



PROJECT DELIVERABLE

Project acronym: **CHERISH**

Project title: **Improving Diagnoses of Mental Retardation in Children in Eastern Europe and Central Asia through Genetic Characterisation and Bioinformatics/Statistics**

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Del. no.	Deliverable name	WP no.	Lead participant	Nature ¹	Dissemination level ¹	Due delivery date from Annex I
D7.5	Information of networks	7	UNIBO	O	PU	10, 20, 30

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¹ R = Report, P = Prototype, D = Demonstrator, O = Other

PU = Public, PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services), RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services), CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

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Objective

The deliverable 7.5 is linked to task T7.1d Information of existing networks. The aim of this activity is to provide news from the project to 1) clinicians of the involved countries and to the EuroMXR consortium and 2) managers of existing websites focused on MR. UNIBO will also inform editors of electronic publications and alert mailing system on major findings from the project.

Activities carried out

During the first months of the project we have focused on the general dissemination of the project objectives while the second half will be dedicated to targeted dissemination of results to the research community. This implies a thorough assessment of the existing channels for dissemination of MR research. The consortium has delayed the information of networks with respect to the scheduled time since the collection of patients was still ongoing at month 10 and the analysis is currently ongoing. As a consequence UNIBO has started to contact three major websites related to MR:

- The Euro-MRX consortium is a collaboration of several institutes undertaking research into mental retardation: <http://www.euomrx.com/>. First contacts have been undertaken in order to link the 2 websites and to mutual use the web platforms for the benefit of both consortiums.
- The Pierfranco and Luisa Mariani Foundation is a non-profit organization in Milan. Its core mission is child neurology and the major areas of expertise include services, training, research and international cooperation (<http://www.fondazione-mariani.org>). The first contact with the foundation were established in January 2011 and currently the aim is to take benefit from the foundation's network of clinical centres involved in childhood neurological disorders in order to reach the highest number of clinicians.
- The FANEP (www.fanep.org; Associazione Famiglie Neurologia Pediatrica) is a non-profit organization in Bologna. Its core mission is to support the diagnostics for mental retardation and neurological disorders in children and to promote training and research in the field.

Next steps

The focus for the next month will be the *Course in Cognitive Disorders* organised in Bologna from the 11th to the 13th of April 2011 by EGF one of the members of CHERISH consortium. This event which involves leading experts studying intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, and impairments in speech, language and reading will give the possibility to establish contacts with other European networks interested in MR research.

The full programme of this event is available on EGF website:

<http://www.eurogene.org>