Dear MedViz Supporter

The current Newsletter is devoted to ongoing EU initiatives. From MedViz point of view, both the EuroBioImaging initiative and the Horizon 2020 are very interesting, in terms of offering opportunities for international scientific cooperation.

Euro-BioImaging

The Euro-BioImaging (EBI) initiative held its 5th stakeholder meeting in Heidelberg, Germany on 25-26 Nov. with participants from 23 nations, representing 71 national facilities interested to become either a single or a multisite node within single or multi modalities. Norway is represented with one single node initiative in microscopy from UiO and one multimodal multisite initiative including NTNU in Trondheim, UiO and UiB. Both MIC and Medviz take part in the latter initiative and got a “recommended” score ranking after evaluation of our application to become a node this year.

Dr. Karsten Specht (right) from the Psychology Faculty, UiB gave a presentation, entitled Importance of access to imaging research infrastructure in Europe during the meeting. Here in discussion with Dr. Oliver Speck, one of the scientific coordinators of the meeting. Karsten looks into speech perception. Because MR 7 T does not exist in Norway, they established a cooperation with a facility in Magdeburg, Germany. Karsten made the point that even small research groups in this way can carry out advanced research by EBI’s open access to facilities in Europe. Similarly, we can invite guests for collaboration within our potential future node.

The meeting represented the end of the preparatory phase, now ready to enter the phase where the Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) will arrange meetings with the group of node applicants and take responsibility for infrastructure implementation. The optimistic goal is to get EBI established and go into operation in January 2015. The initiative does not, however, guarantee any financing yet. 202 million Euro has already been invested by the applicants in basic structure. Each applicant should contact its national research council to argue for financial support. EBI is one of 13 biological and medical sciences projects included in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).
**Horizon 2020**

The Norwegian Research Council is currently arranging a “roadshow” in Norway to inform about the H2020 initiative from EU. We hereby refer from the meeting that took place on Nov.28 at the premises of the Juridical Faculty, UiB at Dragefjellet.

Till Christopher Lech from the National Research Council of Norway then gave an overview of the opportunities within H2020 (79 billion Euros in 2014-2020). Innovation is the key focus in H2020 and the aim is fostering all forms of innovation in all types of SMEs. The types of innovation can be both products, services, process innovation, social innovation and design. The same person can eventually represent both an SME and an institution. The first call will be released 11. December 2013. There will be two sets of calls, the one-stage and the two-stage calls. In the one-stage call you will only send one application to the deadline 15.April 2014, whereas in the two-stage call you will send a prequalifying application within 11.March 2014, eventually followed by a full application within 19.August 2014. There will be different calls for different topics in the years to come. The strategic work programme for 2014/2015 has defined 12 focus areas, from which personalized health and care are one of the most relevant areas for MedViz.

**Berit Nygaard** from the National Research Council of Norway gave a presentation of the Health, demographic change and wellbeing Work programme (2014-2015) where prevention of disease will be in focus. SMEs may participate in all projects (20% of the total budget). There are seven focus areas:

- Understanding health, ageing and disease
- Effective health promotion, disease prevention, preparedness and screening
- Improving diagnosis
- Innovative treatments and technologies
- Advancing active and healthy ageing
- Integrated, sustainable, citizen-centred care
- Improving health information, data exploitation and providing an evidence base for health policies and regulation

From these topic areas, MedViz has defined a preliminary list of prioritized focus areas within personalized health care (PHC), mostly for applications in 2015:

PHC 11 – 2015: Development of new diagnostic tools and technologies: in vivo medical imaging technologies
PHC 12 – 2014/2015: Clinical validation of biomarkers and/or diagnostic medical devices
PHC 14 – 2015: New therapies for rare diseases
PHC 16 – 2015: Tools and technologies for advanced therapies
PHC 30 – 2015: Digital representation of health data to improve disease diagnosis and treatment

See also: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm)

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