EURIPRED TransNational Access Impact Report

The EURIPRED project has demonstrated a successful model for connection of Biobanks, researchers and Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) in order to produce research materials for dissemination to researchers worldwide. Through the EURIPRED project more than 1000 new clinical samples have been collected including plasma/sera, PBMCs and whole blood and ~300 new research materials have been produced including antibodies, primary isolates, recombinant proteins, peptides mixes and microarrays, lipoglycans, plasmids and ELISA kits. Most of the materials have been deposited at the NIBSC Centre for AIDS Reagents Repository where they will be held securely under the ISO9001 quality system and provided to researchers under Material Transfer Agreements.

One important measure of success of the project has been the provision of materials and services to researchers through the EURIPRED TransNational Access process (Work Package 6).

The TNA service was provided by 3 partners. JPT Peptide Technologies provided training courses, offering 5 units of access, which met the requirements of the project (Figure1). The University of Lausanne (UNIL) provided Vaccine Formulation services consisting of 48 units, which exceeded the required 36 units described in the project Description of Work. MHRA-NIBSC provided 557 units (reagents) to researchers through TNA, l exceeding the 400 units required, as described in the Description of Work.

During the 4 year EURIPRED project, 58 applications were submitted by researchers requesting materials and services. 3 applicants were unfortunately not eligible to receive the service requested due to not meeting the requirements for TNA.

Feedback was received from end users through completion of a feedback form, requesting feedback on all the TNA services to reduce the administration burden on end users accessing more than one service.

The nature of the EURIPRED service differed from one service provider to another. Scientists that attended JPT training courses directly benefited from the service and therefore could easily provide feedback on its impact on their research. Similarly, because all the vaccine formulations provided by UNIL were performed in the time frame of EURIPRED, collection of feedback was straightforward. In contrast, end users who received research reagents have not all responded with their feedback due to delays in using the samples and research work that takes longer to complete.

EURIPRED project management will continue to collect feedback in the coming months and also request copies of publications resulting from use of EURIPRED materials in 6 month intervals. All publications resulting from the use of EURIPRED samples will acknowledge the EURIPRED project 312661 and the EC FP7 Framework Program, as a requirement stipulated in the Materials Transfer Agreement that the end users have signed.

To date we have received 43 feedback forms, which represents a 78% response rate. Information from these forms has been compiled in a Microsoft Access database which is provided to EC by the project management (WP8).

In summary the feedback shows that end users were very satisfied with the services provided by the EURIPRED project, and some applications resulted in repeat submissions, demonstrating the value of

the materials provided (e.g. for the NIBSC reagent service Dr Mariano Esteban Rodriguez submitted 4 applications, Dr Paolo Palma submitted 3 applications and Dr Erwann Loret submitted 2 applications. For the UNIL vaccine formulation service, Dr Toon Stegmann from Mymetics submitted 2 applications for vaccine formulations.)

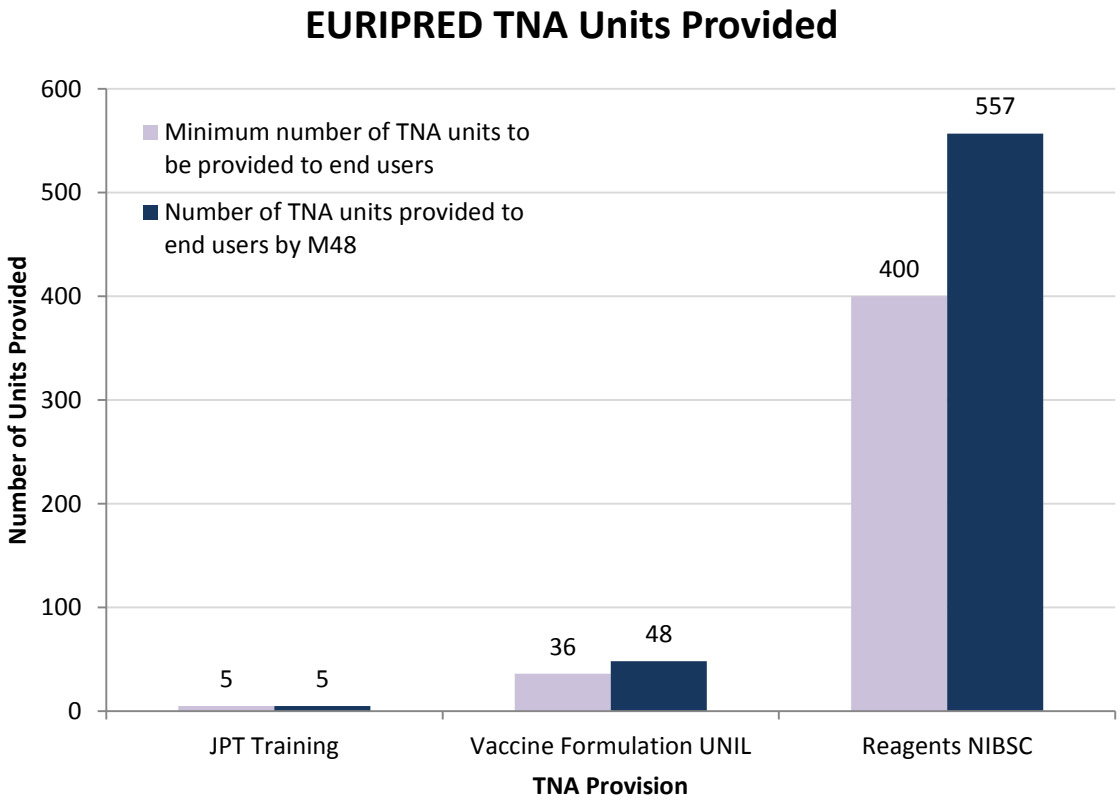

Figure 1: Repartition of the TNA units for each service provider

One of the goals of EURIPRED was to support studies on HIV, TB, Malaria and viral hepatitis (Figure 2). Even though most of the projects were focusing on HIV, EURIPRED supported several projects on TB, Malaria and Viral Hepatitis. In addition, 2 projects were on emerging pathogens including one study on Ebola. After discussion with the USP, these 2 projects were validated.

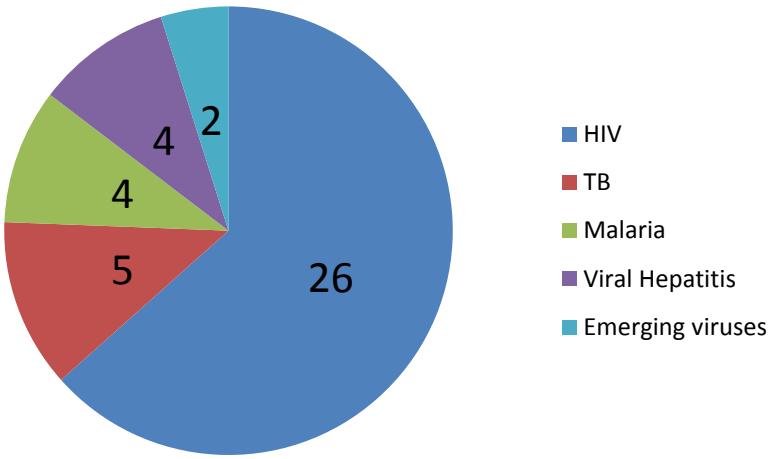

Figure 2: Pathogens studied by the 41 projects supported by EURIPRED

The Figure 3 represents the topics studied by the 41 projects supported by the three services of EURIPRED. Because the training course and vaccine formulation services supported projects on vaccine development, we have only presented in Figure 4 the 557 units allocated by MHRA-NIBSC for the provision of research reagents.

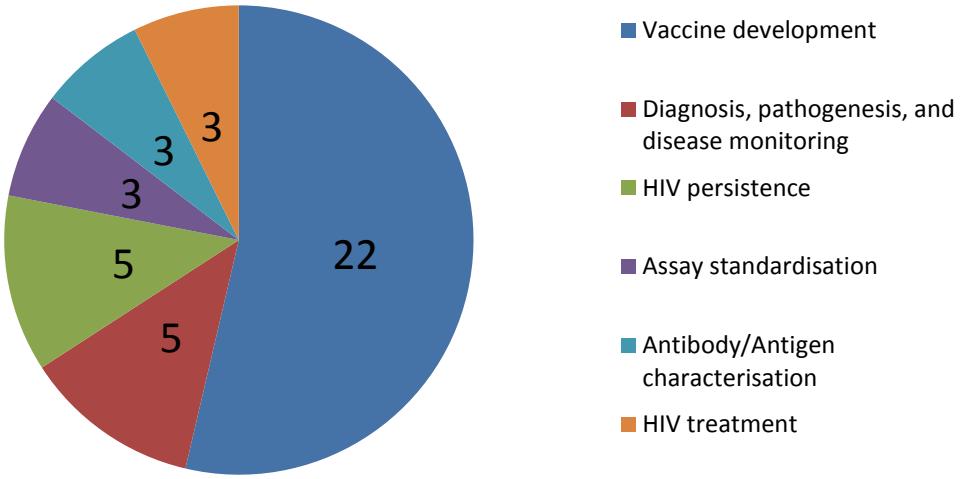

Figure 3. Topics studied by the 41 projects supported by the EURIPRED (number of projects)

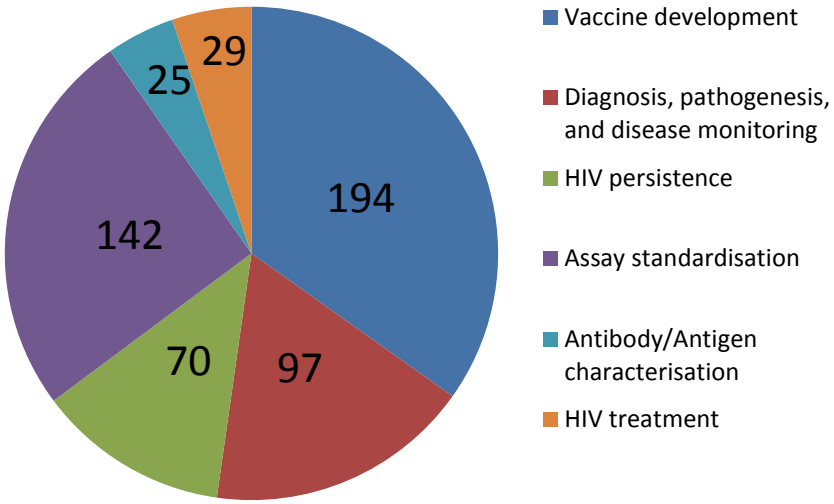

Figure 4. Topics studied by the projects supported by MHRA-NIBSC (TNA units)

EURIPRED supported projects in 10 European countries; Figure 5 summarizes the number of projects that have been conducted in each country.

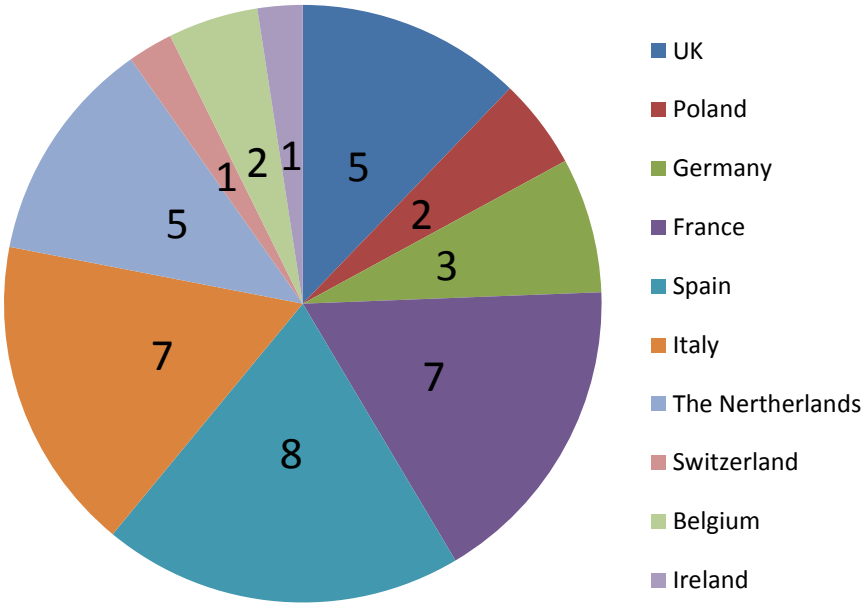

Figure 5. Repartition of the 41 projects supported by EURIPRED by country (number of project)