



Project ReProForce

36TH MONTH REPORT





FP7-REGPOT-2009-1: ReProForce - REINFORCEMENT OF THE RESEARCH CAPACITY OF THE BULGARIAN INSTITUTE "BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION" - BAS

Coordinator and unique beneficiary– Institute of "Biology and Immunology of Reproduction"

Highly competitive project – among more than 1000 projects submitted under REGPOT –only 16 funded

Funding from 7th Framework Program – 3 000 000 LV

Project start – 12.2009, Project duration – 42 months

Description – The ReProForce project provides an opportunity for IBIR-BAS to increase its human and technical resources potential and to tighten its cooperation at both National and Europe-wide scale

Main Goal –Improve the research potential of IBIR and reestablish IBIR leadership position in South-East Europe in the scientific field of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction in animals and human



Laboratory of Biomedical Embryology – Center for Stem Cell Research, University of Milan, **Italy** - *Prof. F. Gandolfi*



Department of Obstetrics at the Friedrich-Schiller-University, Jena, **Germany** - *Prof. U. Markert*



Private Hospital for Gynecology, Magdeburg, **Germany** - *Prof. H. Donat*



Department of Biological Sciences, University of Essex, **UK** - *Prof. N. Fernandez*



Human and Animal Physiology Group, Department of Animal Sciences, Wageningen University, Wageningen, **Netherlands** - *Prof. K. Teerds*



Clinical Department of Reproduction and Animal Breeding, Biotechnology in Reproduction, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, **Austria** - *Dr.U. Besenfelder*



University Clinic for Reproductive Medicine and Gynecologic Endocrinology, Magdeburg, **Germany** – *Prof. J. Kleinstejn*

7 Partner institutions



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **Reinforcement of the Research Capability of IBIR - BAS**

- **Upgrading the Technological Capacity of IBIR-BAS**

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ✓ **Two - way (exchange) mobility** - exchange and training in support partner institutions of 2 PhDs, 8 junior- and 10 senior researchers from different IBIR-BAS departments. Visits of 10 experienced support partners researchers to IBIR-BAS
 - ✓ **Recruitment of Bulgarian scientists working abroad**
 - ✓ **Organization of Joint Scientific Events with National and International Partners**
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- ✓ **Further upgrading and organizing of 4 dedicated high-tech laboratories**
 - ✓ **Staff training on work with the new lab equipment**
 - ✓ **Establishing of International library networks**



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **Promoting the National and International recognition of IBIR-BAS within Bulgaria and South-East Europe, and its integration in the European Research Area**

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Establishing of Scientific Network among the Partners
- ✓ Organizing of International Conferences and Symposia
- ✓ Participation in European conferences and visits to potential new partners
- ✓ Presenting the new lab equipment to the scientific and business communities
- ✓ Organizing Round Table with patients
- ✓ Organizing of workshops with farmers
- ✓ Local Events (Open Door Days of IBIR-BAS, workshops and meetings, visits)
- ✓ Updating the Information web portal of IBIR-BAS; Presentation of the Project Results



WORK PACKAGES

MAIN ACTIVITIES

WP1: Strengthening the Research capability of IBIR-BAS

- Exchange of "know-how" by mobility visits
- Extensive methodological trainings of scientists from IBIR-BAS
- Recruitment of new researchers

Leaders: D. Kacheva, St. Kyurkchiev

WP2: Improving the technological capacity of IBIR-BAS for research, technical development and innovation

- Renovation and modernization of IBIR lab equipment
- Extended membership at on-line scientific databases

Leaders: M. Stamenova, R. Konakchieva

WP4: Promotion of Project results

- Development of Internet Portal of IBIR-BAS including information on research activities and training courses
- Activities for Project promotion and dissemination , as well as presentation of the scientific and applied achievements of IBIR
- Presentation of new high-tech laboratories of IBIR-BAS and initiation of new business contacts in the fields of medicine and agriculture
- Cooperative activities together with the Bulgarian Union of Scientists

Leaders: M. Ivanova, M. Kicheva



WP3: Network Building

- Development of IBIR-BAS strategic partnerships
- Dissemination of scientific results of IBIR research

13th International Symposium of Immunology of Reproduction

2nd Conference of Balkan Network for Animal Reproduction Biotechnology

Training Course "Biotechnology of Embryo transfer in farm animals"

Round Table on "Assisted reproduction techniques"

Workshop "Mitochondria and reproduction"

Establishing a *common vision* and collaboration plan with ReProForce partners

Participation in *European Scientific Events and Networks* : ESDAR, AETE, ESRADI

Establishing closer relationships with national laboratories

Organization of Joint Seminars

Stem cells research
Immunological problems in human reproduction
Application of biotechnologies in farm animal reproduction
Proteomics



WORK PACKAGES

MAIN ACTIVITIES

WP5: Management and Coordination of ReProForce

- Securing smooth implementation of the Project activities as to achieve the planned Project Goals and activities in accordance with budget
- Provision of effective estimation of the current activities for all project working packages
- Provision of suitable actions in case of expected or unexpected risks or obstructions
- Coordination of the Committee relationships

WP6: Expert Panel Review

- Establishment of a Council of independent international experts, that suggested by the European Commission
- Three international experts will join the Council to evaluate the performed activities during the ReProForce Project and to develop a sustainable R&I strategy for IBIR

Coordinator: M. Mollova
Scientific Expert: E. Kistanova



36th Month Report

WHAT HAVE BEEN DONE SO FAR ...



FP7-REGPOT-2009-1: ReProForce - REINFORCEMENT OF THE RESEARCH CAPACITY OF THE BULGARIAN INSTITUTE "BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION" - BAS

2010, Visit to	When	Who	Why	Outcome
				Outbound
Prof. F. Gandolfi Laboratory of Biomedical Embryology – Center for Stem Cell Research, University of Milan, Italy Prof. K. Teerds Human and Animal Physiology Group, Department of Animal Sciences, Wageningen University, Netherlands Prof. Uwe Lendeckel Institute of Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Greifswald, Germany Prof. Hans Donat Private Hospital for Gynaecology, Magdeburg, Germany "Prof. Hans Donat"	February 27th - March 7 th 2010	Prof. D. Kacheva, Assoc. Prof. Elena Kistanova	Exchange of know-how on the problem of "Mitochondrial activity during the oocytes maturation for in vitro fertilization"	7 researchers from IBIR: 4 Senior, 3 Junior
	May 3-17th 2010	Assist. Prof. Kiril Shumkov	Training and experiments in the field of „In vitro fertilization and maturation of porcine oocytes"	
	June 5th - July 7th, 2010	Desislava Abadjieva	Training and experiments in the field of "Mitochondrial function in gametes"	
	September 3rd – 24th, 2010	Assoc. Prof. Pavel Rashev	Real-time PCR	
	September 24th – Oct 2nd, 2.10.2010		Collaborative investigations on gene expression of individual components of local renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in mammary gland	
	September 22nd – 29th 2010	Assoc. Prof. Margarita Mollova, Prof. Stanimir Kyurkchiev	Reproductive and tumor immunology in Private Hospital for Gynecology "Prof. Hans Donat"	
September 22nd – 29th 2010	Methods for assisted reproduction applied in Clinic for Reproductive Medicine, Otto von Guericke University			
				Inbound
Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction – BAS, Institute of Mountain animal breeding, Troyan, Bulgaria	September 23 – 29th, 2010	Prof. Urban Besenfelder Clinical Department of Reproduction and Animal Breeding, Biotechnology in Reproduction, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria	Exchange of know-how on the problem of "Embryo transfer in farm animals"	2 Senior Partner Researchers
	September 23 - 30th, 2010	Prof. Katja Teerds Human and Animal Physiology Group, Department of Animal Sciences, Wageningen University, Netherlands	Exchange of know-how on the problem of "Embryo transfer in farm animals"	
Total				9 mobilities



FP7-REGPOT-2009-1: ReProForce - REINFORCEMENT OF THE RESEARCH CAPACITY OF THE BULGARIAN INSTITUTE "BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION" - BAS

2011, Visit to	When	Who	Why	Outcome
				Outbound
Prof. Udo Markert Placenta Lab, University "Fridrich Schiller", Jena, Germany	June 14 th –July 7 th , 2011	Assist. Prof. Georgi Georgiev	Studies on the in vitro effect of glucocorticoids and melatonin on the expression profile of granulosa cells and COV434 cell line.	5 researchers from IBIR: 3 Senior, 2 Junior
Prof. U. Kleinstei Clinic for Reproductive Medicine, Medical Faculty, Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany	September 1 st –16 th , 2011	Assist. Prof. Rumen Dimitrov	Exchange of experience in the field of reproductive biology and problems of carcinogenesis in breast cancer	
Prof. Hans Donat Private Hospital for Gynaecology, Magdeburg, Germany "Prof. Hans Donat"				
Prof. Uwe Lendeckel Institute of Medical Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Greifswald, Germany	November 16 th –23 rd , 2011	Assoc. Prof. Pavel Rashev	Discussions on the results of joint experiment carried out during the last mobility visit, 2010 and on the future experiments planned on problems of diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.	
Prof. N. Fernandez Department of Biological Sciences, Imaging Unit and Proteomics Unit, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, UK	October 1 st –8 th , 2011	Assoc. Prof. Margarita Mollova Prof. Stanimir Kyurkchiev	Giving lectures at a seminar in Department of Biological Sciences, visit to laboratories at the Department of biological Sciences, exchange of experience, acquaintance with new techniques, discussions about future joint investigations	
				Inbound
Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction - BAS	November 4 th –9 th , 2011	Prof. N. Fernandez Department of Biological Sciences, Imaging Unit and Proteomics Unit, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, UK	Exchange of know-how and discussions on collaborative work in the field of Immunology of Reproduction. Participation in Seminar "Immunological problems in human reproduction"	2 Senior Partner Researchers
	November 3 rd –6 th , 2011	Prof. Hans Donat Private Hospital for Gynaecology, Magdeburg, Germany "Prof. Hans Donat"	Discussions on collaborative work with assoc. prof. Pavel Rashev and assist. prof. Rumen Dimitov on the problem of cancer in mammary gland Participation in Seminar "Immunological problems in human reproduction"	
Total				7 mobilities



FP7-REGPOT-2009-1: ReProForce - REINFORCEMENT OF THE RESEARCH CAPACITY OF THE BULGARIAN INSTITUTE "BIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF REPRODUCTION" - BAS

2012, Visit to	When	Who	Why	Outcome
				Outbound
Prof. Udo Markert Placenta Lab, University "Fridrich Schiller", Jena, Germany The Placenta Lab is a member of the European Network EMBIC ("The control of Embryo Implantation")	January 16 th – February 15 th , 2012	Assist. Prof. Milena Murdjeva	Studies on the expression of Progesterone Induced Blocking Factor expression in Decidual Mesenchymal Stem Cells (DSC)".	8 researchers from IBIR: 4 Senior, 4 Junior
	October 20 th – 28 th , 2012	Prof. Rossitza Konakchieva	Discussion of scientific topics and research plans of common interest, exchange of information on bilateral and international funding schemes, meetings with PhD students and young researchers.	
Prof. N. Fernandez Department of Biological Sciences, Imaging Unit and Proteomics Unit, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, UK	March 5 th – April 3 rd , 2012	Assist. Prof. Soren Hayrabydyan	High-resolution confocal microscopy and nano proteomics studies of Sertoli cells in activated innate immunity NOD1 signalling context.	
	March 5 th – April 3 rd , 2012	Assist. Prof. Aleksandar Kukov	Training into methods for investigation of molecular changes in the reproductive organs in female animals after insemination.	
Prof. Katja Teerds Human and Animal Physiology Group, Department of Animal Sciences, Wageningen University, Netherlands	May 7 th -15 th , 2012	Prof. Dimitrina Kacheva	Exchange of experience, introduction to the work of scientific group of Human and Animal physiology, visit of labs and acquaintance with modern lab equipment, methods and techniques for mitochondria investigation and discussion over the development of future common scientific projects.	
		Assoc. Prof. Elena Kistanova		
Prof. U. Kleinstei Clinic for Reproductive Medicine, Medical Faculty, Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany	June 1 th – 30 th , 2012	Elena Stoyanova	Training of Histology and Microarray Analysis.	
	September 16 th – 30 th , 2012	Assist. Prof. Julieta Dineva	Introduction to the methods and assisted reproductive techniques applied in the University Clinic for Reproductive Medicine and Gynecological Endocrinology.	



WP1: STRENGTHENING OF THE RESEARCH CAPABILITY OF IBIR

2-way mobility visits with partner research organizations during 2010 - 2012

National
ReProForce
Participants
(16), visits
(20)

- D. Kacheva
- E. Kistanova
- K. Shumkov
- D. Dascallova
- D. Abadjieva
- P. Rashev
- M. Mollova
- S. Kyurkchiev
- R. Dimitrov
- G. Georgiev
- M. Murdjeva
- R. Konakchieva
- S. Hayrabedyan
- A. Kukov
- E. Stoyanova
- J. Dineva

International
ReProForce
Partners (6),
visits (6)

- K. Teerds
- U. Markert
- N. Fernandez
- H. Donat
- J. Kleinstein
- U. Besenfelder

Outcome:

All planned visits have been implemented successfully and the local ReProForce participants had acquired new competences as well as research knowledge valuable for the advancement of their particular research at IBIR. Our International Partners gained better impression and acquaintance on the level of local research, that would be very beneficial for future collaboration and better know-how transfer. Following each visit, a detailed report has been drafted by each trainee, subject to a mobility visit and had been handled to the activity and WP leader.



WP1: STRENGTHENING OF THE RESEARCH CAPABILITY OF IBIR

Organization of scientific and methodological seminars (10)

- ❑ Application of flow cytometry for analysis of cells, 2010
- ❑ Application of proteomic analysis methods, 2010
- ❑ Sample preparation and image analysis for Leica confocal microscope, 2010
- ❑ Application of the spectrophotometric analysis methods, 2011
- ❑ 4 Extensive Methodological Seminars represented the new generation of methods, 2011
 - Illumina: "Presentation of a new generation personal sequencing and microarray analysis with application in a wide range of research and diagnostic practice".
 - Agilent: "Contemporary Agilent technologies applied in the field of microarray analysis".
 - Hitachi: "A new model of TEM produced by Hitachi"
 - BioRad: "Proteomics workflow - discovery of protein world"
- ❑ Micromanipulation system and confocal microscope as powerful tools for the oocyte and embryo investigation, 2012
- ❑ A theoretical and practical course on "Flow Cytometry", 2012

Outcome:

All planned trainings have been implemented successfully. Both local ReProForce participants and other IBIR scientific staff had benefited from the theoretical and hands-on trainings as well as presentations given.

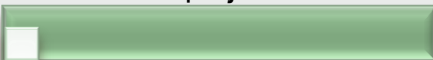
The knowledge transfer (training and discussions) was of importance for the optimal and efficient utilization of the newly obtained research equipment and getting updated on new generation of methods.



WP1: STRENGTHENING OF THE RESEARCH CAPABILITY OF IBIR

Recruitment of new researchers

Personnel provided by the ReProForce project



Dimiter Avtanski

Soren Hayrabyan

Georgi Nikolov

Volodya Georgiev

Plamen Starev

Position



Assist.Prof. (2 months)

Assist.Prof.

Technician

Researcher-Technician

Assist. Manager

Outcome:

The establishment of better research environment within the Institute made it appealing for former Institute PhD graduates with international research experience to rejoin their colleagues and transfer back knowledge on new methodologies and technologies. Two researchers that had defended their PhD theses at IBIR with experience from US Research Institutions had returned and are willing to help boosting the research potential of the Institute. This return was facilitated by the online publishing and dissemination of the new job opportunities provided by ReProForce Project.

Two technicians are assigned to the staff of IBIR renovated and newly established laboratories, and they are responsible for maintenance, training and supporting young researchers at IBIR in their daily use of the newly purchased equipment.

Part-time employee is an assistant manager who contributes significantly to the proper execution of ReProForce tasks.



WP2: STRENGTHENING OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF IBIR™

Package Leaders: Maria Stamenova, Rossitza Konakchieva

1. Purchase of equipment

2. Up-Grade and organisation of 4 IBIR labs

3. Subscription to scientific reviews



WP2: STRENGTHENING OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF IBIR™

Package Leaders: Maria Stamenova, Rossitza Konakchieva

1. Purchase of equipment

- Consideration of tender proposals and preparation of the technical specifications of modern high quality equipment necessary to upgrade four existing laboratories;
- Organization of selection procedure for Law Company needed to cover the legal aspects of the upcoming public tender in accordance with the Law on Public Procurement.
- Preparation of all tender documents with the support of the Law Company and implementation of tender procedure associated with the purchase of systems and equipment, being divided into 13 positions for the following 4 laboratories: Laboratory for proteomic analysis, Laboratory for cell culture, physical and chemical analysis, Laboratory for in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer, and Laboratory for confocal and light microscopy.
- Delivery of the equipment provided for the modernization of the four existing laboratories which was put into operation during the first six months of the project and the respective theoretical and practical training was carried out in conjunction to the contract agreements made with the contractor companies.

2. Up-Grade and organization of 4 IBIR labs

3. Subscription to scientific reviews



WP2: STRENGTHENING OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF IBIR™

Package Leaders: Maria Stamenova, Rossitza Konakchieva

1. Purchase of equipment

2. Up-Grade and organization of 4 IBIR labs



Laboratory for proteome analysis



Laboratory for cell culture, physical and chemical analyses



Laboratory for in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer



Laboratory for confocal and light microscopy

3. Subscription to scientific reviews



Upgraded Labs:



Laboratory for proteome analysis



Lab equipment purchased:

- **Proteomic analysis system** obtained under the project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Vertical polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis system** and **2D gels Scanner** acquired by Differential in Gel Electrophoresis (**DIGE**), enabling the simultaneous detection of more than two fluorescent dyes and software for image processing and data extraction based on the DIGE gels scanned images – obtained ReProForce project





Upgraded Labs:



Laboratory for cell culture, physical and chemical analyses



Lab equipment purchased:

- **Flow cytometer**, obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Automated semen analyzer** obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) thermal cycler**, obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- High-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Inverted Microscope**, obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Carbon dioxide incubator**, obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Cell culture hood**, obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"



Upgraded Labs:



Laboratory for in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer



Lab equipment purchased:

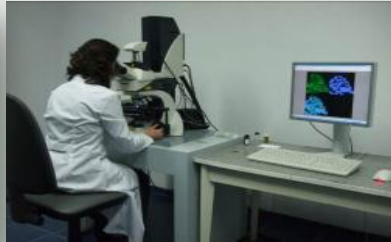
- **Cell culture hoods with integrated stereomicroscope**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project
- **Carbon dioxide incubators**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project
- **Fluorescent inverted microscope**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project
- **Micromanipulation system**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project
- **Centrifuges**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project
- **Cell technologies workstation**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project
- **Microtome cryostat**, obtained under the **ReProForce** project



Upgraded Labs:



Laboratory for confocal and light microscopy



Lab equipment purchased:

- **Confocal microscope**, obtained with MEYS donation
- **Microscopy Digital Imaging System**, obtained under project "Scientific infrastructure development"
- **Reflected Light Fluorescence Microscope**, upgraded under the **ReProForce** project

Other lab equipment obtained using funding from ReProForce project:

- **Freezers**: -80⁰ C, and -120⁰ C
- **Thermostats**
- **Ultrasound homogenizer**
- **Spectrophotometric system** equipped with filters for fluorescence, luminescence and bright light emission detection as well as absorption detection



WP2: STRENGTHENING OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF IBIR

Package Leaders: Maria Stamenova, Rossitza Konakchieva

1. Purchase of equipment

2. Up-Grade and organization of 4 IBIR labs

3. Subscription to scientific reviews

- **Biology of Reproduction (print+online)**
- **Stem Cells (print+online)**
- **HINARI (online)**
- **Theriogenology (print+online)**
- **Reproduction (print+online)**
- **Molecular Human Reproduction (print+online)**
- **Human Reproduction Update (print+online)**
- **Cell Stem Cell (print+online)**
- **Reproductive Biomedicine Online (print+online)**



WP2: STRENGTHENING OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF IBIR

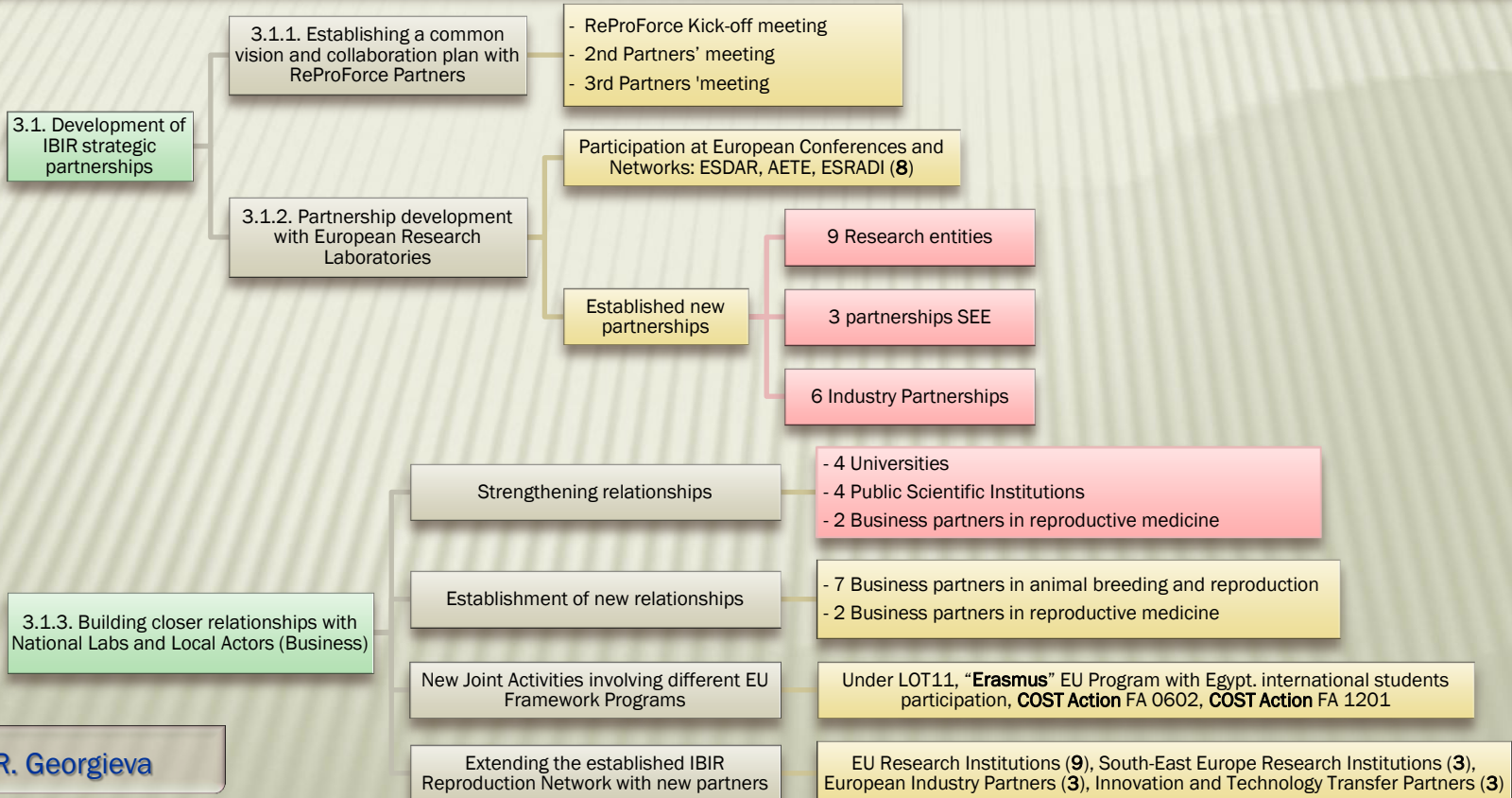
Package Leaders: Maria Stamenova, Rossitza Konakchieva

Main Outcome

- All the equipment is actively used to its full capacity under conditions of concerted action between the partner centers and the research training activities established in the frame of ReProForce. The implementation of the full-range equipment in the research practice has created the necessary conditions for:
 - Elaboration of a creative background for a high-level education and training of young researchers, Ph.D. research fellows and undergraduate students;
 - Performance of research experimentation at a level comparable to that of other European centers;
 - Achieving competitiveness in research results dissemination



WP3: "SUSTAINABLE NETWORK BUILDING"



Leader: R. Georgieva



WP3: "SUSTAINABLE NETWORK BUILDING"





WP3: "SUSTAINABLE NETWORK BUILDING"

Package Leaders: Rayna Georgieva

Main Outcome

The established local Reproduction Network under ReProForce targeting the elevation of the scientific and technological level of research and education in the field of reproductive biology and immunology, had a very successful activities. These activities could be summarized as follows:

- Attraction and involvement of students in development of Bachelor and Master Theses at the Institute Departments - 12
 - Attraction and involvement of researchers from another Research Institutions and Universities for conducting PhD thesis programs: -10
 - Attraction and involvement of researchers from another Research Institutions and Universities for collaborative experimental work - 30
 - Attraction and involvement of researchers from another Research Institutions and Universities for joint experimental research work under external Research Projects and Grants. – 2
-
- Collaborative publications with national partners - 40
 - Collaborative books with national partners - 3 in International editions, 1 in national edition;



WP4. Promotion and visibility of project results

List of WP4 materials for dissemination of ReProForce project

- Folders with the logo of the Project
- Folders with the logo of the Institute
- Notebooks with the logo of the Project
- Holders for visiting cards with the logo of the Project
- Pens with the logo of the Project
- Internet web site of IBIR-BAS (<http://ibir.bas.bg>) including its history, mission and priorities, structure, scientific staff, scientific problems, elaborated projects, publications, links to similar sites, links to the Ministry of Education and Science, links to the International Organizations was prepared for dissemination and publicity of the scientific results and achievements obtained among the scientists and broad public.
- Internet web site of ReProForce (<http://reproforce.ibir.bas.bg>) including information about the project and all comprised activities and events for its fulfillment before the scientific society was prepared and sustained permanently.
- Bilingual Leaflet for the activities of ReProForce project (first edition 2010) contains information about the project: details about the funding scheme, project objectives and contact details can be found on <http://reproforce.ibir.bas.bg>
- Multimedia film for promotion of the scientific and applied science achievements of the Institute.
- Multimedia presentation for promotion of the ReProForce project achievements.
- Bilingual Framed logo of the project
- Poster for the mission and priorities of the IBIR, BAS with the logo of the project
- Two posters in English and Bulgarian the Project representing on permanent exhibition at the Great Hall of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the Bulgarian Parliament House



WP4. Promotion and visibility of project results

Extra Joint activities with the Bulgarian Union of Scientist, Bulgarian Universities, Medical and Agriculture Entities

- ESHRE Special Interest Group Reproductive Endocrinology
- Bulgarian Society on Medical Biology
- Medical University, Pleven; Bulgarian Society of Clinical Immunology; Bulgarian Union of Scientist and Centre for Reproductive Health-Pleven.
- Bulgarian Union of Scientist
- University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy
- Bulgarian Association of Sterility and reproductive Health (BASRH) in partnership with Bulgarian Association for Reproductive Human Embriology (BARHE) and the Bulgarian Association for Gynaecological Endoscopy (BAGE).
- Balkan Association of Animal Reproduction

Promotion Items for each Event

- Announcement on Bulgarian Academy of Sciences Weekly Bulletin and corresponding web site
- Announcement on the ReProForce web site
- Announcement posters
- Announcement on A4 format - laminated
- Invitation leaflet
- Program
- Abstract book
- Poster with photos from the event
- Certificate for participation in the course with the logo of the project (optional, where applicable)



WP5: "MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES"

Project Coordinator: Margarita Mollova

Scientific expert: Elena Kistanova

Overall responsibility for the timely and up to the budget implementation and management of all project activities, the coordination of exchanges and mobility visits, and the training activities of IBIR's young researchers

The management package covers also the financial follow-up of the project, strictly respecting the requirements of both Bulgarian regulation and the European Commission 'ones.



WP6: "EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF IBIR"

Project Coordinator: Margarita Mollova
Scientific expert: Elena Kistanova

The activities will start after 2012...

The evaluation panel will start after all ReProForce activities have been completed, and will take place from M 36 to M 42:





Visible results of project ReProForce FP7-REGPOT-2009-1 that has strongly supported the research capacity building at IBIR:

- ✓ **Enhancement of the research capacity** of IBIR-BAS
 - Increased publication activity of IBIR staff:
 - New publications (110) in National and European scientific journals during 2010-2012, of which 51 are in journals having an impact factor (IF).
 - 49 publications in international journals
 - 50 in national journals
 - 11 scientific books - 7 in Bulgarian and 4 in International editions
 - Joint activities with international partners resulted in 18 collaborative publications:
 - 11 in peer reviewer international journals:
 - ❖ 4 are with ReProForce partners as result of common scientific work during mobility visits;
 - 3 publications in national journals
 - 4 scientific books published in international editions
 - Joint activities with national partners resulted in
 - 27 publications in International journals
 - 45 publications in Bulgarian journals
 - 5 scientific books in Bulgaria.



Visible results of project ReProForce FP7-REGPOT-2009-1 that has strongly supported the research capacity building at IBIR:

✓ **Enhancement of the qualification of staff:**

- 3 qualified researches have been hired at IBIR-BAS;
- 4 PhD candidates have defended research theses
- 4 Associate Professor Degrees and 2 Professor Degrees were conferred;
- 5 researchers are in procedures for conferring Associate Professor Degrees;
- 1 member of ReProForce project got a research fellowship from DAAD, Germany for 3 months training in Jena;



Visible results of project ReProForce FP7-REGPOT-2009-1 that has strongly supported the research capacity building at IBIR:

To support the sustainability of ReProForce 2 newly conceived research projects were developed and submitted with the collaborative partnership of the current Support partners as well as the commitment of new European Union research partners:

1. Nutrient Sensitive Biomarkers for Optimization of Reproductive Technologies in Native and Commercial Pig Breeds: a Comparative Physiological Approach, REPROPIG, FP7-KBEE-2012-6 (Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Lithuania), **Coordinator K. Teerds.**
2. Sustainability of the research and innovative capacity building of the Bulgarian Institute "Biology and Immunology of Reproduction", ReProForce.plus, FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1, **Coordinator E. Kistanova**



General Conclusions

The main tasks for the 36 month reporting period are completed. Due to the regular and strict control on the run of the project to deliver outputs on time, at sufficient quality and at budget, all work packages the ReProForce project implementation have achieved its objectives and goals. As a whole, the work plan implementation is being developed in a timely manner and is achieving the expected project outputs.

The main goal to set the favorable conditions for the reinforcement of IBIR research potential in order to restore its leading positions in the field of biology and immunology of reproduction in animals and human in SEE is underlined by the following ::

- International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction is hosted in IBIR.
- Balkan Network for Biotechnology in Animal Reproduction is hosted in IBIR.
- IBIR is proposed to be a housekeeper of Annual meeting of ESDAR.