Cross4Health

Awarded Projects Interview

Awarded Project	SNIPE
Company name	UP-CODE S.R.L.

1. What is the company's business activity?

Up-Code activity is focused on is the development, the manufacturing and the commercialization of innovative and high technological products and/or services. In particular, its aim is R&D activity and the technological transfer in several sectors, such as nanotechnology, electronic engineering, microelectronic, sensors, applied physics, science of life, biomedical.

2. What is the SNIPE project?

The SNIPE project aims to develop a point-of-care (POC) device prototype for the remote monitoring of patients with liver diseases, through the detection of two different markers in blood: c-reactive protein (CRP) and ammonia. CRP is a marker of inflammation also used as a marker of infection in different settings and hyperammonemia, that is present in the ED (encephalopathy disorder), is mainly caused by liver disease.

3. How did the idea come about?

The idea was born thanks to a collaboration with a medical staff, that believes that the daily monitoring of patients with liver disease could significantly improve their treatment and health status.

4. Who are the core partners of the project?

The partners of SNIPE project are:

-Up-Code, an Italian R&D company specialized in technological transfer in several sectors, that will improve the actual detection system and sensor for the detection of CRP and ammonia in real samples.

-Virtech, is a Bulgarian RTDI company, established as a spin off of the Centre of Information Society Technologies, Sofia University Virtech is a Living Lab hub supporting creativity, open innovation, and user experience design and evaluation. Its role in the project is the development of the remote monitoring system.

5. How did this collaboration between the partners arise?

Up-Code was searching for a company with competences in software development and telemonitoring system, in order to realize the point of care device. Immediately Virtech showed an interest in SNIPE and it was involved in the project.

6. How did you hear about the Cross4Health project?

We were searching some founding for project development in the medical sector, and we found Cross4Health through a web search.

7. What is the current status of the project?

The project started from a TRL5, and actually we have two optical sensors for the detection of the two markers and a detection system for signal acquisition.

8. What are the next steps?

We are improving the sensors for the two markers and we are working on the miniaturization of the detection system. In parallel Virtech is developing the software for data management and remote monitoring system. Our goal is to realize an advanced prototype.

9. How Cross4health can support the development of your project?

Cross4Health can support the project through the financial support of the activities and through the Consortium services it can help the project to find other public funding and to better define the business plan.

10. Would you recommend Cross4Health to other companies?

Yes, Cross4Health is a fruitful acceleration program that can help projects, especially the projects that starts from a high TRL.