

Strengthening regional stem cells based research for advancement of multi modal innovative strategy for modelling neurodevelopmental disorders (STREAMLINE)

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Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) caused by alterations in early brain development are a group of complex and heterogeneous disorders that give rise to the psychiatric conditions such as autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disability, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. NDDs have a high socio-economic impact and patients with NDDs and mental health problems are geographically dispersed. Thus, establishment of high capacity regional centres with equivalent research capacity and codes of practice is needed in order to build global research activity. The goals of STREAMLINE are to enhanced strategic networking and reinforce research and innovation potential of the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE) in order to develop IMGGE as a high capacity hub for research of NDDs in the Western Balkans which is able to integrate with similar centres in Europe. This will be achieved by twinning IMGGE with three top-class research institutions in Europe: Cardiff University, University of Maastricht and Centre for Research and Technology. The project objectives are: a) to enhance the current and scale up the overall strategic networking activities between the IMGGE and internationally-leading European partners and regional partners; b) to raise the research profile of research staff and scientific attractiveness of IMGGE in the field of NDDs; c) to strengthens research management capacities and administrative skills of the IMGGE staff and d) to become a regional leader in innovations tackling NDDs. Objectives will be achieved through networking, staff exchanges, training, summer schools, symposia, workshops, participation at conferences and dissemination in scientific community, industries and public. Twinning with partners will provide access to new research avenues, creativity, development of new approaches and increased mobility (inwards and outwards) of qualified scientists.