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TOWARDS AN INTER-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP WITH VIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE FINANCING OF SPIN-OFFS

- On the occasion of the Royal Visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the UCLouvain announces that the Université du Luxembourg, the Fonds National de la Recherche and the Luxembourg Institute of Health have signed a letter of interest to establish partnerships in the framework of the launch of the new « VIVES Inter-University Fund »
- This new fund, which ultimately targets a size of around 50 million euros, aims to translate the results of cutting-edge European scientific research into entrepreneurial projects with a high potential and strong societal impact
- VIVES Inter-University Fund will be able to invest from the creation of the spin-offs and up to 5 million euros in a file

By signing this letter of interest, the partners express their intent to i) underscore their cooperation in technology transfer ii) strengthen the financing of spin-offs and iii) accelerate their deployment in a cross-border ecosystem. This project also reflects the international nature of interuniversity research and the willingness to actively participate in the innovation challenge at the regional and European level.

The UCLouvain is at the heart of this initiative, relying on Sopartec, its technology transfer company and the manager of VIVES investment funds. In a few years, VIVES has become a **reference in the set-up of university spin-offs**, by bringing together seasoned entrepreneurs and board members, as well as top investors, resulting in a total amount of €268m cash raise for its portfolio companies. VIVES has notably contributed to one of the largest Series B rounds for a European university spin-off (Iteos Therapeutics : €75M).

New shareholders supporting the **VIVES Inter-University Fund**, will allow to accelerate this translation of science into sustainable societal projects.

"This future fund, close to our researchers, is in line with UCLouvain's vision of a university being part of a European area for research and education," says Prof. Vincent Blondel, Rector of UCLouvain. "This agreement with our Luxembourg partners illustrates our ambition to strengthen our links with our university partners to meet the challenges of innovation to the benefit of citizens".

"The University of Luxembourg is a young university, expanding rapidly and internationally oriented", says Prof. Stéphane Pallage, Rector of Université du Luxembourg. "It wants to be the driving force of

research in Luxembourg. The partnership that we are exploring with VIVES is an opportunity to accelerate the promotion of research within our institution and strengthen our links for cooperation for establishing and financing our spin-offs."

"For this third fund, we have set out to expand our scope through partnerships with our alter ego universities and top-notch European incubators. This cooperation between actors valorising academic research will accelerate the transfer of knowledge and technologies stemming from an significant number of high quality projects", says **Philippe Durieux, CEO of Sopartec.**

"Setting up and financing a spin-off based on research in healthcare is a real challenge. Having VIVES as a financial partner will strengthen our ambition to launch breakthrough spin-offs that fully align with development of translational science at LIH", says **Dr. Ulf Nehrbass, CEO of the Luxembourg Institute of Health.**

"With our new partners, we have the ambition to accelerate the creation of Luxembourg spin-offs," confirms **Dr. Marc Schiltz, Secretary General of the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR).** *"VIVES will be a powerful catalyst to translate scientific discoveries into meaningful projects useful for our citizens".*

*"The project to create the fund with a first closing at € 25m is in its final stage. The new interuniversity as well as its European dimension will enable the financing of advanced technologies, leading to products and services that will accelerate progress and well-being of our society "*concludes **Bruno van Lierde, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sopartec.**

ABOUT VIVES (www.vivesfund.com) & SOPARTEC S.A.

VIVES Louvain Technology Fund (€43M launched in 2011) is an investment fund that has invested mainly in the spin-offs of UCLouvain.

VIVES Inter-University Fund, third fund, is in course of creation for a first closing at € 25M.

VIVES is managed by SOPARTEC, the technology transfer and investment company affiliated to UCLouvain.

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