




ERC AdG


EPidemiological Left ventricular Outcomes Research in Europe
EPLORE

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ERC AdG Guiding principles of the ERC AdG

- Scientific excellence is the sole selection criterion;
- Projects in all fields of research are eligible for funding;
- Individual research teams led by a single PI are supported;
- Grants are awarded to the host institution that engages the PI;
- The host institution guarantees the PI's independence and provides the research environment to carry out the project and manage its funding.

EPLORE The heart



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Heart failure affects 15 million Europeans and leads to higher mortality and health care costs than cancer. In Flemish and other European populations, symptomless dysfunction of the left heart chamber affects 25% of all people and might be a forerunner of heart failure. EPLORE is an *EPIDEMIOLOGICAL* project addressing the natural history of the early phases on heart failure and ways to stop progression.

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EPLORE builds on resources collected in the framework of the Flemish study on Environment, Genes and Health Outcomes and the European Project on Genes in Hypertension.

EPOGH European Project on Genes in Hypertension

1996-2006

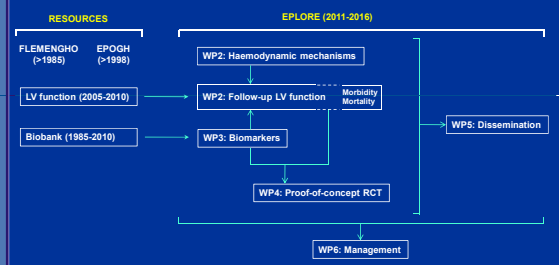
Region	Number of subjects
East	1820
West	3500
Overall	5320

New recruiting centres

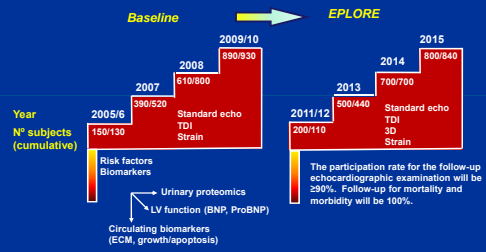
Centre	Percentage
Belgium	58.1%
Italy	8.1%
Russia	7.3%
Czechia	8.4%
Poland	7.5%
Bulgaria	3.8%
Romania	6.8%
Flemingho	-
Lausanne	-
Geneva	-
Bern	-
Gdansk	-
Münster	-

Kuznetsova et al., Blood Press Monit 2002; 7: 215-24

EPLORE Overview of the project



EPLORE Planning the future



EPLORE High-risk high-gain



- Small fresh urine sample;
- Urinary proteomics;
- Biomarkers to be validated in terms of progression and outcome;
- To be tested in proof-of-concept clinical trial.

EPLORE How to do it?

- Experientia optima rerum magistra – publish or perish;
- Build a team and an international network;
- Nil volentibus arduum – keep trying;
- Seek help from administrators, research officers and peers;
- Let the cobbler stick to his last (schoenmaker blijf bij uw leest – à chacun son métier, les vaches seront bien gardées);
- Chose the right evaluation panel.

ERC AdG Eligible principle investigators (PI)

Pis applying for an ERC AdG should be **established research leaders** who have made original and significant contributions to research.The PI can be of **any age** and nationality and she/he can reside in any country in the world at the time of the application.



EPLORE Studies Coordinating Centre in Leuven



EPLORE An epidemiologist's/biobanker's nightmare



EPLORE Field centre in Eksel



EPLORE A day in October

28 October 2011, 6:35 AM



"...I am very pleased to inform you that the Panel has recommended your proposal for funding. I offer you my warmest congratulations for this success..."

Professor Helga Nowotny
President of the European Research Council

EPLORE ERC AdG making a difference!

- **PI and team**
 - Recognition of the PI and his team;
 - PI can continue working beyond 65;
 - Epidemiology is science!
 - Making a difference in research is fun.

- **People**
 - EPLORE will potentially result into specific measures for prevention and treatment of early dysfunction of the heart;
 - The project will inform guidelines for prevention and management of patient;
 - It will benefit 25% of Europeans who currently have symptomless heart dysfunction and are at high risk of heart failure.

Syst-Eur Prof. Antoon Amery (1933-1994)

Systolic Hypertension in Europe Trial
1988-2002



- Explain your research hypothesis!
1 minute!
- How will you come up for this?
Where will YOU find the money?
- Unpublished work does not exist!
Publish or perish!