

Belgrade, 20. September 2023.

Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE)

Vojvode Stepe 444a

11000 Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Letter of Support to the Project "BRIDGING the research and INnovation Gap for Rare Diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE"
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application

Dear dr Stojiljković,

I am writing on the behalf of the National Organisation for Rare Diseases of Serbia (NORBS), an organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals affected by rare diseases, to express our enthusiasm and wholehearted support for the **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 project application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljković, Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE).

The BRIDGING-RD project, which aims to foster collaboration between IMGGE and leading institutions such as the Karolinska Institute (KI), National Center for Genomic Analysis (CNAG), and Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM), is of paramount importance in addressing the pressing issues faced by the rare disease community. IMGGE's dedication to upgrading its Rare Disease Biobank to enhance data interoperability, improving bioinformatics pipelines specific to rare diseases, and expanding capacities for modeling and drug testing aligns perfectly with the urgent needs of the rare disease community.

By bridging the research and innovation gap between countries, BRIDGING-RD promises to make a significant impact on scientific excellence and innovation capacity, not only for IMGGE but also for the broader European scientific community. Your collaborative approach, which includes staff exchanges, expert visits, trainings, workshops, conference attendance, and joint summer schools, demonstrates a commitment to knowledge sharing and capacity building that is highly commendable.

As an umbrella patient organisation striving to improve the quality of life for individuals living with rare diseases, we are excited about the potential of the BRIDGING-RD project to bring much-needed advancements in rare disease research and treatment, and open the door for personalized medicine to become accessible in Serbia and other European countries.

We fully endorse this project and pledge our support in any way we can to help make it a reality. We look forward to the positive impact that the BRIDGING-RD project will have on the rare disease community and eagerly anticipate the outcomes of this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,



Olivera Jovović
President

National Organisation for Rare Diseases of Serbia





Radnička 7, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

NOVI SAD, Serbia, September 20th, 2023.

**Letter of Support to the Project "BRIDGING the research and INnovation Gap for
Rare Diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE"
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application**

This is to confirm that patient association LIL' BRAVE ONE (Hrabrisa), represented by IVANA BADNJAREVIC, president, fully supports the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia. The BRIDGING-RD project will increase diagnostic rate of solved RD patients in the country and accelerate translational studies focused on the development of innovative therapeutics for RD patients.

I am writing on behalf of the people living with rare neurometabolic diseases to express our wholehearted support for the **"Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)"** project initiated by the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE). Our association Lil' Brave One (Hrabrisa) has had the privilege of collaborating and getting support from IMGGE since our inception. We believe that this project holds immense promise for the rare disease community.

The commitment of IMGGE to upgrade excellence in the field of molecular biology is commendable and aligns perfectly with our mission to improve the lives of individuals affected by rare diseases. We have witnessed firsthand the dedication and expertise that IMGGE brings to its research, and we are confident that the outcomes of this project will significantly benefit patients with rare diseases in Serbia, Europe and beyond.

In closing, we want to reiterate our enthusiastic support for the **"Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)"** project. We look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will have on the rare disease community and are eager to contribute in any way we can to ensure its success.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the field of molecular biology and your commitment to improving the lives of those affected by rare diseases. We are proud to stand beside IMGGE in this important endeavour.

We are signing this letter of support cordially believing that the BRIDGING-RD project will open the door for personalized medicine to become accessible in Serbia and other European countries.

Sincerely,

Ivana Badnjarevic
President, Lil' Brave One (Hrabrisa)



Phone: +381642616500 - Email: udruzenje.hrabrisa@gmail.com
website: www.hrabrisa.rs
TIN: 109840069

Belgrade, Serbia September 20th, 2023.

**Letter of Support to the Project "BRIDGING the research and INnovation Gap for Rare Diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE"
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application**

This is to confirm that SPwPID Supporting Persons with Primary Immune Deficits (POSPID Podrška osobama sa primarnim imunodeficitima), represented by Dragana Koruga, officially main representative, fully supports the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia. The BRIDGING-RD project will increase diagnostic rate of solved RD patients in the country and accelerate translational studies focused on the development of innovative therapeutics for RD patients.

We are signing this letter of support cordially believing that the BRIDGING-RD project will open the door for personalized medicine to become accessible in Serbia and other European countries.

Sincerely,



Dragana Koruga
SPwPID/POSPID Serbia



BRoMoLoGoS

udruženje za poboljšanje kvaliteta života
osoba sa fenilketonurijom

Novi Sad, Serbia September 20th , 2023.

**Letter of Support to the Project "BRIDGing the research and INnovation Gap
for Rare Diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE"
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application**

This is to confirm that our Civil society organization "BRoMoLoGoS", represented by Ana Pataki, as president, fully supports the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia.

The BRIDGING-RD project will increase diagnostic rate of solved RD patients in the country and accelerate translational studies focused on the development of innovative therapeutics for RD patients.

Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering is already invested in work with patients with the diagnose of phenylketonuria, and working with high level of professionalism when it comes to improving the quality of life for PKU patients in Serbia.

We are signing this letter of support cordially believing that the BRIDGING-RD project will open the door for personalized medicine to become accessible in Serbia and other European countries.

Sincerely,



"Bromologos"

Udruženje građana i građanki za poboljšanje kvaliteta života osoba sa fenilketonurijom

PIB: 112583857 | Matični broj: 28326807

www.fenilketonurija.com

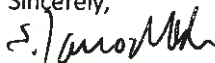
Belgrade, Serbia September 21th, 2023.

**Letter of Support to the Project "BRIDGing the research and INnovation Gap for Rare Diseases
in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE"
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application**

This is to confirm that Debra Srbija, represented by Sneyana Janosevic, president, fully supports the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia. The BRIDGING-RD project will increase diagnostic rate of solved RD patients in the country and accelerate translational studies focused on the development of innovative therapeutics for RD patients.

We are signing this letter of support cordially believing that the BRIDGING-RD project will open the door for personalized medicine to become accessible in Serbia and other European countries.

Sincerely,



Snežana Janošević

president

Debra Srbije, Beograd

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+ 381 64 883 7001

www.debra.org.rs



Ljubljana, September 20th, 2023.

**Letter of Support to the Project "BRIDGING the research and INnovation Gap for Rare Diseases in Europe
by upgrading excellence of IMGGE"**

HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application

This is to confirm that Centre for the Technologies of Gene and Cell Therapy, Center of Excellence, represented by Assoc. Prof Dr Mojca Bencina fully supports the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia. The BRIDGING-RD project will upgrade the interoperability of IMGGE's RD Biobank making it a fruitful resource to accelerate translational studies focused on the development of innovative therapeutics for RD patients.

We are sending this letter of support since the BRIDGING-RD project represents a project that will empower IMGGE to perform first steps in the process of orphan drug discovery that can be further developed together with the Centre for the Technologies of Gene and Cell Therapy, for the benefit of rare disease patients in Europe and beyond.

Sincerely,

**Mojca
Benčina** Digitally signed
by Mojca Benčina
Date: 2023.09.20
08:13:58 +02'00'

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mojca Benčina
Representative of CTGCT
<https://ctgct.si/en/>
Researcher at National Institute of Chemistry

Belgrade, Serbia September 20th, 2023.

**Letter of Support to the Project “BRIDGing the research and INnovation Gap for
Rare Diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE”
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 Grant Application**

This is to confirm that Health Tech Lab supercluster, represented by director Ivana Kostic, Ph.D. fully supports the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia. The BRIDGING-RD project will upgrade the interoperability of IMGGE's RD Biobank making it a fruitful resource to accelerate translational studies focused on the development of innovative therapeutics for RD patients.

We are sending this letter of support since the BRIDGING-RD project represents a project that will empower IMGGE to discover innovative treatments for rare diseases that can be further developed together with the members of the Serbian Health Tech Lab supercluster, for the benefit of rare disease patients in Serbia and beyond.

Sincerely,

Ivana Kostić, Ph.D.

Health Tech Lab Supercluster

Kostic Ivana

Barcelona, Spain, September 20th, 2023.

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We write this letter to inform that Qualix DoT S.L., represented by the Scientific Director, Dr. Emilio Roldan, is very interested in the project **Bridging the research and innovation gap for rare diseases in Europe by upgrading excellence of IMGGE (BRIDGING-RD)**, a HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02 application submitted by dr Maja Stojiljkovic, Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering, University of Belgrade (IMGGE), Serbia.

We are sending this letter of support since we consider that the BRIDGING-RD project represents a project that will empower IMGGE to discover innovative treatments for rare diseases that can be further developed together with our company for the benefit of rare disease patients in Europe and worldwide.

 **Qualix DoT**
Design on Therapies

Sincerely,

Emilio J.A. Roldan, MD, PhD
Corporate Scientific Director
Qualix Dot
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Carrer de la Botànica, 137,
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