

BBMRI.be

Biobanking and
BioMolecular resources
Research Infrastructure
Belgium

ISSUE 6

On behalf of BBMRI.be, we wish you all a very Happy New Year and a sparkling start of 2021! In this newsletter we look back at the successes of the past year and glance towards new opportunities in this upcoming year.

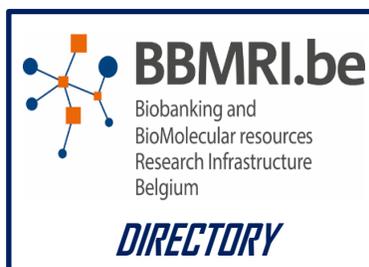
Happy New Year 2021

BBMRI.BE DIRECTORY

We are happy to announce the release of our national version of the BBMRI-ERIC Directory: [the BBMRI.be Directory](#)

From now on, the BBMRI.be biobanks can continuously update their data in the national platform that is daily synchronized with the Directory of BBMRI-ERIC. This guarantees a more up to date reflection of the available samples and data in our biobanks.

Currently, 14 biobanks with 27 collections are included in the BBMRI.be Directory. When new biobanks join BBMRI.be, they will be included in the Directory as well.



The BBMRI.be biobanks host a variety of collections ranging from oncological collections, several other disease specific collections (COVID-19, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, hepatitis, ...) and some population cohorts. Have a look at our available samples and data with the following links:

<https://directory.bbmri.be/>
<https://directory.bbmri-eric.eu/>

News

January 2021

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 21st, 22nd, 25th 2021
[INTERNATIONAL IT SYMPOSIUM ON BIOBANK MANAGEMENT & FEDERATED SEARCH](#)

March 8-10 2021, [2ND IBCO INTERNATIONAL BIOBANKING CONFERENCE 2021](#)

May 31st 2021, [ANNUAL BBMRI.be MEETING](#)

BAREC infosession



In order to harmonize the process related to the biannual evaluation of biobanks as required in the Belgian Royal Decree on the biobanks dd. Jan. 09, 2018, The Belgian Association of Research Ethics Committees (BAREC) has developed [a submission form](#) and [a biannual evaluation form](#). These documents serve as a guideline to the Biobank Manager and as an evaluation checklist to the Ethical Committees. This document was developed by Biobank Working Group of BAREC, with revisions and input from The Belgian Ethical Committees, the compendium working group of the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) and the ELSI Working group of BBMRI.be.

In order to give some more insights in the biannual evaluation of the biobanks and the biannual evaluation form, BAREC and BBMRI.be co-organized an info session for members of BBMRI.be and BAREC on October 30th 2020. The meeting started with some general background on the implication of the new Belgian biobank for biobanks and ethical committees followed by a presentation and an interesting discussion of the forms developed. [Both presentations can be found here](#). We look forward to continue this successful collaboration with the members of BAREC in the upcoming years!

KPI's for BBMRI.be

In order to show the added value of BBMRI.be, we have defined Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for BBMRI.be that will be collected from 2021 onwards. The KPI's have been defined in analogy with the Working Groups of BBMRI.be (IT, Quality, ELSI, Stakeholder Involvement and Networking & Organization). For each of these working groups at least one metric KPI's and one specific milestone achievement per year have been defined. Next to the KPI's on the working group levels, some KPI's on the national (BBMRI.be) level were identified to showcase the results obtained by BBMRI.be as an organization. The full document with the KPI's that will be collected in 2021 can be found [here](#).



Newsletter BVT



THE BELGIAN VIRTUAL
TUMOUR BANK

Newsletter / December 2020

In December 2020, the Belgian Virtual Tumorbank (BVT) published their yearly newsletter. In this newsletter, they focus on the available metastasis samples in the BVT catalogue. Have a look [here](#) to find out more about the available samples and how to get access to the data and samples.

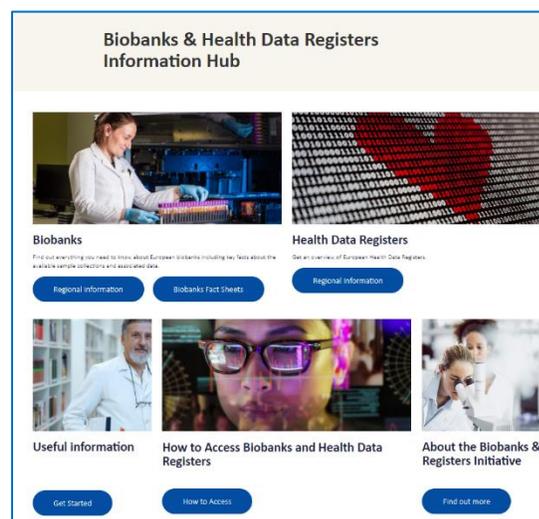
EIT Health RABBIT



BBMRI.be has recently joined the EIT Health RABBIT ([Registries and Biobanks in Transition](#)) project. The aim of this project is to facilitate access to registers and biobank and to increase the use of samples /data from biobanks and registries in public-private innovation projects. After kicking-off the project in Scandinavia, it is now being extended to Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

This project is performed in collaboration with BBMRI-ERIC to assure that the activities in the RABBIT project would not be a duplication of the BBMRI-ERIC activities. The idea of the collaboration between BBMRI-ERIC and EIT-Health in this project is to advertise broadly to make sure that the partners of EIT Health (mainly pharma, academic institutes and small start-ups) that are not aware of the existence of our biobanks will have a chance to find out what our biobanks can offer.

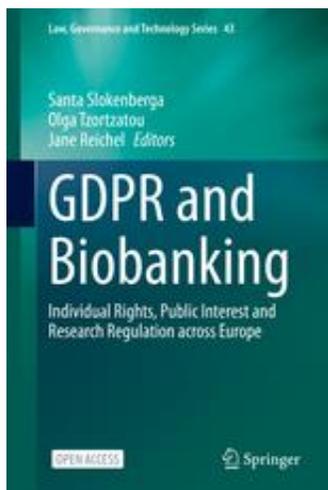
In the [Biobanks & Health Data Information Hub](#), developed within this project, general information about the biobanks in the participating countries can be found. For BBMRI.be biobanks that completed their biobank specific information, a detailed [profile page](#) can be found with information about the collection, access procedures, services of the biobanks, ... in order to facilitate the setup of public-private projects.



Is your biobank not yet mentioned, [contact us](#) to get all necessary information to be included on this platform.

GDPR and BIOBANKING

We are happy to announce the publication of the open access book "GDPR and biobanking"!



This book is the result of a collaborative effort of many ELSI experts from the BBMRI-ERIC community and is an absolute must for everyone with interest in GDPR and biobanking. The book covers general aspects of the GDPR, the implications of this regulation for biobanking, an up-to-date overview of the national biobank regulatory frameworks in 12 European countries and a glance on the future role of these regulations. Thanks to BBMRI-ERIC, this book is open access and therefore available for the whole biobank community.

Several ELSI experts of the BBMRI.be National Node have contributed to this book on the chapter "An Overview of Belgian Legislation Applicable to Biobank Research and Its Interplay with Data Protection Rules".

An Overview of Belgian Legislation Applicable to Biobank Research and Its Interplay with Data Protection Rules

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The publication can be downloaded for free [with this link](#) !

FLASH NEWS

Day of Science

On Sunday November 22nd, the Day of Science was organized in Flanders. Due to the corona-pandemic, this was organized as a virtual event for the first time. For this event, the biobank of the Health, Innovation and Research Institute of UZ Gent, prepared a video explaining the travel from a blood sample to the biobank to the general public by giving a back-stage virtual tour in de biobank.

The video can be found [here](#).

Europe Biobank Week



The digital version of the Europe Biobank Week, organized from 17-20 November in a virtual format for the first time, was a great success! More than 600 attendants from around the globe participated in this event. From Belgium, 28 participants registered for the meeting.

Registered participants can continue to watch all sessions until 3 months after the event through the [Europe Biobank Week online platform](#).

Survey for researchers!

The BBMRI-ERIC CS IT is launching a brand-new user survey! One of BBMRI-ERIC's main users are the researchers who use human samples. But what is it you look for in a Biobank? And how can we help you? What barriers are you facing? Help us get to know you better and improve our services!

[Read more, and take the survey here.](#)

Self assessment surveys updated!

The Quality team of BBMRI-ERIC has updated six surveys from CEN Technical Specifications to new versions that are based on the respective newly published ISO standards (ISO 20166-1, 2, 3 and ISO 20186-1, 2, 3). Request now access to the SAS and find out if your samples fulfill all the quality requirements of the newest standards!

You can find the [link to the SAS here!](#)

Negotiator 2.0

The BBMRI-ERIC Negotiator is a service that provides an efficient communication platform for biobankers and researchers requesting samples and/or data. The new version of the Negotiator (Negotiator 2.0) allows researchers and biobankers to track the status of the requests. [Find here more information for: biobankers and researchers.](#)

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