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AIDIT and IMPACT: strengthening research ties in Eastern Europe

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AIDIT (Advancing International Co-operation and Developing Infrastructure for Targeted Screening of Prostate Cancer in Men with Genetic Predisposition) is an international project, funded by the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Community (EC), which aims to facilitate co-operation between European countries in the field of cancer research. AIDIT will focus on linking clinical and research teams in countries new to, or soon to enter, the European Union with the IMPACT Consortium, an international team investigating screening and diagnostic practices for men with a genetic risk of prostate cancer.

Cancer research has been targeted as a high priority for the EC; however, research is most successful when it is centralised and well co-ordinated, avoiding the duplication and fragmentation associated with smaller, isolated studies. AIDIT provides the opportunity for teams who might be new to research in genetics or oncology to become integrated into an existing study. Communication between new and existing collaborators will allow the sharing of knowledge and formulation of strategies to overcome local barriers and challenges.

The AIDIT team will establish and present a website to facilitate communication between project collaborators, and facilitate a conference to bring together international research teams, clinicians and policy makers. The project will also aim to raise awareness of familial prostate cancer among health professionals and the public within Associated Candidate Countries and New Member States of the EU.

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