



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

EU-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT

Comparative structural genomics on viral enzymes involved in replication (Vizier)

Time of action: VIZIER started in November 2004 and is scheduled to end in October 2009

EU budget (funding): €13 million

This project aims to have a ground-breaking impact on the identification of potential new drug targets against RNA viruses by characterising their replicative machinery. RNA viruses can cause many life-threatening diseases such as hemorrhagic fevers, gastroenteritis, measles, influenza, dengue fever, encephalitis, and hepatitis.

The project team brings together leading authorities on RNA viruses in the EU and elsewhere. They are characterising the core enzymes/proteins of the replication machinery of a range of different RNA viruses. Understanding the sequence, structure and function of these enzymes is expected to greatly advance our understanding of how RNA viruses replicate.

The first successes have been recorded, with several crystal structures of druggable enzymes, and a number of molecules have been identified that inhibit the replication of a variety of RNA viruses.

Project Coordinator is Bruno Canard