



**Rīga Stradiņš
University**
Latvia



**University of
Ferrara**
Italy



Ulm University
Germany



**Zabludowicz Center
for Autoimmune
Diseases at Sheba
Medical Center**
Israel



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VirA

**Reducing networking gaps between
Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) and
internationally-leading counterparts
in viral infection-induced
autoimmunity research**



The project leading to this application has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 952376

www.vira-twinning.eu



VIRA Description

Research capacity, able to deliver precise and early diagnostic is of high importance to move towards the development of methods for personalised medicine and increased awareness of triggers and mechanisms in autoimmunity, leading to better understanding of chronic diseases and comorbidities and searching for therapy options. VirA project will optimally address the challenges and strengthen the ERA (European Research Area) in autoimmunity.



VIRA Overall aim

To **promote autoimmune disease research capacity** and **fill networking gaps** in the institution (RSU) of the low-performing Member State – Latvia, by establishing a consortium with leading research institutions from Italy – University of Ferrara, Germany – Ulm University, and Israel – Zabludowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases at Sheba Medical Center.



VIRA Objectives

#1

Increase research excellence of the coordinating institution in the field of research as a result of the twinning exercise

#2

Enhance reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of the coordinating institution

#3

Enhance scientific and technological capacity of the linked institutions with a principal focus on the university or research organisation from the Widening Country



VIRA Activities

Raising experience of the staff with short term exchanges

Bringing new knowledge to the institute from expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Conference participation and attendance to help with project dissemination and gathering of new information and global knowledge exchange

Organisation of training workshops and joint summer schools to increase the networking ability of staff and foster knowledge transfer

Potential directions of collaboration

Life sciences

Persistent viral infections

Newly discovered viruses

Bioimmunology

Medical biotechnology

Grant agreement No. 952376

Project realization: 01.12.2020–30.11.2023

Overall budget: 899 992.50 EUR

Funded under: H2020-EU

Field of science: medical and health sciences, basic medicine, immunology, autoimmune diseases