

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE PRESUPUESTOS Y GASTOS DIRECCIÓN GENERAL DE FONDOS EUROPEOS









STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT FOR RESEARCH ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND EMERGING EPIDEMICS

Foundation for the Promotion of Health and Biomedical Research (FISABIO).

Programa Operativo de la Comunidad Valenciana

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Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

STRENGTHENING INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT FOR RESEARCH ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND EMERGING EPIDEMICS

October 2020

Presentation

In the last fifteen years, there has been a major advance in the technological development of data storage and analysis systems for **genomic analysis**, including sequencing of microorganisms. These studies have multiple applications in the field of health research for the identification of what originates and develops a disease, the identification of mutations or alterations of its genetic material and the complete sequencing of the microorganisms for the **generation of vaccines**. The ability to quickly and effectively prevent and combat infectious and epidemic processes that may arise in the Valencian Community depends to a large extent on the knowledge of the microorganisms that cause them.

Within the administration of the Valencian Community, one of the areas of research that is promoted directly from the Department of Universal Health and Public Health, is **research in**



Public Health and within it, the area of epidemiology. That is why in the Generalitat it has been considered important to invest in infrastructures that strengthen research the laboratories in Public Health, whose management is currently carried out by the Foundation for the Promotion of Health and Biomedical Research (FISABIO).

The project presented as Good Practice has been promoted by the Department of Universal Health and Public Health and managed by FISABIO for **the improvement and strengthening of**



research infrastructures in infectious diseases and emerging epidemics. The investment made is EUR 1,285,481, of which 50 % (EUR642,741) have been co-financed by the Regional Operational Programme European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the Valencian Community 2014-2020.

There are more than 40 referral hospital centers throughout Spain that send samples of genetic material extraction (RNA) from patients diagnosed with COVID-19 for FISABIO laboratories to perform a rapid

sequencing and optimal management of their results.

The following are the arguments that make this project a good practice according to the criteria defined:

1. The project has been appropriately disseminated among beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

In fulfilment of the communication obligations, all the infrastructures acquired for research in this strategy have been **duly labelled**, and on the website of **FISABIO Foundation**, their acquisition and funding has been disseminated with funds from the Operational Programme ERDF 2014-2020.





On web pages

http://www.san.gva.es/web/dgrree/fondos-feder



https: //gacetamedica.com/investigacion/la-universidad-de-valencia-obtiene-los-tres-primerosgenomas-del-sars-cov2-en-espana/

Análisis de la transmisión

Desde la Universidad de Valencia indican que el análisis de genomas virales ofrece información para saber las vías por las cuales ha entrado el virus a nuestra comunidad. También, para concer cómo se está transmitiendo en estos momentos. Estos datos, indican, ayudarán a las autoridades a controlar la propagación del Covid-19 en nuestra comunidad.

Ninguna cepa registra más virulencia, letalidad o característica muy peculiar desde una perspectiva clínica.

Otro de los datos que se puede extraer de la secuenciación del SARS-CoV2 es saber qué mutaciones ha experimentado el virus desde que empezase la epidemia. La conclusión que se ha alcanzando es que de momento no se ha observado ninguna que registre más virulencia, letalidad o característica muy peculiar desde una perspectiva clínica.

La secuenciación de estas muestras se ha realizado mediante MinIOn, un secuenciador de tercera generación de Oxford Nanopore Technologies. El resto de infraestructura utilizada en esta investigación se ha producido a través del Programa Operativo del Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) de la Comunidad Valenciana 2014-2020.

Equipo de trabajo

El análisis genómico ha sido llevado a cabo por la Unidad Mixta en Infección y Salud Pública de la Universidad de Valencian y la Fundación para el Formento de la Investigación Sanitaria y Biomédica de la Comunidad Valenciana (Fisabio). Etsos equipos han estado liderados por Fernando González Candelas, catedrático de Genética e investigador del Instituto de Biologia Integrativa de Sistemas (I2SysBio) de la Universitat de Valência y del CSIC, y el Servicio de Secuenciación y Bioinformática de Fisabio que coordinan Giusepe d'Auria y Llúcia In addition, when a press release has been published concerning research carried out with these technological infrastructures, ERDF funding has been mentioned, as has been done in the journals of scientists where the findings obtained from the research carried out with the aforementioned equipment have

Digital press

https:

//www.lasprovincias.es/comunitat/primeros-genomas-coronavirus-uv-fisabio-

20200316122849-nt.html

Comunitat Valencia Alicante Castellón L'Horta-Morvedre La Marina La Safe

La Universidad de Valencia y Fisabio obtienen los primeros genomas completos del virus SARS-CoV2 en España



La principal conclusión del análisis de las primeras muestras es que las cepas proceden de rutas de transmisión diferentes

Los grupos formados por personal investigador especialista en virología, epidemiología y bioinformática han determinado que una de las cepas analizadas está relacionada con otras cepas europeas (de Italia, Alemania, Luxemburgo, Francia, Escocia, Países Bajos, etc.).

«El siguiente paso será analizar secuencias de más muestras de pacientes de los hospitales de la Comunitat Valenciana para poder composar las vinculaciones entre ellas y con las cadenas de transmisión establecidas por el personal especialista en epidemiología«, explica Fernando González.

El análisis de genomas virales permite conocer las vías por las cuales ha entrado el virus a esta comunidad y **cómo se transmite en estos momentos**, lo que ayudará a las autoridades sanitarias a controlar mucho mejor la expansión del virus en este territorio, aseveran desde la universidad valenciana.

Además, la secuenciación del genoma del virus «permite conocer las mutaciones que ha sufrido el virus desde que comenzó la epidemia y la conclusión a la que se ha llegado después del nañisis realizado es que, hasta ahora, no se ha encontrado ninguna mutación asociada a una mayor virulencia, letalidad, o a alguna propiedad interesante desde el punto de vista clínico».

Las muestras han sido secuenciadas mediante MinIOn, un secuenciador de tercera generación de Oxford Nanopore Technologies. La infraestructura utilizade an la investigación ha sido posible gracias a la cofinanciación de la Unión Europea a través del Programa Operativo del Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) de la Comunidad Valenciana 2014-2020.

https: //www.abc.es/espana/comunidad-valenciana/abci-coronavirus-investigadoresvalencianos-obtienen-primeros-genomas-virus-sars-cov2-espana-202003161256 noticia.html

Coronavirus: investigadores valencianos obtienen los primeros genomas del virus SARS-CoV2 en España

ienden los diferentes linajes del virus ima hora del coronavirus y el estado de alarma en la Comunidad Valenciana







ABC COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA

 El análisis de genomas virales permite conocer las vías por las cuales ha entrado el virus a nuestra comunidad y cómo se transmite en estos momentos, lo que ayudará a las autoridades sanitarias a controlar nucho mejor la expansión del virus en nuestra comunidad.

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Las secuencias ya están accesibles en la base de datos de la Iniciativa GISAID, consorcio público dodicado al estudio del virus de la gripo; la plataforma Nextstrain, que permite visualizar laprogresión espacial y temporal de la pandemia a partir de los más de 500 genomas depositados desde el pasado diciembre por 40 países; y la base de datos Gonbank de secuencias geneticas del NIH (National Institutes of Health de Estados Unidos).

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<u>Https:</u> //actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/346563-investigadores-secuencian-genoma-coronavirusespana-mutacion



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De esta manera, los grupos formados por personal investigador especialista en virología, epidemiología y bioinformática ha determinado que existen **varias cep**: de este nuevo virus, algo dave para determinar si será suficiente una sola vacuna para erradicarlo.

-ray, uso de tea segue semeración esta relacionada con otras europeas (de titala, Alemanía, Luxemburgo, Francia, Escocia, Holanda (etc.): "El siguiente paso será analizar secuencias de más muestras de pocientes de los hospitales de la Comunida Valenciana para poder comprobar las vinculaciones entre ellas y con las cadenas de transmisión establecidas por personal especialista en epidemiología", ilustra Consiler.

análisis de los genomas virales permite conocer las vías por las que ha entrad rus en esta parte del territorio español y **cómo se transmite actualmente**, lo indispensable para ayudar a las autoridades sanitarias a controlar mejor la invensités del vienes

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Social networks

Twitter https://twitter.com/hashtag/SanidadComValFEDER?src=hashtag_click



https:

//twitter.com/GVAfisabio/status/1269940856506761219/photo/1



La visita continúa con el investigador @fgonzalef y en el servicio @ngs_fisabio junto a @gidauria, @lluciinthesky y @FrancinoPil, equipo que secuenció por primera vez el #genoma del SARS-CoV-2 en España #SanidadComValFEDER



Posters at the entrances to the laboratory informing of the co-financing of the ERDF funds



2. The project incorporates innovative elements

The availability of these high-tech infrastructures gives the Valencian Community enormous possibilities in public health research and its relationship with infectious viral and bacterial diseases, epidemic outbreaks, etc., which have so far not been possible in our territory; studies that are needed to generate advances in health policies and improve current health care benefits.

In this respect, the incorporation of the infrastructures co-financed by the ERDF has meant that **the laboratory** has expanded its portfolio of services, becoming the only laboratory at national level capable of carrying out certain sequencing at an appropriate time ratio. By way of example, if a sequencing machine allowed up to 96 sequences per week, now with the new infrastructures it is possible to achieve 688, that is, about seven times more weekly sequences. It should be noted that the samples have been sequenced through **MinIOn**, a third generation sequencer from **Oxford Nanopore Technologies** that has been acquired with the help of ERDF funds along with other state-of-the-art equipment.

The techniques for the knowledge of the complete genome have **other applications** as evidenced by the genomic epidemiology studies of SARS-CoV-2 in Spain, in which the Sequencing and Bioinformatics Service and the group of Molecular Epidemiology of FISABIO have been precursors and leaders in the sequencing of genomes of the virus, thanks to this same infrastructure. In particular, the sequencing team allowed the implementation of whole genome sequencing bacteria and hepatitis viruses, enteroviruses, influenza and several respiratory viruses.

3. Adequacy of the results achieved with the objectives

Thanks to the contribution of the ERDF funds, the Valencian Community's capacity to respond to epidemic outbreaks has multiplied, as demonstrated by SARS-CoV-2.In fact, most of the positive cases of hospitals in the Valencian Community are being sequenced in the sequencing and bioinformatics service of FISABIO and as a result we are the Autonomous Community that has more epidemiological information about the onset, progress and development of infection in its territory. This will be of great help in the study of outbreaks of the disease and in the study of modifications of the virus against possible vaccines and antiviral treatments. Of the 15,000 samples committed to be sequenced, in which more than 40 hospitals and research centers from all over Spain participate, more than half will be sequenced by FISABIO.In fact, it has so far sequenced **70.25 %** of all samples throughout Spain.

4. Contribution to solving a identified problem or weakness

The emergence of a pandemic such as the SARS-CoV-2 derivative requires a rapid and effective scientific response and more when the number of people affected and deceased is significant. Efforts to know the causative virus, its forms of transmission and the possible mutation associated with greater virulence, lethality, or some clinically interesting property, are indispensable in order to fight the pandemic and prevent new outbreaks.

The research carried out by FISABIO with the new sequencers that have allowed the discovery and analysis of viral genomes will contribute to understanding the ways through which the virus has entered our territory and how it is transmitted, which will help the health authorities to control the spread of the virus much better.

One of the actions that is being carried out based on the existence of these infrastructures in research in epidemiology, is the implementation of a **network of information on** the pathogenic microorganisms identified in the different health centers of the Valencian Community.

5. High level of coverage of the target population

Although, as mentioned above, the infrastructures are located in **the laboratories** managed by the FISABIO foundation, the potential beneficiaries of this strategy are 100 % of the population of the Valencian Community, given that the results of these research are those that will be transferred to epidemiological prevention, rapid response of the health authorities in case of epidemic outbreaks, generation of vaccines more effective, and in general, in everything that is related to the Public Health of Valencia.

Thanks to the ERDF contribution, the FISABIO laboratory has become the only laboratory at national level capable of carrying out certain types of sequencing rapidly, in particular SARS-CoV-2, which is responsible for COVID-19. Obtaining the complete genome sequencing allows us to know the virus, identify it quickly and accurately, study the virulence of mutations, identify the transmission mechanisms within the population and ultimately, the generation of vaccines.

Although FISABIO's laboratories focus the reference centre, within this strategy, and in parallel with the strengthening of research infrastructures in the area, the FISABIO Foundation is carrying out a series of **training activities in the health centers of the Valencian Community** that will allow the analysis of the pathogen to be accelerated in all the geographical areas of our territory, and consequently the response to it, in the event of a rapid outbreak of epidemic that must be combated.

6. Consideration of horizontal criteria of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and environmental sustainability

The project respects the principles of equality, non-discrimination and environmental sustainability, as its results will be aimed at men and women alike throughout the territory of the Valencian Community, and without any impact on the environment.

In particular, the project presented is part of the strategies implemented by the **IV Health Plan of the Valencian Community 2016-2020**, which constitutes areference point and road map for the development of public health policies with the aim of improving the level of health and reducing the level of health inequality of the entire Valencian population, especially the most vulnerable persons such as children, the elderly, women victims of gender-based violence and persons with functional disabilities.

7. Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention.

This project is related to other strategies at the global, national and regional levels.

The One Health Strategy is a global strategy that advocates that human and animal health are interdependent and linked to the ecosystems in which they coexist. As the **World Health Organisation** explains: "Many microbes affect both animals and humans when they live in the same ecosystem. The efforts of only one sector cannot prevent or eliminate the problem."

Based on the national strategy, the project is in line with the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development proposed by the UN, specifically **Goal 3. Health and Well-being**, and within this, the 3. B R & D VACCINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES whose goal is "Support the research and development activities of vaccines and drugs for communicable and non-communicable diseases."

At the regional level, on the one hand, the IV Health Plan of the Valencian Community 2016-2020, in its objective "Decrease the incidence of communicable diseases under surveillance."

Finally, this project is also included in the Intelligent Specialisation Strategy for Research and Innovation in the Valencian Community (RIS3-CV). Measure 13 promotes research into infectious diseases and emerging epidemics at both individual and population levels, as well as the establishment of the necessary infrastructures or the improvement of existing ones for this purpose. It includes research on vaccines against such agents and support for research projects in these areas.



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