



On January 19th 2012 EuroGentest and TECHGENE organized their second **Joint Scientific Symposium** in Nijmegen, the oldest city of the Netherlands. Location was the beautiful Art Deco concert building 'De Vereeniging'.

Even though Nijmegen is not the easiest place to reach, more than 200 enthusiastic participants found their way to the meeting venue, on this cold and rainy day.

The presentations went from new developments and diagnostic possibilities in Next Generation Sequencing to different aspects on Quality in genetic testing. EuroGentest and TECHGENE partners and members presented their work and recent developments in the field.

Keynote speakers were Ghislaine Cleret de Langavant, Deputy Health Commissioner in Canada who discussed the nationwide prenatal screening program on Trisomy 21 and how the raised ethical issues can have an impact on policy making and Cecile Janssens, Professor of Translational Epidemiology at the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam (the Netherlands) who offered us a critical look at the data behind the risk assessments obtained from some commercial susceptibility tests. A special invitee was Dragica Radojkovic, molecular biologist at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Belgrade (Serbia), who discussed Quality Assurance in eastern European medical laboratories.

The day was concluded with a lively discussion on the possibilities and ethical implications of whole genome sequencing, a discussion which of course continued and will continue for quite some time outside the walls of the conference venue.

We would like to thank the coordinators of the projects, Gert Matthijs and Hans Scheffer, the organizing committees in Leuven and in Nijmegen, the speakers and the participants for their involvement in another successful edition of this Scientific Symposium. We can fairly say this second joint effort of the two 7th Framework programs was again very successful. Even though TECHGENE has come to the end of its project period, EuroGentest will organize another symposium in 2013 and will continue its close collaboration with the partners and experts involved in TECHGENE.

Keep an eye on the EuroGentest website to find out exactly when the next meeting will take place. Make sure you join us in Leuven (Belgium) early next year!