

ACIES, partner of SPIDIA* project (FP7)

**Standardisation and improvement of generic pre-analytical procedures and tools for in vitro diagnostics*

► Objectives and features of the project

SPIDIA, collaborative project gathering hi-tech SMEs, industry and public and private research centres, aims at increasing the efficiency of in vitro diagnostics in Europe through **the creation of new standards for the collection, handling and use of blood, tissue, tumour and other samples.**

Through FP7, the European Commission has approved the funding and scope of the initiative for setting up ad-hoc standards, tools and quality assurance systems. The project is expected to last **48 months** and its global budget is more than **13 million euros**. The consortium, made of **16 companies and research organisations from 11 countries**, is led by QIAGEN, Europe's largest biotechnology company and a global leader in molecular sample and assay technologies.

► Project's impacts

The use of different sample processing methods leads to diverging results, which hampers the comparability and reproducibility of results while reducing the meaningfulness of the analyses. More standardised guidelines and quality assurance schemes will help to introduce new and improved diagnostic methods, which will **benefit all European patients.**

The completion of this project and its funding emphasize the importance of these processes in general and molecular diagnostics and their role as cornerstones of future healthcare in Europe, in particular. These molecular diagnostic methods allow earlier and more reliable information about the status of a disease than conventional methods. **Molecular diagnostics can also facilitate predictions concerning the future courses of diseases and lead to individualised therapeutic measures.** They are therefore viewed as fundamental to the emergence of the new era of personalised medicine.

► ACIES mission and performance

In the proposal set-up phase, ACIES has suggested the adjunction of partners so as to strengthen the consortium, and advised partners on the accuracy of scientific and non-scientific contents against the European Commission demands.

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What we liked about ACIES, was the highly efficient, direct and businesslike approach during the application stage and contract negotiations with the European Commission and during the project work. Their deep expertise and reliability was highly valuable in streamlining the objectives of 16 partners and in setting the right priorities at the right time. They have certainly maximised our chances to get the proposal funded.”

Dr. Uwe OELMÜLLER, Sr. Director R&D at QIAGEN GmbH,
Coordinator of SPIDIA



The evaluation report from Community experts has given the proposal a 14/15 mark, including 4.5/5 for the management section, designed by ACIES and validated by partners, and 5/5 on the impact section.

In addition, ACIES has played a crucial role in the **completion of negotiation** by contributing actively to budget, scientific and organisational reconfigurations.

Finally, ACIES as **management partner of this European and high-profile research project**, implements managerial methods and tools in accordance with the EC expectations in terms of content and timescale. ACIES also contributes to the implementation of efficient operational and decision-making processes, e.g. in offering partners **training sessions customised to the project** and ensuring full compliance with FP7 rules. ACIES is proud to contribute throughout the four years to this flagship European research project. ■

■ Focus on SPIDIA partners

- 1- Coordinator: QIAGEN (DE), global leader in molecular sample and assay technologies
- 2- Medical University of Graz (AT)
- 3- Consorzio Interuniversitario di Risonanze Magnetiche di Metalloproteine Paramagnetiche (IT)
- 4- TATAA BIOCENTER (SE)
- 5- PreAnalytiX (CH)
- 6- DIAGENIC (NO)
- 7- Aros Applied Biotechnology (DK)
- 8- Dako Denmark (DK)
- 9- ACIES (FR)
- 10- Biotechnology Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CZ)
- 11- European Committee for Standardisation (BE)
- 12- ImmunID Technologies (FR)
- 13- International Agency for Research on Cancer (FR)
- 14- University of Florence (IT)
- 15- Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam (NL)
- 16- Technical University Munich (DE)

▶ ACIES and FP6/FP7

- ACIES is the leader in the Health thematic within the FP6 and FP7 with a success rate three times higher than the European average.
- Two projects had perfect scores: 30/30 (NOVADUCK and SKINTHERAPY).
- ACIES manages projects with budgets ranging from €2.5 million to €50 million.
- ACIES is currently managing ten FP6 and four FP7 projects in the Health, ICT, Transport, Environment, and Energy themes.
- Three examples of projects managed by ACIES within the Health theme:
 - TREAT-NMD: NoE, coordinated by Newcastle University (UK), 21 contractors, 340 researchers involved, maximum grant amount of €10,000,000 for 5 years.
 - PERSIST ("Persisting Transgenesis"): IP, coordinated by Universita Vita-Salute San Raffaele (IT), 22 contractors, maximum grant amount of €11,181,411 for 4 years.
 - SYBILLA ("Systems Biology of T-cell Activation in Health and Disease"): IP, coordinated by the Max-Planck-Institut für Immunbiologie (DE), 17 contractors, maximum grant amount of €11,100,000 for 5 years.