

Innovative Breath-Based Diagnostics for Infectious Respiratory Diseases

 **BreathForDx | Newsletter 06/03/2026**

<https://www.breathfordx.org>

17 Entering the Final Year — Strengthening Collaboration and Looking Ahead

With the BreathForDx project in its final year, the consortium is intensifying efforts to consolidate findings, strengthen collaborations, and prepare for the future implementation of breath-based diagnostic solutions.

Over the past months, partners have continued participant recruitment and validation activities across different study sites and important milestones have been achieved.

This final phase will be crucial for:

- Completing participant recruitment in the clinical studies
- Running the validated assays for tuberculosis and respiratory viruses from breath samples
- Support future uptake and scalability of the technology

Participant recruitment for the clinical studies

Work Package 4 – Diagnostic accuracy study of breath-based sampling in symptomatic patients

In Romania, investigators at the Institutul De Pneumoftiziologie Marius Nasta (IPMN) are recruiting individuals presenting to the outpatient clinic with symptoms compatible with tuberculosis to test the sensitivity of breath-based samples collected with AveloMask for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis compared with sputum.

Recruitment is progressing well: to date, 206 participants have been enrolled, with a combined TB positivity of 44 cases, of which 35 have been confirmed by sputum culture.



Work Package 5 – Pragmatic feasibility study of breath-based sampling devices for TB and respiratory viral infection screening in migrants

In Italy and Germany, investigators are recruiting migrant and refugee persons in first arrival enters in Milan and Heidelberg to test breath samples collected with AveloMask for screening of tuberculosis and respiratory viruses

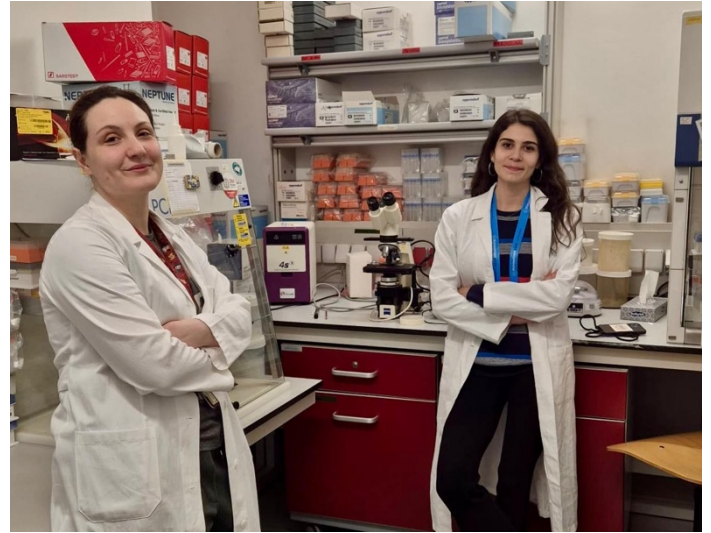
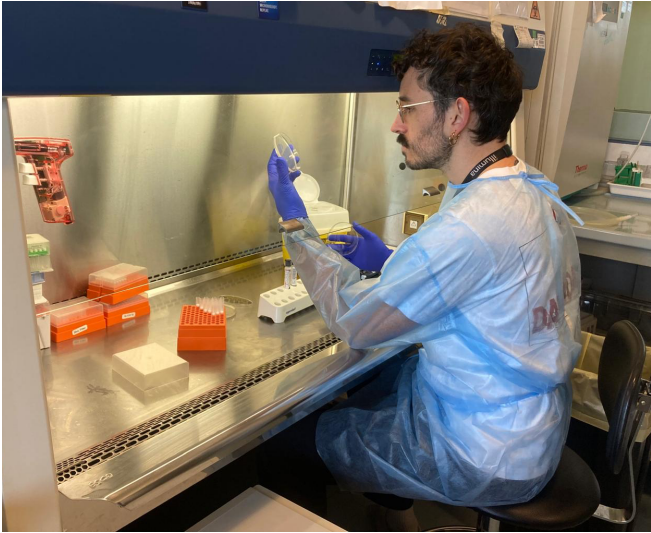
More than half of the planned sample size has been reached, and recruitment is ongoing at the migrant centres in the various locations.



Emergency Reception Centre in Milan

Meanwhile in the lab....

In the Emerging Bacterial Pathogen Unit, our laboratory personnel is getting ready to receive and test samples from the clinical studies, validating and refining the assays previously developed by the consortium.



All participants depicted in this photo have provided their consent for its use in BreathForDx communication and dissemination materials.

World TB Day 2026: “Yes! We Can End TB”

Every year on 24 March, the global community marks World Tuberculosis Day, raising awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis and mobilising efforts to end the global TB epidemic. The date commemorates the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by Robert Koch in 1882, a milestone that paved the way for diagnosing and treating the disease.

The 2026 campaign theme — “Yes! We Can End TB: Led by countries, powered by people” — sends a strong message of hope and urgency, emphasising that ending TB is achievable through decisive leadership, sustained investment, rapid adoption of innovations, and strong collaboration across sectors and communities.

In this context, innovation in diagnostics plays a critical role. Projects such as BreathForDx contribute to global efforts by exploring new breath-based sampling approaches that could support earlier, non-invasive, and more accessible detection of

respiratory infections, including tuberculosis. Strengthening diagnostic capacity is a key step toward improving access to care and accelerating progress toward the global goal of ending TB.

Annual Consortium Meeting in Munich

In April 2026, the BreathForDx consortium will meet in person in Munich for its Annual Consortium Meeting.

This will be a key moment for the project, offering the opportunity to:

- Review progress across work packages
- Align final-year priorities
- Strengthen collaboration between clinical, technical, and implementation partners
- Discuss sustainability and future exploitation pathways

Face-to-face meetings remain essential to foster dialogue across disciplines — particularly in a project like BreathForDx, where innovation sits at the intersection of technology, clinical practice, and public health.

We look forward to sharing highlights from the meeting in our next updates.

Communication & Dissemination Highlights: BreathForDx Goes Live on YouTube

We are excited to announce the launch of the **official BreathForDx YouTube channel!**

This new platform will serve as a space to:

- Share project updates and behind-the-scenes insights
- Highlight field activities across study sites
- Present technologies and research progress in an accessible way
- Engage with a broader public audience beyond the scientific community

Through short videos and project highlights, the channel aims to make BreathForDx's

work more visible and understandable — supporting our mission to bring breath-based diagnostics closer to real-world impact.

From device deployment to patient pathways, the channel will showcase how innovation moves from laboratory to clinical and community settings.

👉 Follow us and stay connected as we continue working toward more accessible diagnostics.

[BreathForDx YouTube Channel](#)

 **Spotlight on the Consortium: University of Heidelberg, [Division of Infectious Disease and Tropical Medicine](#)**

 Country: Germany

 Role in BreathForDx: project coordination

“Collaboration is the key to innovation — our collaboration in BreathForDx aims to unleash the potential of breath as a diagnostic sample.”

The University of Heidelberg coordinates the European clinical sites in BreathForDx. With a strong focus on diagnostic accuracy, trial design, and implementation science, the team coordinates cross-site validation efforts and clinical trials, assesses the feasibility and acceptability of the novel tool, and evaluates its potential. Their leadership, through the [Denkinger diagnostics research group](#), ensures scientific rigour and harmonisation across all study sites, paving the way for a robust evaluation of breath-based diagnostics.

 **Contact & Links**

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