One particular problem associated with miniaturization is that the ratio of the fluid volume retained due to capillary forces and adhesion on surfaces, on the one hand and, on the other hand, the total volume of the fluid utilized for one method step is particularly high. In other words, so much fluid adheres to the surfaces that the fluid cannot be efficiently removed by being poured off or by pipetting after a method step.

A relatively large volume of the fluid remains, which adversely affects the subsequent method step. For example, a remaining wash solution dilutes a reagent that has been introduced for a subsequent reaction and thereby reduces the yield or sensitivity of the subsequent reaction.

US 2014/248618 describes an arrangement for a microfluidic flow cell which, however, is not pivotable and is also not an incubation tray, but rather a closed system. The same applies for the microscopy device described in US 6 673 620.

One problem addressed by embodiments of the present invention is therefore that of providing a method, by means of which samples to be pathologically or laboratory diagnostically analyzed can be analyzed using the smallest possible amount of reagents and sample. In particular, the problem is that of increasing the concentration of the reagents while using a given absolute quantity.

Short reaction times and a high quality of the stainings, in particular due to a continuous convection of the liquid phase, may also be ensured. Time-consuming and error-prone manual steps during the staining may be largely avoided.

Yet another problem addressed by embodiments of the present invention is that of reducing the space required, the loss of fluid, and/or the duration of the conversion or of the entire assay as compared to the methods described in the prior art. At the same time, the reproduciblity may be maintained or increased.

Yet another problem is that of providing a method which may minimize the risk of mistakes and an associated waste of reagents and damage to the sample.

This and further problems are solved by the subject matter according to embodiments of the present application and, in particular, by the subject matter of the attached independent claims, wherein embodiments result from the dependent claims.

The problem addressed by the invention is solved, in a first aspect, by an incubation tray having a depression formed by the walls of the incubation tray, and comprising a base, wherein the incubation tray comprises a means for drawing off liquid at at least one longitudinal end of the depression, preferably an opening which opens into an outlet channel on the longitudinal end of the depression, particularly preferably in a wall of the incubation tray, wherein the opening and the outlet channel are designed in such a way that negative pressure can be applied, wherein the incubation tray is pivotable about the transverse axis of the incubation tray, and wherein the incubation tray can be equipped with a carrier.
In one preferred embodiment of the first aspect, negative pressure is applied via the outlet channel.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the suction means enables the fluid on the base to be drawn off and is