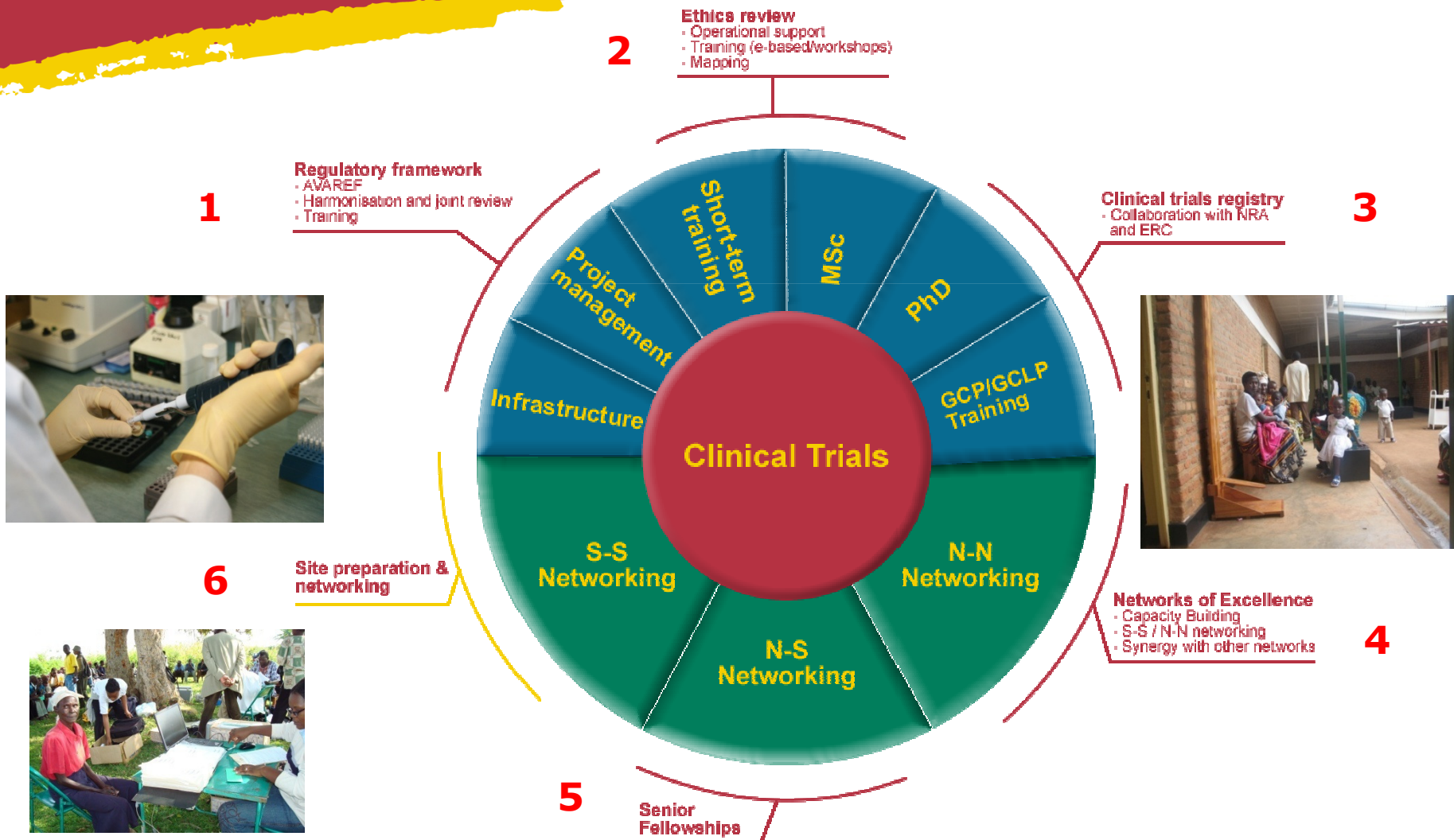


Mission and objectives of EDCTP



To reduce the burden of poverty related diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis) and generally **improve the health** of people living in developing countries by accelerating research and development of new or improved interventions against these diseases through the coordination of the European member state national programmes working in **partnership** with sub-Saharan Africa

Strengthening of clinical trials capacity and the enabling environment





Research grants management capacity



Research management support

- Legal assistance
- Budget preparation support
- Contract negotiation support



Research management capacity analysis



- 73 grantees were contacted/24 responded
- 25% of them did not have a dedicated research management support office
- Those with research support office usually did not have a full establishment:
 - Grants management and reporting
 - Contract negotiation
 - Coordination of research activities
 - Grants application and tracking of funding opportunities
 - Budget planning and financial assistance
 - Research planning
 - Procurement
 - Intellectual Property Rights management



Legal assistance



- 42% had no in-house institutional legal assistance of any sort including in contract negotiations
 - In 8/14 legal assistance is outsourced when required
 - 1/14 consults a colleague qualified in law
 - 1/14 depends on collaborators from the North



Budget preparation support



Support for budget preparation	%
Available in-house expertise (14/24)	59%
No support available (6/24)	25%
Assistance from colleagues (2/24)	8%
Through collaborators from North (2/24)	8%
Contract/budget handling capacity	%
Model contracts (18/24)	75%
Interactive web-based budgeting (13/24)	54%



Dedicated contract handling/negotiation support



- Contract negotiation support (11/24) 46%
 - No dedicated support (13/24) 54%
- No support (6/24) 25%
- Institutional team work (4/24) 17%
- Assistance from colleagues (3/24) 12%



Consequences of the lack of contract management capacity



- Delays in contract signing/starting of the projects
- Mistrust between grantees and funders
- Fallout among collaborators within consortia
- Inability to finish projects within the agreed budget and/or timelines
 - Delays
 - Under budgeting/over budgeting
 - Mismanagement
 - Not being in control
- Perpetuating the cycle of dependence on partners from the north



Thank you



<http://www.edctp.org>