



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Lyonbiopole, the first French health cluster to receive the Gold label, awarded by the "European Cluster Excellence Initiative" (ECEI)

Lyon, January 19th, 2015 – Lyonbiopole, the health cluster of the Rhône-Alpes region, has just received the European Gold label awarded by the "European Cluster Excellence Initiative" (ECEI). Already certified Bronze in 2012, alongside the 70 French competitiveness clusters, this award allows Lyonbiopole to distinguish by displaying now among the 47 most successful clusters in Europe in 9 countries*.

Supported by the European Commission (DG Enterprise and Industry) since 2010, the ECEI has evaluated European clusters on their level of performance and governance. These assessments, including a two-day on site audit, are carried out by independent experts who submit a report to the European Commission who will appreciate the quality and professionalism of these organizations.



Lyonbiopole has thus been evaluated on 31 indicators relating to internal management criteria, on its activity and on the stimulation of its ecosystem. Here are some examples of the evaluation criteria:

- Management and qualification of the its team;
- Its composition (governance, members, interactions with partners);
- Networking activities (events, workshops, meetings with SMEs...);
- Performance and monitoring of the R&D projects and « success stories »;
- Visibility and renown at national and international levels.

With an excellent score of 89 out of 100, Lyonbiopole has been recognized as quality cluster and is now one of 11 French competitiveness clusters* holders of this label of excellence. By being among the most successful clusters in Europe, Lyonbiopole is aiming at a better recognition from the European Union and internationally.

Florence Agostino-Etchetto, General Director of Lyonbiopole, declares that *"Obtaining the Gold label is a recognition of the work carried out by the cluster team for several years. This award allows us not only to increase the attractiveness of the cluster and its territory from foreign partners (investors, companies, research centers) but also to the European institutions. Thus, the competences of the Rhône-Alpes territory in the health sector are better promoted and especially for SMEs aimed access to European funding such Horizon 2020 "*.

* Among them: 11 French clusters are certified Gold including Minalogic and Plastipolis in Rhône-Alpes; 5 Health clusters in Europe including BioM (Bavaria) and BioRN Network (Bade-Wurtemberg).



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About Lyonbiopole

As a biocluster, Lyonbiopole is the one-stop shop for healthcare innovation in Rhône-Alpes, France. It aims to support the emergence and development of innovative technologies, products and services in 4 main strategic areas: human medicine, veterinary medicine, *in vitro* diagnostics, medical devices and medical technologies. Focused on infectious diseases since its creation in 2005, Lyonbiopole is now supporting ambitious projects and companies in other fields like cancer, nutrition, metabolic diseases and neurosciences. In 2014, Lyonbiopole represented a community of 176 members: 4 world-class leaders as Lyonbiopole's founders (Sanofi Pasteur, bioMérieux, Merial, BD) – 18 Research Centers including 3 Hospital University Centers and almost 154 SMEs.

More information: www.lyonbiopole.com

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