

Publishable executive summary

The *Medical Research Initiative South Eastern Europe* (MedResIn SEE) has been set up to strengthen

**scientific interaction and co-operation
in biomedical research
between the EU and South Eastern Europe.**

Specifically, the *Medical Research Initiative South Eastern Europe* (MedResIn SEE) endeavoured to support scientists wishing to participate in the 7th EU Framework Programme for Research, Development and Demonstration (FP7).

Why?

The overall objectives of *MedResIn SEE* comprised

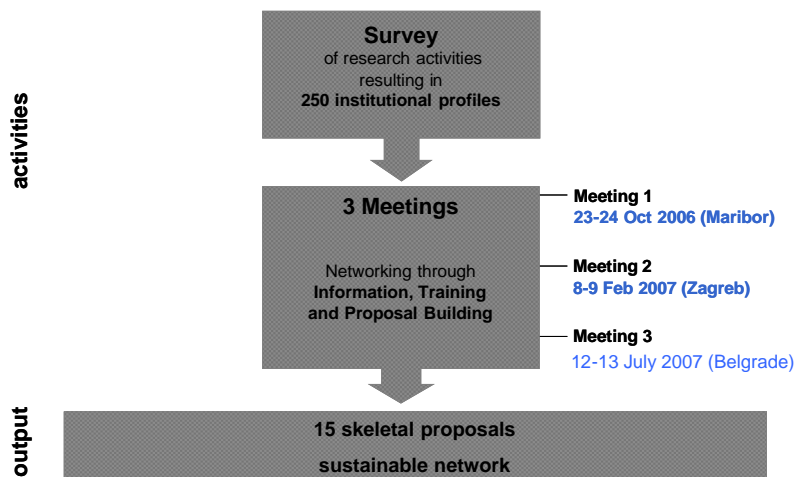
- 4 building up a **sustainable network** of medical research institutions
- 4 strengthening their **interaction and co-operation** in biomedical research
- 4 supporting their efforts towards **integration into the European Research Area**
- 4 initiating and assisting in the **development of joint EU research projects** in FP7
- 4 **increasing the visibility and internationalization** of researchers and research teams
- 4 contributing to the implementation of **EU Life Sciences and biomedical research priorities**

For individual researchers, MedResIn SEE offered opportunities for

- 4 **POSITIONING**
 - chance to present your research activities
 - chance to seek and find partners for your ideas and interests
 - chance to realize your idea and interest in a cooperative project
- 4 **PREPARATION**
 - free and early access to expert information on FP7
 - free and timely training in how to prepare projects under FP7
 - free expert assistance in developing specific proposals
- 4 **PROJECTS & PARTNERSHIP**
 - continued assistance in proposal preparation
 - participation in international project submissions and projects
 - participation in a sustainable network

How?

The MedResIn SEE has conducted a web-based survey on biomedical research activities and research objectives and interests in South Eastern Europe which will be continued beyond the duration of the project. Based upon the results of this survey three conferences were organized which were designed to facilitate and support researchers' participation in future FP7 projects.



The three meetings each included information and training sessions in which experts provided detailed information and showed skills essential for competing for European research projects. Based upon this training, the meetings continued with "proposal building meetings", in which researchers gathered to develop and draft the first sketches of what several grew into full project proposals submitted to FP7.

Who?

The Medical Research Initiative was initiated by a core consortium of six partners:



MedResIn Core Consortium:
Medical University of Graz
University of Maribor (Medical Faculty)
University of Zagreb (Dental School)
University of Belgrade (Medical School)
University of Padova (Medical Faculty)
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Participation in the project activities, meetings and proposal building efforts was open to all researchers in biomedicine who work in a field relevant to FP7 and who are interested in and committed to cooperating in a European project (Extended Consortium).

Having had a first training and proposal building session in 2006, several teams continued their efforts and thus the second and third training and proposal building meetings in 2007 gathered both existing teams already active and several new groups with new projects ideas. Moreover, three workshop teams met separately and were specifically supported in finalization of their proposals.

Based on the collaborations instigated within the three *MedResIn* meetings, six project proposals have been submitted to FP7 in spring and autumn. One of these projects has been granted funding. A second one is still under consideration by the European Commission. Additionally, within almost all teams long lasting cooperation and networks have been established.

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