



## DESIRE

Development and Epilepsy - Strategies for Innovative Research to improve diagnosis, prevention and treatment in children with difficult to treat Epilepsy

Grant Agreement n.: 602531

## PRESS RELEASE

The Kick-off meeting, for the new FP 7 funded project ***DESIRE, Development and Epilepsy - Strategies for Innovative Research to improve diagnosis, prevention and treatment in children with difficult to treat Epilepsy*** (Grant Agreement n.: 602531) was held on 6 – 8 November 2013 at San Servolo Island, Venice, Italy. The meeting was attended by over 70 participants from the consortium. This is a five years project, involving 25 partners in 11 countries, with eight third parties, a total of 2166 person months, with more than 250 researchers involved and 19 clinical centres involved in the clinical trial. The participants were welcomed to San Servolo by the Dean of Venice International University, Professor Agar Brugiavini.

The co-ordinator, Prof Renzo Guerrini explained how DESIRE is a unique opportunity for all partners, since it is a translational collaborative project, having cutting edge innovative objectives, using cutting edge technologies with involvement of SMEs. DESIRE builds on the experience of a previously funded project EPICURE and will also network with other relevant EU wide projects such as the ESF funded Euroepinomics. It will also serve as a platform for future projects in area of epilepsy and also promote the involvement of many young researchers.

Over 0.5-1% of the general population have epilepsy and more than 50% of these have childhood epilepsy. DESIRE will focus on epileptogenic developmental disorders (EDD) ie early onset epilepsies the origin of which is closely related to anatomo- functional developmental brain processes. The project has five key objectives in six research/demo work packages (coordinated by R. Guerrini, G. Avanzini, M. Mantegazza, R. Spreafico, I. Blümcke, A. Represa, F. Benfenati, J. Chelly, H. Cross and C. Barba):

WP1: Identifying genetic causes and pathophysiological mechanisms of epileptogenic brain malformations

WP2: Identifying genetic causes and pathophysiological mechanisms of epileptic encephalopathies

WP3: Validating High Frequency Oscillations (HFOs) as a biomarker of the seizure onset zone

WP4 Improving Diagnostic Tools and Protocols in Cortical Dysplasia

WP5 Improving epilepsy treatment in children with Focal Cortical Dysplasias (FCD) Type II as classified by the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE)

WP6 Innovative strategies for treatment and prevention of Epileptogenic Developmental Disorders (EDD) related epilepsy and of its consequences

During the three day event the partners met to discuss the task, milestones and deliverables to be carried out in each workpackage. The consortium members also nominated Ethical Advisory Board members, the Data Safety Monitoring Board experts. The participants were also addressed by Dr M Saura Moreno and Dr R. Dall'Acqua from the European Commission who gave an overview of the administrative aspects for DESIRE . The importance of a dissemination plan strategy and the ethical aspects of the proposal were also extensively discussed. Plans were also made to ensure widespread dissemination of the research being undertaken by the project partners at international meetings and conferences.