



# Fostering excellence in the practice of LSH and FP6 project management

## **SPARK Presentation**

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# Project Fact Sheet

## SPARK is a Specific Support Action (SSA)

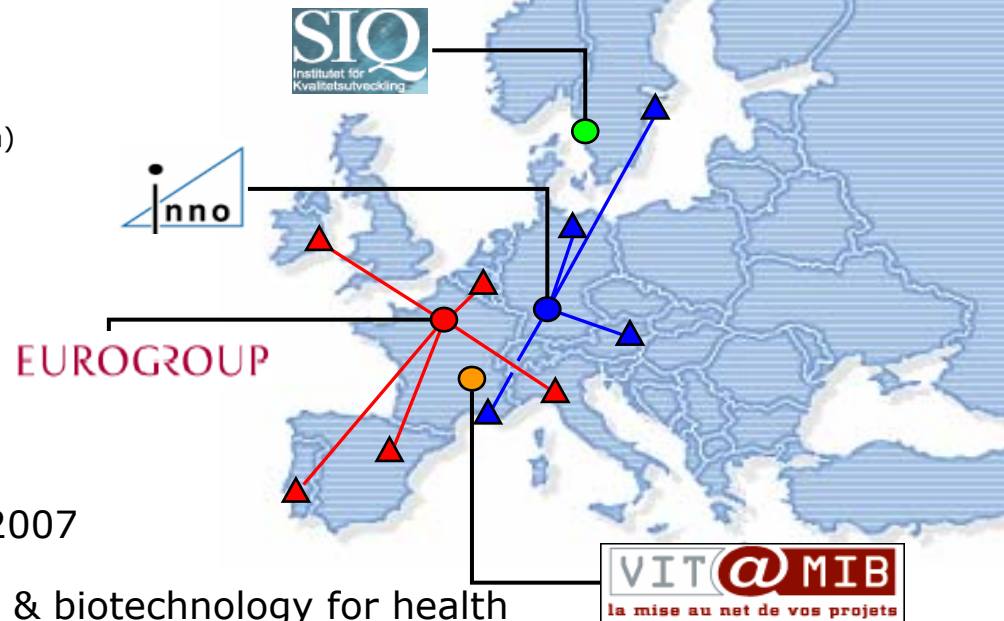
### 4 partners :

- Inno AG (Germany - France - Sweden - Austria)
- EUROGROUP (France - Spain - Italy - UK  
Belgium - Portugal)
- Vitamib (France)
- Swedish Institute for Quality (Sweden)

**Duration :** 30 months, ending in June 2007

**FP6 Priority 1:** Life sciences, genomics & biotechnology for health

**Contract number:** LSSM-CT-2004-512027



### Project Coordinator

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## A pragmatic approach to foster excellence

- ✚ **SPARK objective:** SPARK (**S**trategic **P**roject **M**anagement **R**esource **K**it) aims to foster excellency in the practice of FP6 project management, through the establishment of a reference pool of key management processes, methods and tools based on (LSH) project experiences
- ✚ It is crucial to have excellence in management in R&D projects in order to achieve positive results, and in particular for projects involving SMEs
- ✚ Excellence is given when all the partners involved in a project are satisfied

### What exactly is a tool of excellence used in best practices of research project management?

SPARK believes that these tool are:

- easy learning,
- a human resources tool,
- a visual tool that provides a global vision,
- easy regulation and
- confines

- ✚ However, at present there does not exist any comprehensive tool which allows the certainty that all partners will be satisfied
- ✚ There is no concrete method securing excellence in European research projects
- ✚ Through SPARK, these tools will be identified and made accessible to all European project managers, including SMEs and laboratories



## Why this matter to the LSH community and in particular for SMEs ?

- ✚ **First time** that the **commission** has chosen to **promote** a project which aims to foster **excellency regarding management practices**, with a specific approach for SMEs needs in project management
- ✚ **Improvement** of European research is a EC main target: management issues will gain importance within FP7
- ✚ SPARK = partnership with **LSH community**, in order to **cross-fertilise knowledge** in the **field of management**, specifically among SMEs project managers
- ✚ SPARK will **establish a reference pool of key management processes, methods and tools** based on LSH project experiences, and taking in consideration SMEs specific problematic
- ✚ Dissemination of Best Practices for **LSH project managers** to **optimise their performance**, and in particular for SMEs managers in the field covert by LSH priority
- ✚ Provide the **resources** from those practices which have been proven to be the **most efficient**
- ✚ **Creation of a toolkit** of best management standards for a wide dissemination, a tools which will be particularly adapted to SMEs needs

# SPARK Methodology: the Wheel of Best Management Practices



## + **Project Governance:**

- ▶ The alignment of R&D projects with corporate priorities, Decision making, Partnership, Institutional Management

## + **Portfolio management**

- ▶ Prioritisation, Future and emerging technologies, Vision, Valorisation and exploitation of results, Sustainability

## + **Steering Excellence**

- ▶ Monitoring Project risks, costs, timeliness, and Project Quality

## + **Data management**

- ▶ IPR issues, Knowledge and intellectual management, Document/ Information management (virtual library) Competitive intelligence, Technology watch

## + **Human capital management**

- ▶ Competencies and skills framework, Training, Hiring and retaining people: high potential individual, Talent sharing, Creativity Challenging, charisma

## + **Successful Dissemination**

- ▶ Media, Website, Publication External resources. Establishing highly developed external communication links is a key factor in successful research projects

# Major steps and activities for 2005, and contacts

**Questionnaire:** permanent web survey on project management dedicated to LSH managers to confidentially benchmark their practices

**Contact points:**

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**Face-to-face interviews:** essential to catch the real LSH practices, and select the best tools among those used

**Contact points:**

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**Advisory Board :** in order to fulfil our commitment in quality, we choose to appoint a group of high level people in management or connected to LSH field to give us their opinion about the tools build during the SPARK project

**Contact point:**

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**Workshops and training:** reserve your dates on your diary for a first workshop dedicated to LSH project managers on **June 27th and 28th** in **Paris**. It will allow peer-to-peer exchanges between LSH managers

**Contact point:**

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