

## Synopsis of the **InnovaBalt** project ex-post evaluation report

The **InnovaBalt** project Work Package WP7 (<http://www.innovabalt.eu/?sub=9>) was dedicated to 1) evaluation of the project 2) recommendations and 3) assisting the coordinator's institute to take the right directions in the future to assure its sustainability in line with innovation strategies and market trends.

Evaluators were nominated by the European Commission and the evaluation was made by 3 experts: one leader, University Professor, senior scientist having experience in evaluation of European projects, one University researcher, expert in organic synthesis/medicinal chemistry and one economist, independent financial advisor and investment banker and expert in innovation and technology transfer.

The experts were assisted in their mission by the **InnovaBalt** coordinator (Professor Ivars Kalvins), the **InnovaBalt** manager (Professor Maija Dambrova) and the Director of LIOS (Osvalds Pugovics).

The evaluators performed 2 on site missions (in November and in December 2016) during which they could have access to all the infrastructures and could meet and discuss with all the personal involved in the project. The experts also had meetings with the Ministry of Education and Sciences (2 times), the Academy of Sciences, the Ministry of Economy, and with Dr. Dins Šmits, Chairman of the Convent of Councilors, Riga Stradiņš University. On the last day of the second mission, a meeting with all the LIOS staff occurred for the experts to present the results of this evaluation.

### **In general, the panel evaluated **InnovaBalt** project as excellent in terms of results and increase in research quality performed at LIOS.**

The Report proposed several **recommendations** and the most important are listed here:

- LIOS management should keep an equilibrium between contracts research and basic research,
- LIOS should increase the number of publications in quartile 1 (Q1) journals,
- LIOS should keep the **InnovaBalt** momentum which already allowed an increase in the number of Horizon 2020 funded projects in which LIOS is a partner,
- LIOS should succeed in becoming a full member of EU-Open Screen,
- LIOS should open internal calls for research projects, using part of the overheads obtained with the recent funded Horizon2020 projects, to stimulate research projects that make use of the new equipment acquired,
- LIOS should consider playing a role in the preclinical/clinical studies of the most promising candidate drugs. The participation of LIOS in the RIS3 ecosystem will be essential to accomplish this objective,
- LIOS should organize twice a regular conference with commercial players such as venture capital on the institute's progress on drug discovery and further spread through a newsletter to international and Latvian investment funds, venture capitalists and pharma companies,
- In order to provide Latvia with phase-1 clinical trial center, LIOS should form a partnership with the country's hospitals, interest venture capitalists and perform lobbying with them to boost the project forward,
- LIOS should be the leader in promoting new scheme for scientists ready to start their own spin-off companies linked to their research activities,
- LIOS should keep the **InnovaBalt** exchange policy and reinforce nascent collaborations.