Capacities/Research Potential

FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1

Project No. 316254

BASTION

"From Basic to Translational Research in Oncology"

Deliverable D6.9

Final conclusions and suggestions for future strategy presented by the IAB

Project start date:	1.09.2012
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Table of content

Attachments:

1. Agenda of the BASTION Round Table
2. Participants list

All reports are available on BASTION Webpage: www.bastion.wum.edu.pl

1. INTRODUCTION

The final International Advisory Board meeting was held jointly with BASTION Round Table in the Library and Information Centre of the Medical University of Warsaw on February the 22nd, 2016. The following International Advisory Board members participated in the meeting:

Prof. Lars Bullinger, University Hospital of Ulm, Germany,
Prof. Gaettano Vattemi, University of Verona, Italy,
Dr. Natalia Landazuri, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden,
Mr. Shane McCollam, Science|Business, Brussels, Belgium,
Dr. Piotr Religa, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden,
Dr. Pawel Nowicki, BTM Cluster, Warsaw, Poland,

as well as the Project Coordinator (Prof. Jakub Golab), Project Manager (Iwona Drozdowska-Rusinowicz) and WP Leaders and Task Leaders:

WP1 – Dr. Dominika Nowis, Dr. Tomasz Stoklosa,
WP2 – Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong, Prof. Krystian Jażdżewski, Ms. Ewa Debudaj,
WP3 – Dr. Magdalena Winiarska,
WP4 – Prof. Rafal Ploski,
WP5 – Dr. Karolina Dzwonek,
WP7 – Prof. Slawomir Majewski

The following documents were provided to the International Advisory Board Members :

1. Summary Report on the results achieved within the BASTION project from March 2014 to September 2015,
2. Deliverables for the second reporting period.

International Advisory Board members:

Prof. Lars Bullinger

Prof. Gaettano Vattemi

Dr. Natalia Landazuri

Mr. Shane McCollam

Dr. Piotr Religa

Dr. Pawel Nowicki

The BASTION Round Table was also attended by Prof. Marek Krawczyk - Rector of the Medical University of Warsaw and Prof. Marek Kulus - Vice Rector for Educational Affairs

The meeting started with an "Introduction and presentation of the project objectives" delivered by Prof. Jakub Golab. His presentation was followed by a reporting seminar involving presentations by the Leaders or of Work Packages WP1-WP7 on the implementation of the respective parts of the project. Finally, a discussion, summary, and closing remarks were moderated by the Project Coordinator.

Prof. Jakub Golab (BASTION Project Coordinator) opened the meeting and pointed out that all the activities within the BASTION project were focused on such operational objectives of the project as:
(i) to foster increased scientific dialogue and twinning between MUW and eleven top research centres via secondments of scientific staff (experienced researchers) to transfer knowledge, new research methodologies and techniques, discuss research progress, share experimental data, work on joint research proposals and publications,
(ii) to increase knowledge sharing, networking and improve MUW international visibility through organisation of workshops, conferences and dissemination & promotional activities, (iii) to build human potential by recruiting 12 researchers with international experience in basic and clinical oncology, (iv) to build the capacity of MUW's research base in molecular oncology and translational studies by purchasing for state-of-the art equipment items, (v) to facilitate technology transfer and increase the impact of translational studies in oncology.

2. SUMMARY OF THE BASTION PROJECT REALISATION

2.1. WP1 - Twinning through secondments

Dr. Dominika Nowis – Leader - presented the results achieved within the WP1

Major aim of Task 1 in Work Package 1 of BASTION project was to foster increased scientific dialogue between Medical University of Warsaw (MUW) and eleven top research centres via secondments of scientific staff (experienced researchers). Such secondments enabled not only transfer of know-how and new methodologies but also enabled research progress, sharing of experimental data and work on joint research proposals and publications.

In the grant proposal 35 outgoing missions to partnering organisation laboratories (55,5 months in total) and 25 incoming missions to MUW from partnering organisations (18,5 months in total) were planned altogether.

During three years of the BASTION project realisation 52 outgoing visits (57,5 months in total) and 15 incoming visits (21 months in total) were accomplished.
Work Package 1 comprises of exchange of know-how and best practice through twinning. Major goal of those bilateral visits was to bring together a highly skilled and complementary assembly of European researchers from academic and clinical centers and researchers from MUW participating in BASTION. Similarly to other large-scale projects there were several, initially unresolved and unforeseen, issues (in most cases of administrative type, in some cases personal issues such as sick leave or maternity) regarding twinning via secondments, which were gradually cleared. This however, caused some delays and rescheduling of selected twinning visits. Implemented changes, such as rescheduling/dividing of the visits, exchanges of the twinnings between BASTION teams as well as allowing several young researchers to participate in the twinning allowed to complete all the visits important for the BASTION project for M1-M36.
Not only each researchers were given practical trainings in new technologies provided either locally or via visits to partnering laboratories, but also in many situations, there were unexpected benefits of efforts such as new collaborations and new research projects undertaken as a result of this collaborations. In summary, research work of the majority of groups complemented one another, and this synergy should be even more enhanced by further exchange of know-how between MUW's Departments and partnering institutions.

Twinning became really fruitful in terms of more than a dozen of publications in peer-reviewed, international journals (12 original articles so far) with partnering institutions. In several examples execution of twinning visits was the key element to finish some projects and publish the results already in the duration of BASTION project (all publications are listed in deliverable D1.3). Several manuscripts are either in the review process or in preparation, therefore total number of publications which resulted directly from execution of WP1 should exceed 20.

2.2. WP2 - Know-how and experience sharing events

Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong – Leader - presented the results achieved within the WP2

The major goal of activities within WP2 was to increase MUW international visibility through organization of workshops, conference and promotional activities. Within the framework of BASTION project The following workshops were organized: (i) "Cancer genetics for medical community" (workshop took place on the 17th of June 2013 and was coordinated by Prof. K. Jazdzewski); (ii) "Techniques in analysis of cancer vascular biology" (workshop took place on the 6th of June 2014 and was coordinated by Prof. Z. Gaciong); (iii) "Application of flow cytometry in molecular oncology" (workshop took place on

the 15-16th of October 2014 and was coordinated by: Dr M. Winiarska); (iv) "Genome-wide methods in cancer genetics (workshop took place on the 28th of October 2014 and was coordinated by Prof. Rafal Ploski); (v) "Molecular diagnostic in cancer" (workshop took place on the 8th of June 2015 and was coordinated by Prof. Z. Gaciong and Dr Piotr Religa).

The international oncology conference planned in the project proposal, was held on 21st and 22nd of May 2015 at the Medical University of Warsaw. Among the invited lecturers of this conference (TRON, Translational Research in Oncology) were the leading European researchers from the best research centers (Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Italy, Ireland, Hungary) involved in oncology.
The TRON Conference was coordinated by Prof. Slawomir Majewski and organized by Dr. Magdalena Krol, WP2 consultant with active support of BASTION PR team: Ewa Debudaj and Anna Fogler.

To promote the BASTION activities a number of different platforms of communication have been used including: direct mailing, advertisements, articles in professional as well as popular journals, local and national radio and television and our own website. BASTION representatives participated in events focused in Innovation (ACES, Fulbright Association, IMI).
Other BASTION promotional activities: participation in the science events, organizing trainings for the journalists, cooperation with PAG's from the oncology area, cooperation with over 30 journalists (from medical and national media) resulted in over 300 publications about BASTION, active participation in events focused in Innovation (ACES), BASTION project dedicated web page (70 articles in news section, over 10k users entered the site), BASTION FB page (over 550 fans), dedicated BASTION YouTube channel (14 movies, over 3k displays), Twitter account

2.3. WP2 – T2.3 Attendance at international conferences and training workshops

Dr. Tomasz Stoklosa – Task Leader - presented the results achieved within the task T2.3

Participation in prime international conferences was a great opportunity to present own research findings to broad audience and to share scientific ideas with several experts in the field of experimental and clinical oncology and molecular biology and genetics. It was also a unique possibility to promote Medical University of Warsaw and BASTION project. On the other hand participation in workshops and training courses was extremely valuable for bringing know-how and future career development.

In summary, 34 researchers actively participated in 22 prestigious, international conferences and/or workshops or training courses.

Total number of 52 participations in the international conferences have been executed within the project. These included participation at: (i). American Association for Cancer Research; (ii) American Society of Hematology (ASH) Meeting; (iii) Congress of the European Hematology Association (EHA); (iv) European Society of Photobiology (ESP) Meeting; (vi) The EMBO Meeting, and many others (the details are provided in deliverables D2.4 and D2.5).

2.4. WP2 – T2.6 – Policy Paper - Guidelines and Policy Paper for stakeholders on improvement of cancer prevention

Prof. Krystian Jażdzewski – Task Leader - presented the results achieved within the task T2.6

The incidence of cancer-related diseases is on the rise and they are the main cause of premature death in people below 65 years of age. Chance of patient recovery is significantly increased in the case of cancers detected at an early stage. However, since early symptoms of most cancers are non-specific and often ignored by patients and primary health care physicians, it is vital to conduct well-targeted screening and to adapt diagnostic methods to the needs of individual patients and particular diseases.

Cancers are caused by changes in the genes. It is estimated that every 5th patient is affected because of being born with a disease-causing mutation (change in a gene), which significantly increases the risk of developing the cancer. This particularly includes breast, colon and prostate cancer.

Taking into account the need to introduce the results of their research achievements Professor together with specialists and consultants prepared a Policy Paper with guidelines and recommendations for Ministry of Health, the National Health Fund and health providers (hospitals and clinics).

The purpose of the document was to present a new policy for cancer prevention, targeted, among others, at making diagnostic cancer tests that are essential for implementing personalized prevention programme of each patient, commonly accessible in Poland. Personalized prevention is closely related to the individual, specifically defined risk of particular patients developing particular cancers. The document presents assumptions of oncology-related programmes currently operating in Poland, an analysis has been conducted of gaining potential savings generated by the introduction of genetic diagnostics to oncology and the results have been presented of social study, carried out for the purposes of this document, concerning Polish awareness in terms of cancer prevention and genetic tests.

The last part of the paper proposes a scheme of a social campaign targeted at informing the public about the need of carrying out proper preventive tests. The primary objective of the campaign is to raise public awareness in order to reduce the number of patients reporting to a physician at an advanced stage of cancer. The campaign should mainly focus on raising awareness of the consequences of late cancer diagnoses, i.e. on negative effects for the patient

and their significant ones, as well as on presenting all kinds of benefits of preventive screening combined with informing about the possibilities of undergoing a particular test. The campaign introduces 6 target groups for whom separate, tailor-made modes of communication were developed, and major sources of receiving information.

2.5. WP3 -Building capacity by attracting and retaining top-level scientists

Dr Magdalena Winiarska – Leader - presented the results achieved within the WP3

BASTION project has fully used its opportunity to recruit nine top-level qualified researchers with high ability to increase research potential in basic and translational oncology at Medical University of Warsaw. Since two postdocs had to quit, WP Leader was forced to hire for replacement two another highly qualified researchers. The technological expertise and scientific background of all eleven recruits fitted BASTION effort to strengthen the existing areas of excellence in oncology research. Moreover, each individual used the opportunity to bring in know-how and experience in translational oncology work and helped to bridge the gaps and create links among research groups working at MUW. All leaders have succeeded in recruiting extremely diligent and hardworking postdocs showing a great enthusiasm for their work in the field of experimental oncology. All newly employed researchers contributed to the great success of BASTION project.

In summary, postdocs recruited to nine research groups in BASTION project are authors and co-authors of 51 publications, they managed to secure funding for their research and get 12 grants (10 grants as Principal Investigators, 2 as supervisors), they were awarded with 8 different awards and are co-authors of 6 patent applications, they started collaboration with 21 other research teams initialised during BASTION project.

Number of faculty positions at Medical University of Warsaw is regulated by a quota of teaching hours (pensum). Thus, according to the recruitment policy of Medical University of Warsaw recruited researchers were employed at the university as the experienced research specialists. They were entitled to all benefits of governmental employees.

BASTION project did not directly provide research support for newly employed post docs. All recruited researchers were eligible for applying for national funding from National Science Centre (NCN), The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR), The Foundation for Polish Science (FNP) and Ministry of Science and Higher Education. All researchers made attempts to get funds for their research and prolong their employment.

For three researchers it was not possible to extend employment at MUW after completion of the BASTION project. Two researchers, due to shortage of funds, with the finalization of BASTION project end their cooperation with team leaders. However, they declare their interest in BASTION projects and willingness to cooperate with BASTION leaders.

Three postdocs have managed to secure funding for research and their salaries as principal investigators. Moreover, team leaders will support the employment of three other researchers with their grant funding

2.6. WP4 - Acquisition of modern research equipment

Prof. Rafal Ploski - Leader - presented the results achieved within the WP4.

All tasks planned within WP4 has been successfully completed in the first 18 months of the duration of the BASTION project. The following instruments have been purchased from the BASTION funds: (i) Fluidigm Access Array 2AX + FC1 System; (ii) Beckman Coulter ultracentrifuge Optima L100XPN; (iii) MiltenyiBiotecgentle MACSDissociator; (iv) HielscherUltrasonics UP200ht handheld ultrasonic homogenizer; (v) GE Healthcare preparative chromatography system AKTA avant 25; (vi) Andreas Hettich laboratory centrifuge ROTINA 420R; (vii) Perkin Elmer Janus Integrator automated workstation; (viii) Perkin Elmer Delfiaplatewash; (ix) Perkin Elmer multilabel microplate reader EnVision 2104; (x) Roche MagNA Pure 96 System; (xi) Roche LightCycler 96 System; (xii) Roche LightCycler 480 II System; (xiii) Eppendorf Centrifuge 5430R; (xiv) PALM Laser Microdissector; (xv) Life Technologies Ion Proton System.
Prof. Ploski briefly summarized how the implemented equipment has already been used by the BASTION members in their research work. He pointed on the complementarity of the purchased instruments that allow to carry out a comprehensive pipeline of experiments consisting of purifying and analyzing nucleic acids, followed by the verification of the role of their protein products in vitro. Prof. Ploski also presented the possibility and importance of sharing these instruments within BASTION groups as well as with the researchers outside BASTION. He also pointed which publications benefited from the purchased equipment and has shown a list of further research projects that will use it during ongoing studies.

2.7. WP5 - Innovation Capacity Building

Dr. Karolina Dzwonek – Innovation Manager (IM) presented the results achieved within the WP5.

The main goal of that work package was to stimulate the translational process from molecular oncology research to the clinic. IM showed all activities undertaken in order to make researchers aware of intellectual property (IP) issues and to identify possibility for IP protection within BASTION research teams, among them: (i) organizing 8 seminars/trainings (seminars for BASTION research groups on IP rights protection and commercialization of

research results; workshops for MUW researchers and PhD students; trainings for Maria Skłodowska-Curie Institute of Oncology, Institute of Haematology and Transfusion and Military Institute of Medicine); (ii) preparing 2 series of 4-days workshops(in total for 50 scientists), during which 8 projects were deeply analysed and guided from idea/preliminary results to a teaser, with building an extraordinary network of researchers engaged in their work, creative and willing to do something above basic science (some of them took some initiative towards a start-up) as result one company has been already established; (iii) organising 2 Pharma Days in April 2014 and 2015 (the aim of the conferences was to move basic research forward to clinical practice, 60-80 participants - top level scientists in the field of molecular oncology presenting their results in light of potential new therapies or diagnostic tools & medical doctors to express patients' needs & Polish and international biopharmaceutical companies developing innovative anti-cancer therapies - of each conference, all individually invited); (iv) organising BASTION Roundtable at European Parliament in June 2013 - an event on best practices in translational medicine and innovation management, addressed to MUW and KU Leuven researchers; (v) Introducing BASTION to the global startup community; (vi) organising tech transfer professionals networking within Ochota Campus; (vii) initiate new and reinforce existing relations with the local and regional biomedical and pharmaceutical business; (viii) supporting 5 patent applications for potential new diagnostic tools in oncology filed by analysis of BASTION/MUW groups' research results and plans by evaluation against: assessment applicable potential of current research, identification possibility for IP protection (& make researchers aware of IP issues), plan for future experiments more focused on possible implementation; (ix) organising 3 meetings with children - future researchers - at nursery and primary schools; (x) preparing analysis of MUW innovation potential (defining a strategy and proposing an update to MUW IP protection strategy and management schemes).

At the end of the presentation Dr. Dzwonek reported analysis of MUW innovation potential and key steps that should be undertaken at the university to make technology transfer possible. She also presented the special bilingual report on "General guidelines on the technology transfer process, based on KU Leuven's experience, that could be implemented in the development strategy of Medical University of Warsaw" prepared in the cooperation of Science|Business and a set of documents created exclusively for Technology Transfer Office in MUW.

2.8. WP6 - Project outcomes and Final Plan for the use and dissemination of foreground

Prof. Jakub Golab concluded that the goals of the project were being successfully achieved, i.e. (i) shortening the way from basic to translational research in oncology, (ii) creating new research opportunities for a new generation of young and experienced scientists, (iii) strengthening the existing partnerships between the University and Scientific Centres of the ERA, (iv) increasing research potential of MUW in the field of experimental oncology, and (v) contributing to the application-oriented research.

He pointed out that the sustainability of the project will be achieved through BASTION by: new international research cooperations established due to twinning and participation in scientific conferences; unique know-how that will contribute to future discoveries; public awareness on genetic predisposition to cancer (Policy Paper by Krystian Jazdzewski); involvement in drug discovery in the cooperation with *OncoArendi* (Jakub Golab and Karolina Dzwonek), *Warsaw Genomics* (Krystian Jazdzewski and Anna Wojcicka), *Cellis* (Magdalena Krol and Tomasz Rygiel); over 50 researchers trained at Idea2Business workshops that gave new ideas for applied research projects and new business opportunities (including one company already established following the workshops); equipment and experience sharing with local research institutions; establishing *MUW=BASTION* brand name (well recognized in Polish research environment); BASTION postdocs obtained successfully own grants and established their own research teams; more courage to do risky research – more risk – more gain; continuation of transfer of knowledge from prestigious European institutions under STREAM project.
Professor Golab considered that the greatest achievements of the project BASTION are:
setting up new research teams and acquiring funding for their project (5 new research groups have been established); publishing the results of their experiments in prestigious research journals; managing to focus on research topic and build expertize in the field of their research interest; establishing a hopefully long-term and stable collaboration with international partners; organizing BASTION Roundtable at European Parliament; organizing two successful Pharma Day conferences that gave start for new collaborations between MUW researchers and pharma industry; detailed analysis of MUW's patents and patent applications' portfolio and creating guidelines on the technology transfer process management that could be implemented in the development strategy at MUW.

But the BASTION team still faces barriers to their further development in research activities, which are:

- lack of long-term grants (for 5 years or more) to focus on big problems,
- lack of support in acquiring 'soft' skills related to team management,
- lack of access to core facilities (we do not need to do all types of analyses by ourselves),
- luck of administration staff that could speak fluent English at a level allowing support in innovation, patent applications, preparation of international grants etc.,
- lack of experienced postdocs applying for job in Poland,
- lack of positions in the University for researchers not involved in teaching,
- lack of lab managers, skilled technicians and other staff supporting researchers,
- lack of wider and professional support in informatics,
- unacceptably slow system of buying reagents for research – tenders even for a single antibody,

- insufficient waiver from teaching duties for researchers actively involved in research (publishing articles and acquiring research grants),
- need for more applied research projects and technology transfer to become one of the priorities of the University (with clear rules and simplified procedures),
- lack of expertise in technology transfer at MUW, lack of support in that field for researchers,
- lack of entrepreneurial culture in scientific environment.

2.9. WP6 – Efforts & Budget Allocation

Finally, at the first part of the meeting, Iwona Drozdowska-Rusinowicz - Project Manager - presented the details of financial resources for 36 months. She pointed out that, thanks to the efficient work of all the persons involved in the BASTION program and their big effort, all the activities were exactly on meeting the deadline of the project. It is expected that the MUW will spent about 93-94% of the granted resources. She also informed the audience that the financial audit of the first and second half of the implementation of the BASTION project was conducted on 29th April 2014 and 27th October 2015.

3. EVALUATION RESULTS & FUTURE

Prof. Slawomir Majewski – Leader - presented the objectives and achievements of WP7.

The main objective of the WP7 was to evaluate the transition and increased potential of MUW to engage in basic and translational research in oncology by a team of external experts recruited by the European Commission and working closely with the Project Steering Committee

Upon M27 of the project, 3 experts have been chosen by EC service to evaluate the Medical University of Warsaw overall research quality and capability in the general research area of the proposal, including management and infrastructure. The experts visited MUW 2 times (December 2015 , January 2016)

"The last visit takes place at the very end of the project. On this occasion, we have organized a round table allowing the Coordinator and the experts to give presentations summarizing their work and to discuss them together with the members of the International Advisory Board and the Project Steering Committee.
The aim of the meeting is to discuss the best ways and methods to foster MUW scientific excellence and increase its contribution to improving public health as well as to the economic and social sustainable development of the region, after the project's end."

3.1. Final report from evaluation by external experts

Prof. Ali Gure

Prof. Bruno Botta

Prof. Christel Herold-Mende

The review committee concluded that all WPs and deliverables listed in the original project have been completed as planned and that the BASTION team demonstrated diligence, hard work and an honest outlook throughout the project period.

The evaluators presented their very positive opinion and underscored that the BASTION group established a network of Polish scientists who are now willing to work in future projects as a team (exemplified with the Twinning grant STREAM, and various other grants to which the team applied jointly); helped better expose the BASTION scientist to the international scientific community which resulted in fruitful collaborations and exchange of know-how; enabled non-scientists as well as scientist in Poland and internationally, to help develop a better sense of various science-related concepts; and lastly helped the MUW to develop a better research infrastructure.

In making their decisions, the review committee used the information presented during the review activities, in addition to reports summarizing the number of papers published and the impact factor of journals they were published in, grants applied to and those that were obtained, and employment information among others. The evaluators also participated in two of the meetings organized by BASTION and performed a site visitation.

The committee realizes the presence of several activities that clearly indicate the BASTION investment will be sustainable. These include (i) the establishment of new research groups with their own funding, some of which include companies as partners, (ii) the fact that many researchers were successfully trained during this project either as team members or as participants during various workshops and meetings which also served as a means to initiate long-term collaborations with participating scientists, (iii) the sharing of equipment and experience with other local (non-BASTION) scientists, both within and outside Poland, (iv) BASTION/MUW as a new name brand with a positive reputation, and (v) the STREAM project (HORIZON 2020) which aims the expansion of collaborative work with leading European research institutions.

3.2. Conclusions & recommendations by External Experts

The committee wishes to raise the following points summarized below which, if improved, will further significantly contribute to the scientific output of this team and those that collaborate with it.

"Although it is very clear that BASTION scientists have on average published significantly more when compared to other MUW scientists, it is also obvious to us that these publications include BASTION scientists more as co-authors than principal authors. We understand that this might be because the team was able to get involved in on-going research within Poland and more importantly at an international scale through initiatives that were part of BASTION, but it is of utmost importance to continue these interactions that will sustain a healthy research activity and collaborations over the long run. The STREAM grant is a very positive development in this line. But the evaluators would ideally like to see that the scientist from the BASTION team are successful in attracting other European scientists who are willing to collaborate with them (as opposed to the other way around) which would lead to them publish as the major authors.

We realize that data coming from the new infrastructure including the imaging facility, IT infrastructure, automatic pipetting stations and NGS equipment appears only scarcely among the scientific output of the team. Although disappointing to us, we realize that this might be because many projects that are based on the use of the new equipment have been recently initiated and that output from them might take some time. However, a more important concern we had was the lack of a good plan in the MUW which would allow legitimate company-academic interactions. Many of the instruments obtained through BASTION are suitable for large-scale output rather than basic wet-lab experimentation. As the topic of this project was translational oncology, this is probably expected.

During the final meeting that took place on the 22nd of February, 2016, the evaluators were presented with strategies by which patented inventions would be carried to the next step which is to develop these through companies working closely with the MUW and therefore the BASTION team. The evaluators believe, that if the companies are allowed to interact with the MUW through clearly defined rules and a visionary approach is taken to foster this, the knowledge and experience which was obtained thus far and which will keep increasing could be put to very good use and this could also become a viable source of income for both the scientists as well as the MUW. The E.C. has made support of SMEs a major priority in H2020 and we think the sustainability of the success of the BASTION initiative will also depend on the success of biotech-science collaborations that involve BASTION scientists and their collaborators.

With the new NGS and IT infrastructure in MUW, we strongly recommend that the University consider becoming a hub for the generation of genomic data as well as giving out bioinformatics service. We realize this would require the hiring of additional scientists and personnel. However, in the absence of this, we feel it remains unfair that neither the local team, nor those scientists who possibly could use these services benefit from the full potential of this investment.

We suspect some unresolved administrative issues that stem from the MUW might also be stalling progress: We are told that teaching duties are waived only minimally as the research load of scientist increase through the acquirement of novel grants; hiring technicians and other staff personnel is difficult due to lengthy bureaucracy and the shipment of consumables are delayed due to a tender system which certainly needs to be improved.
The team also voiced their concerns about not being able to truly integrate with the facilities and infrastructure of the MUW.
All of these are truly issues that ought to be relived as soon as possible. But they show the genuine will of all involved in BASTION to maintain and improve state-of-the-art research activities, and in that sense are highly commendable.
We strongly hope that as the research culture establishes itself in Poland, thanks to initiatives like BASTION, and the job definition of not only scientists but many administrative and service positions transform, these issues will ultimately be resolved."

4. RECOMMENDATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Members of the IAB with due recognition accepted the evaluators' report on the implementation of the project within 36 months. During the meeting, together with the project team, the members of the IAB discussed the problems arising in the course of the project. Some recommendations up to the future have been made:
- MUW should be interested in setting up core facility laboratories which are currently not available. Core facilities should provide long-term positions for skilled research technicians operating complex research infrastructure,
- MUW administration should be more competent especially in legal aspects (legal office employees do not speak English, which delays processing all legal documents that are generated during international cooperations),
- the work efficiency of MUW administrations should be improved (administration staff is focused on solving the problems based on fixed procedures which will never cover all aspects of international collaborations),
- ineffective system for ordering reagents and research equipment,
- professional IP protection strategies should be developed,

- systems for cooperation between basic researchers and clinical practitioners should be developed, clinicians should be able to flexibly adjust their involvement in clinical and research activities,
Teaching duties should be flexibly adjusted to the involvement of research staff in research projects,
- top quality rather than number of publications should be the priority for the University,
- bioinformatics should be one of the top priorities for further research development.
Despite the obstacles mentioned above, the team leaders

emphasized the high involvement of the team members, including employed postdocs - experienced researchers as well as IT specialists, in the research carried out within BASTION project and their motivation and diligence to overcome the difficulties

The discussion in the University took about two hours. Next, the meeting participants moved to a restaurant for a dinner.

It should be noted that the friendly discussion between the scientists, External Experts and the representatives of the International Advisory Board has been continued during the dinner in the restaurant.

5. CORRESPONDING BUDGET/*

PERSONNEL, TRAVEL AND OTHER MAJOR DIRECT COST ITEMS			
	Item description	Amount [EUR]	Explanations
Work Package WP6 Task T6.1 T6.2 T6.3	Personnel costs	19,751.00	Salary of the WP6 Co-Leader (6 PM) & of the Finance Officer (0,76 PM)
	Travel	3,187.91	Travel & accommodation within IIIrd IAB Meeting /BASTION Round Table
	Remaining direct costs	342.38	Dinner 21.02.2016; Lunch 22.02.2016
TOTAL DIRECT COST		**23.281,29**	

/ - exact costs will be presented in the IIIrd Period Report and Form C (April 2016)*

Prof. Jakub Golab
BASTION Project Coordinator

Iwona Drozdowska-Rusinowicz
BASTION Project Manager

Warsaw, February 2016

Attachment 1

"From Basic to Translational Research in Oncology"

BASTION FINAL ROUND TABLE

Medical University of Warsaw, Poland;
22nd February 2016 (Monday)

Venue: Medical University of Warsaw, Zwirki & Wigury 63 Sr.
Library and Information Centre, Hall no 128, I st floor

09:00 – 9:30	Welcome Coffee	
9:30 – 9:50	Welcome & Presentation of participants – **Jakub Golab**	

BASTION project contribution to strengthening the potential of MUW by:

9:50 – 10:10	Twinning through secondments - WP1	Secondments between twinning partners along with the analysis of added value for potential increase of research capacity/quality of MUW, publications resulting from secondments – **Dominika Nowis**
10:10 – 10:40	Know-how and experience sharing - WP2	Experience from the organized workshops and conference; Dissemination and promotional activities; Raising general public awareness activities; Awareness and Wider Societal Implications – **Zbigniew Gaciong** Guidelines and Policy Paper for stakeholders on improvement of cancer prevention – **Krystian Jazdzewski**
10:40 – 11:00	Building capacity by attracting top-level scientists - WP3	Research activities of 11 experienced researchers, one new group leader and two IT specialists; publications and research/professional activities of all recruited researchers – **Magdalena Winiarska**
11:00 – 11:20	Acquisition of research equipment - WP4	Usage in research projects and sharing with external researchers – **Rafal Ploski**
11:20 – 11:40	Innovation capacities building - WP5	Transfer of know-how and Networking including Science Business / KUL joint meeting and Pharma Open Days featuring leading MUW translational projects in oncology Implemented IP protection and management strategy guidelines at MUW, achieved innovation capacity and IP protection – **Karolina Dzwonek**
11:40 – 12:10	Management - WP6	Project outcomes and Final Plan for the use and dissemination of foreground – **Jakub Golab** Budget allocation – **Iwona Drozdowska-Rusinowicz**
12:10 – 13:30	LUNCH – Bar SMACZEK, Rector's Office Building, Zwirki & Wigury 61st., Ground Floor	

Evaluation results & Future

13:30 – 13:40	Evaluation – WP7	Prof. Slawomir Majewski
13:40 – 14:00	Final report from evaluation by external experts	Prof. Christel Herold-Mende, **Dr Ali Gure**, Prof Bruno Botta
14:00 – 14:20	Policy scenarios for the future & Recommendations	Prof. Christel Herold-Mende, **Dr Ali Gure**, Prof Bruno Botta
14:20 – 15.00	Conclusions and suggestions for future strategy	All participants – moderated by **Jakub Golab**
19:00 – 22:00	BASTION Dinner – SOUND GARDEN Hotel, Żwirki & Wigury 18 St., OPERA Hall	

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Grant Agreement no 316254
and is co-founded by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education

Attachment 2

List of Participants

BASTION Project - ROUND TABLE
22 February, 2016 - Medical University of Warsaw

LIST of PARTICIPANTS

Lp.	Name	Surname	Affiliation	Signature
1	Prof. Bruno	Botta	EVALUATOR	
2	Prof. Lars	Bullinger	IAB	
3	Marcin	Chrzanowski	NCBIR	
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5	Iwona	Drozdowska-Rusinowicz	BASTION-WP6	
6	Anna	Dziubczyńska-Pytko	KPK	
7	Dr. Karolina	Dzwonek	BASTION-WP5	
8	Prof. Zbigniew G.	Gacong	BASTION-WP2	
9	Mateusz	Gaczyński	MNISW	
10	Dorota	Gawrońska-Wojcik	WUM	
11	Prof. Krzysztof	Giannopoulos	IAB	
12	Prof. Jakub	Golab	BASTION-Koord	
13	Dr. Ali	Gure	EVAL	
14	Prof. Christel	Herold-Mende	EVAL	

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BASTION Project - ROUND TABLE
22 February, 2016 - Medical University of Warsaw

LIST of PARTICIPANTS

Lp.	Name	Surname	Affiliation	Signature
15	Jolanta	Ilków	WUM	
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18	Michał	Kępowicz	MZ	
19	Zygmunt	Krasiński	KPK	
20	Prof. Marek	Krawczyk	WUM	
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25	Paweł	Nowicki	IAB	
26	Dr. Dominika	Nowis	BASTION-WP1	
27	Prof. Rafał	Płoski	BASTION-WP4	
28	Małgorzata	Rejnik	WUM	

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BASTION Project - ROUND TABLE
22 February, 2016 - Medical University of Warsaw

LIST of PARTICIPANTS

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31	Dr. Tomasz	Stokłosa	BASTION-WP1	
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33	Dr. Marcin	Szumowski	IAB	
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37	Dr. Magdalena	Winiarska	BASTION-WP3	
38	Prof. Paweł	Włodarski	BASTION	
39	Dr. Radosław	Zagozdzon	BASTION-WP3	
40	Dr. Agnieszka	Zebrowska	PATPOL	
41	Kinga	Zielińska	MZ	