

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Towards a world-class Biocluster in Lille focusing on chronic diseases and being as close as possible to patients**

*On 16 February 2023, Eurasanté filed, alongside its founding partners (CHU Lille, Université de Lille, Clubster NSL, Centrale Lille, INSERM, Macopharma, Imabiotech, Mutuelle GSMC, Lesaffre, Roquette, Dedalus, Santéllys) a collegial application for the second wave of the "BIOCLUSTER" Call for Expression of Interest of the 2030 Health Innovation Plan. The aim? International recognition of the 3<sup>rd</sup> health centre of excellence in France located in Hauts-de-France, Lille. More than ever, the Lille ecosystem believes in the future success of its "Eurasanté 2030" project. It brings together all the strengths of the industry's fields, care, research and training gathered around a single place, enabling the stimulation of a Biocluster centred on the prevention and management of chronic diseases (CD). Having strengthened its candidacy since the wave 1 submission, the Lille project has brought together more than 120 project partners and raised more than EUR 150 million in private contributions, i.e. double the amount of private contributions published by the Paris Saclay Cancer Cluster project (the only winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> wave).*

#### **Eurasanté 2030 in a nutshell**

The 13 founders of the aforementioned "Eurasanté 2030" (ES 2030) project are bringing together 14 preferred partners to contribute to the successful completion of the project: Hauts-de-France Region, European Metropolis of Lille, City of Lille, University de Technologie de Compiègne, CNRS, Institut Pasteur de Lille, Center Oscar Lambret, IRCL, INRIA, Finorpa, Novo Nordisk, Cousin Surgery, Ingredia and Diagast. Hence a circle of strengthened founders-partners comprising 27 structures that are now supporting this bid in wave 2 (compared to 19 in wave 1). Amongst them, they have more than 90 supporters, including companies Genfit, Bayer, Comarch, Horiba, Medtronic, Nestlé health science, Véolia, ARS Hauts-de-France, GCS G4, and outside France, the University of Kent and Ghent University Hospital. Particularity of the Lille bid: a team of industrial players made up of all profiles from all parts of the health and nutrition industries and of all sizes. It brings together start-ups, VSEs-SMEs, but also large international groups.

The ES2030 project aims to **transform the trajectory of care and the quality of life of patients with chronic diseases**. Beyond the medical challenges, it is also a question of responding to socio-economic challenges by providing excellence in medical research and access to excellent solutions and equipment, promoting the creation of new concepts and their technological, clinical and regulatory maturation, until they are placed on the market by allowing patients in the region to be the first ones to benefit from these innovations.

The success of the project will make it possible to turn the corner when it comes to the current care system, in order to move in the direction of integrated care for chronic pathologies, in particular by providing solutions to patients who sign up for personalised medicine plans. The innovations of the Biocluster ES2030 will focus on innovative therapies, the optimisation of the care pathway, the observance of treatments, home monitoring, primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, in particular through food and nutrition...The activities of the Biocluster will take place specifically with a view to create **closer ties between the engineering sciences and technologies and the medicine and life sciences**.

ES2030 aims to encourage research carried out in the Hauts-de-France region and to double its current capacity to produce more than a hundred preclinical and clinical projects and numerous patents each year thanks to dedicated national and European funding. ES2030 will also help **increase the involvement of patients with CD in clinical studies (+30%), by means of access to optimised care pathways, and prevention programmes.** The aim is to contribute to the **creation of 8,000 jobs over 10 years in the regional health sector.**

To achieve these goals, the project is developing a range of services co-designed with industry players in order to provide cutting-edge support for innovation, from idea to market launch. These services are grouped by families of solutions to intensify and increase the number of clinical trials, in particular by mobilising patients, both in hospitals and in the community, and with respect to these trials, to accelerate research paths both at the preclinical and clinical level, to support the development of start-ups and SMEs in the field of CD or to attract foreign companies in this field.

Another important sign: **the project budget, totalling EUR 360 million over 10 years, includes a sharp increase in private contributions. In fact, the project has raised more than EUR 150 million in private contributions,** i.e. double the amount of private contributions published by the Paris Saclay Cancer Cluster project, the only winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> wave. The aid requested from the Government under this CEI amounts to EUR 85 million.

### **A unique place for the establishment of this Biocluster: the Eurasanté Park, a site of excellence**

Parc Eurasanté is located in Lille, at the heart of one of the largest university hospital campuses in Europe, with 350 hectares dedicated to cutting-edge activities in the nutrition-health sector, in direct proximity to Lille University Hospital and the University of Lille and its health and sport faculty. Ten hospitals are housed there (16,000 employees), as well as 200 companies (3,700 employees), 50 laboratories (1,800 researchers), 5 thematic faculties and 7 paramedical schools (22,000 students). The Eurasanté Park will be the epicentre of the Lille Biocluster. The Eurasanté Hub building, which will be ready in 2024, will become its main location. The Hub will embody the strengths of the regional nutrition-health sector thanks to an emblematic place, which will showcase the know-how of regional players on a national and international scale and will boost local attractiveness.

### **A Lille candidacy centred on the theme of chronic diseases**

Chronic diseases (CD) are a major and growing public health concern worldwide. In France, these diseases account for 20 million patients. One in three patients suffers from comorbidities, and care costs for these patients are almost 7 times higher than those for other patients... Due to the complexity of CDs, traditional management mainly focuses on dealing with acute attacks and administering medication, which is insufficient. The treatment and prevention of CDs requires holistic patient care, which requires innovation in digital health, nutrition, innovative diagnostic solutions, and medical devices.

For decades, regional clinical and research teams have been developing unique expertise and conducting research in the field of chronic diseases (obesity, NASH, Crohn's disease, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, cancers, etc.). Innovation players in our ecosystem have received financial support amounting to more than EUR 107 million through national and international innovation programmes.

Lille's current application for the AMI Biocluster has been drawn up on the basis of this theme. **Direct impact in terms of public health, economic development and the attractiveness of the territory for the region are in sight.**

Scientific support on the project will be provided by **Professor François Pattou** (Head of the general and endocrine surgery department at Lille University Hospital, and Director of the Translational Research Laboratory on Diabetes, joint research unit of the University of Lille, Inserm, Lille University Hospital and the Institut Pasteur de Lille, appointed scientific coordinator of the project) and **Professor David Devos** (Professor in Medical Pharmacology, University of Lille, Lille University Hospital, Inserm Director of the Cognitive, Degenerative and Vascular Disorders Team UMRS 1172).

Eurasanté 2030 will initially give priority to innovations in the field of metabolic disorders (obesity, diabetes, NASH) and related comorbidities, and will then extend to other types of chronic diseases, in particular neurodegenerative diseases, chronic inflammatory diseases and cases of chronic cancer. **In 10 years, it will thus have covered the main chronic diseases.**

**The Lille ecosystem, France's <sup>third</sup> health centre of excellence, deserves to be elected to the podium as one of 3 world-class French Bioclusters supported by the State, bearing in mind the strength** of its economic, scientific and medical ecosystems brought together for the first time in an innovative project that reflects the diversity of strengths within the regional nutrition-health sector. The response to acquiring this label and the requested EUR 85 million amount is expected in early summer 2023.

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