

B-path: Easy breath sample to quick diagnosis

 **B-path** | **Newsletter #2**
<http://www.b-path.org/>

Project Highlights

B-Path Consortium Meeting in Munich

In April 2026, consortium partners met in Munich for the second in-person Annual Meeting, held alongside ESCMID Global.

The meeting provided an opportunity to review progress across all work packages, discuss ongoing laboratory and clinical activities, and coordinate the next project milestones. Scientific discussions focused on current developments in breath-based diagnostics, implementation strategies, and future dissemination activities.

The meeting also strengthened collaboration among partners and reinforced the shared commitment to developing innovative diagnostic tools for respiratory pathogens.



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B-Path at PREPARE-EU

B-Path participated in the PREPARE-EU Workshop, held on 28–29 April 2026 at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig, Germany.

The project contributed to discussions on the future of laboratory diagnostics, surveillance systems, and outbreak preparedness in Europe.

B-Path highlighted how breath-based molecular diagnostics may contribute to future pandemic preparedness by supporting rapid, scalable, and non-invasive testing.

The workshop created valuable opportunities to exchange perspectives with researchers, policymakers, and public health stakeholders working on emerging infectious diseases.

Research Updates and Clinical Activities

Clinical Recruitment Advances Across B-Path Study Sites

In April 2026, clinical recruitment began at IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele in Milan and Heidelberg University Hospital.

The launch of recruitment at these two sites marks an important step in implementing the project and evaluating breath-based diagnostics in real-world healthcare settings across different patient populations.

The data collected will contribute to assessing the feasibility, usability, and diagnostic performance of exhaled breath aerosol sampling and support the development of scalable, non-invasive molecular diagnostic approaches for respiratory pathogens.

As recruitment progresses, clinical and laboratory partners will continue to coordinate their work to generate evidence relevant to the future implementation of breath-based diagnostics in clinical practice.

Listening to Users: 22 In-depth Interviews Completed

Work Package 5 is assessing the acceptability, feasibility, and usability of the AveloMask across B-Path use cases. Following consultation with Avelo and the Consortium, the Heidelberg team developed a topic guide for qualitative data collection. To date, 22 interviews have been conducted with participants from clinical, dental, and public-health backgrounds. Preliminary findings have been shared internally with the Consortium.

South Africa: Recruitment and Workflow Update

At the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation site in Cape Town, recruitment of people presenting with respiratory symptoms began on 20 May 2026 after ethics and local approvals were obtained and the laboratory workflow was prepared. The first five participants completed AveloMask, AveloCollect, and nasal-swab sampling while updates to the RASC workflow were finalised.

 Communication & Dissemination**HealthNCPNet Success Story**

B-Path has been featured by HealthNCPNet as a Success Story, recognising the project as an example of European collaboration supporting innovation in diagnostics and pandemic preparedness.

The feature highlights the project's multidisciplinary approach, international consortium, and commitment to developing practical solutions for future public-health challenges.

 Building a European Outbreak Preparedness Cluster

B-Path is working with the EU-funded PAIR, UniHealth, and DECIPHER projects to explore a shared cluster initiative focused on decentralised diagnostics, early detection, surveillance, and pandemic risk management. While the cluster's name and final communication framework are still being defined, the collaboration aims to build a common narrative around how the four projects contribute to Europe's preparedness for emerging infectious threats.

Together, the projects cover complementary parts of the preparedness value chain: threat identification and "One Health" framing; innovative and accessible sampling; point-of-care and adaptable molecular detection; clinical and field validation; data-informed risk assessment; and implementation, policy, and uptake. Within this framework, BPath contributes its work on non-invasive breath sampling, direct pathogen detection, clinical usability, and the potential integration of scalable diagnostic approaches into health systems.

Initial joint communication activities under discussion include mutual visibility on project websites and social media, shared communication materials, and thematic webinars addressing the pathway from sample collection to diagnosis, the transformation of diagnostic data into outbreak intelligence, and the implementation of new diagnostic solutions before the next public-health emergency. As the projects mature and results become available, the cluster may also explore joint events, articles, or a position paper.

Stay Connected!

We invite you to explore the B-Path website to learn more about the project, partners, and ongoing activities: <https://b-path.org/>

Future issues of this newsletter will include updates on project developments, scientific results, and opportunities for engagement.

Where to find us

Website: <https://b-path.org/>

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