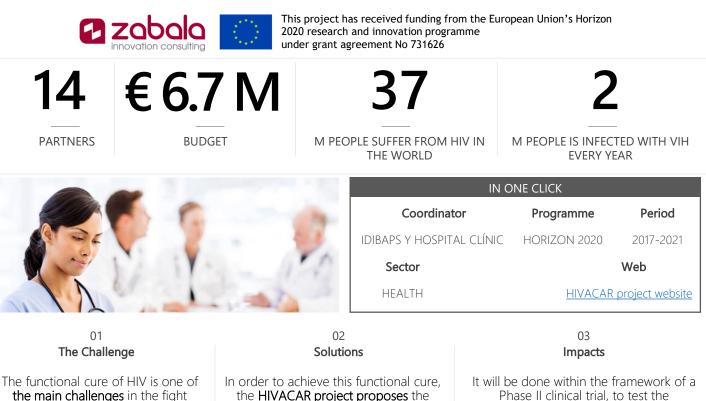


The IDIBAPS and the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona lead a European project aimed at changing the current paradigm of HIV treatment by obtaining a functional cure. Although there are several prevention strategies that are effective, they are difficult to maintain in the long term. Achieving a functional cure would cause patients to become carriers of the virus at undetectable levels, and although prevention measures would still be necessary, the risk of transmission would be minimized. ZABALA participates in the coordination and management of this ambitious initiative.



the functional cure of HIV is one of the main challenges in the fight against it. Achieving a functional cure would cause patients to become carriers of the virus at undetectable levels, and although prevention measures would still be necessary, the risk of transmission would be minimized. In order to achieve this functional cure, the HIVACAR project proposes the administration of a combination of immunotherapy that includes therapeutic vaccines (one of them customized for each patient to avoid the capability of the virus to escape from the vaccine), a potent antibody with the capacity to neutralize the site of binding of the virus with the cells that it infects and a latency reversing agent, that is, a molecule with the ability to unmask the virus.

combination's safety and tolerability. It

will be determined whether this

combination is capable of activating the

immune system mechanisms necessary

to remove infected cells from the latent

viral reservoir. The socioeconomic and psychosocial impact of this treatment

will also be analyzed. The main goal is to control HIV replication over long

periods of time or throughout life

without antiretroviral treatment.