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CALL FOR PROPOSALS: HEALTH 2013 – Programme for community action in the field of public health (OJEU 2012/C 394/13).

ACTION 4.2.2.7: Pilot network of cooperation between highly specialised neurology, clinical neurophysiology and neurosurgery centres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The objective of the pilot network will be to promote cooperation and to test and exchange standards and best practices on highly specialised and complex neurological and neurosurgical conditions, such as refractory epilepsy, refractory neuropathic pain, hereditary ataxia and paraplegia, multiple sclerosis and complex cerebro-vascular conditions. The network purpose is also that of enhancing diagnosis accessibility and medical assistance for patients affected by diseases requiring a significant amount of resources and expertise in order to be treated, especially where the expertise is rare and case volume low. Moreover, it can work as a strategic hub for training and research in the medical field, the sharing of information and the evaluation of rare diseases. Work on the network should cover concrete goals of and proposals for the concentration of low-frequency or high-complexity diagnostic and therapeutic procedures in services that have an adequate caseload and audited results. It also covers an evaluation of outcomes.

APPLICANT: The **Istituto Neurologico Mediterraneo Neuromed (Neuromed)** is a Centre for Neuroscience with high specialization in Neurology, Neurovascular Disease, Neurosurgery, Neuro-rehabilitation and Neuroradiology. It is an integrated infrastructure based in Molise which combines highly qualified research, health care and training on neuroscience, providing innovative services and facilities at national and international level. Since 1983, it has been recognized by the Italian Ministry of Health as an Italian Scientific Institute for Research Hospitalization and Health Care (IRCCS). It is also an Education Centre of University “La Sapienza” – Rome for First Degree in Health Careers and ECM providers.

Neuromed has coordinated two EU projects: FAIR (CT 97 3261): “Wine and Health” and IMMIDIET (QLRT-2000-00100): “Dietary habit profile in European communities with different risk of myocardial infarction: the impact of migration as a model of gene/environment interaction”.

Moreover, the Centre has participated as partner in the following EU projects: “Identification and prevention of Dietary and lifestyle-induced health Effects in Children and infantS (IDEFICS, QLK1-016181); “Flavonoids and related phenolics for Healthy Living using Orally Recommended Antioxidants” (FLORA, 6 FP Food- Ct- 2005-007130) and “Anthocyanin and polyphenol bioactives for Health Enhancement through Nutritional Advancement” (ATHENA, 7 FP Food-Ct-2010-245121).

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DESIRED PARTNERS: We are looking for other medical centres of excellence in the field of neurological science. In particular, centres offering certain treatment and procedures for neurological/neurosurgical conditions, such as complex neurosurgery, movement disorders surgery and brain neuro-modulation with enough experience and expertise as well as adequate well-qualified human and technical resources. Such centres should also have a broad range of complementary medical services since different disciplines, such as neurology, neurosurgery, neurophysiology, neuroradiology, neuropathology and intensive care, are involved. Team-work and well-developed guidelines and procedures are also essential.

TOTAL BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR THE ACTION: The action will finance 1 pilot network with the indicative amount of 1.5 million euros, covering 60% of the eligible costs of the project.

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