

# Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology

## Implementation of the SONAR-AntiCoronavirus pooled testing strategy

2020-09-23



The main objective of the SONAR-II implementation project is to evaluate the effectiveness of the pooled testing strategy developed at the Nencki Institute (in cooperation with the University of Warsaw), to be used in screening for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The decision to implement the SONAR strategy was announced on September 18th 2020, by the Minister of Science and Higher Education.

The study will cover the asymptomatic population of young people who do not meet the criteria for SARS-CoV-2 testing, according to epidemiological regulations, but who come into contact with people from the high-risk population - patients of hospitals, DPS residents, etc. The survey will be conducted with the participation of students of medical universities throughout Poland.

**The final product of the project** will be to develop a strategy for the implementation of mass SARS-CoV-2 tests as a screening method in Poland. An IT platform will also be developed to manage, store, and analyse the results of pooled tests.

Likewise, the obtained results will allow to build a modern database to prepare the environment for the construction of AI/ML models for on-line forecasting of potential new COVID-19 outbreaks, and dynamic visualization of forecasted changes in the development of the epidemic within Poland. This part of the project will be carried out under the ProMe project, in cooperation with the Digital Science and Technology Centre UKSW. This will allow the development of central and regional algorithms (including the development of "what if" scenarios) and action strategies for central and local authorities based on reliable, actual data.

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**Coordinator for Epidemiological Research:** Prof. Magdalena Rosińska (National Institute of Public Health - National Institute of Hygiene)

**Coordinator for Data Modelling and Analysis:** Prof. Marek Niezgódka (Digital Science and Technology Centre UKSW)

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**Cooperation:** Prof. Marcin Gruchała (Medical University of Gdańsk), Chairman of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Medical Universities in Poland

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