**Supplementary Figure Legends**

**Supp. Figure 1.** Variability trends according to the percentage (a) and absolute count (b) of the lymphocyte subpopulations over the years (2012-2021.

**Supp. Figure 2. Cumulative frequency of % ~~allowable~~ Total Error (~~a~~TE) values of the participating laboratories from the three study periods (a) 2012-2021, (b) 2012-2016, and (c) 2017-2021 in the External Quality Assessment Scheme**. A plot with the % total error (TE) values was drawn for each absolute count lymphocyte subpopulation, comparing those laboratories that use a single (SP) or double platform (DP) for the measurement of the absolute count. The y-axis shows all the laboratories (as percentiles) against % TE values previously calculated in the x-axis: the maximum value of %TE of each laboratory (100% of the results in blue circles) and the best value in P75 of the results (orange circles). The TE value achievable by at least 80% of laboratories is highlighted by a green line; ~~a~~TE value for each parameter is described.