**BiophotonicsPlus**

**ERANET Plus on “Photonic appliances for life sciences and health”**

**The partnership**

The topic and basic concept for this EN+ originate from the Mirror Group (MG) of the European Technology Platform (ETP) Photonics21 which is made up of relevant governmental representatives from all Member and Associated States involved with the promotion of photonics plus representatives of the European Commission (DG ICT Photonics Unit). The topic of this EN+ in photonics has been carefully selected from a number of proposed research topics through a democratic process among the national/regional funding bodies involved during several Mirror Group meetings. As a consequence, the BiophotonicsPlus consortium is a subset of the Ph21 MG.

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**The motivation for the project**

While Europe’s citizens get older on average, their demands in view of personal well-being, clean environment and food quality increase. Biophotonic applications offer a broad range of innovative solutions, e. g. for the ageing society, for improved health care, for surveilling and safeguarding the environment, and for controlling food and drinking water quality. Such biophotonic solutions may relate to analytics, detection, screening, imaging, therapy or surgery techniques.

While the contribution of biophotonics related methods and techniques to biomedical fundamental research is well-recognized and of ever-expanding importance, many potential improvements of established methods in e. g. doctors’ practices, clinics, rapid tests, quality monitoring of pharmaceuticals etc. have not yet been realized and set into practice. Therefore, whereas investment in basic research will certainly be necessary to enable further progress in the future, a more immediate return of invest can be expected by launching projects to translate existing biophotonics technology and methods.

**The objectives of the project**

The main objective of BiophotonicsPlus is the implementation of a trans-national call for project proposals which contribute to the fast translation of biophotonics methods and tools into appliances and products. Projects under this call shall be funded jointly by the participating national/regional funding bodies and co-funded by the European Commission.

**The envisaged exploitation potential and impact**

The participating funding bodies aim to fund approximately 8 to 12 highly innovative R&D projects worth about 20 to 25 M€ as a result of the joint call.