



## **Project: Advanced Regenerative Therapies Ecosystem**

### **Acronym: ARTE**

### **Priority Axis 1: Promoting innovation capacity to increase the competitiveness of the area**

Specific objective: SC 1.1.

Priority investment PN 1b

Typology: Standard

**Project duration:** 01. 10. 2017 - 31. 12. 2020

### **Project value:**

Total amount: 1.285.29,50€

Contribution European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): 1.092.502,87€

### **Partners:**

1. VIVABIOCELL SPA, Udine, Italy (leading partner)
2. Tehnološki park Ljubljana d. o. o., central Slovenian region
3. Ortopedska bolnišnica Valdoltra, coastal karst region
4. Univerza v Ljubljani, Fakulteta za farmacijo, central Slovenian region (project manager is Prof. Dr. Janja Marc)
5. Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Integrata di Udine, Udine, Italy
6. Biovalley Investments S.p.A., Trieste, Italy

### **Project summary:**

The ARTE project's challenge is to transform the program area into a reference point for the European ecosystem for innovative therapies and regenerative medicine (which, with a global market of € 20 billion and a CAGR growth of 36%, is a priority of the EU Commission), by rendering this innovative territory attractive for investments in smart health, as one of the key S3 sectors. The general goal is to improve the area's competitiveness by increasing cross-border cooperation among Italian and Slovenian subjects: the Research Centres, Hospitals, SMEs, Technology Parks, and Private Investors that currently aren't connected don't collaborate with one another. The expected change will entail the start of collaboration, the sharing of know-how, and the transfer of technology for the development of innovative treatments, including a pilot cell therapy project for Osteoarthritis (a disabling disease affecting over 10% of the adult population in the program area, and 50% of people over 60). The main results jointly achieved include the collaboration among 3 research centres/hospitals, 2 partner companies, and 2 Networks of biomedical companies with over 70 SMEs, and the development of 5 innovative products/services: imaging and cell separation systems, cellular expansion monitoring software, fluidic and micro-fluidic systems, and FAD training modules for professionals, patients, and the biomedical market as a whole. The cross-border approach is necessary to guarantee the complementarity of the subjects operating within the biomedical sector with specific expertise in the program area. The project is highly innovative, as it introduces new personalised and regenerative medicine methodologies with enormous market potential (e.g. the use of stem cells for the regeneration of tissues, instead of surgical intervention), which will lead to improved quality of life for patients thanks to innovative, safe, and effective therapies.