

Finnish biobank project receives EU funding

The University of Eastern Finland and Kuopio University Hospital have received funding for the establishment of a joint biobank from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. Other funding partners include the private companies Reagen Oy and Ark Therapeutics.

Kuopio Biobank is expected to start operations in two years time and the total cost of establishing facility is EUR 635,980. According to the University of eastern Finland, the biobank will boost biomedical research opportunities and promote the networking of researchers, research institutes and companies. The target group of the project are particularly the research organisations and biomedical companies working in the North Savo region.

A new law concerning biobanks in Finland is currently going through parliament and is expected to come into effect from the beginning of 2013. If the law is passed, new biobanks will be established in all the university hospital districts around the country, the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), and at the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM).

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