BBMRI.be
Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure Belgium

High quality BioBanking in Belgium: the road towards ISO 20387 accreditation (B3-ISO)

De Wilde Annemieke (1), Annelies Debucquoy (1), Johan Guns (2), Ahmad Merhi (3), Loes Linsen (4), Pieter Moons (5), Elke Van Rossen (6), Manon Huizing (5), Katia Emmerechts (1), Elke Smits (5)

BBMRI.be - Belgian Cancer Registry (1), Central Biobank, UZBrussel (2), IPG BioBank and Laboratory of Translational Oncology, Institut de Pathologie et de Génétique (3), UZ/KU Leuven Biobank, University Hospitals Leuven (4), Biobank Antwerp, Antwerp University Hospital, University of Antwerp (5), BELAC, Federal Public Service Economy, SME, Self-employed and Energy (6)

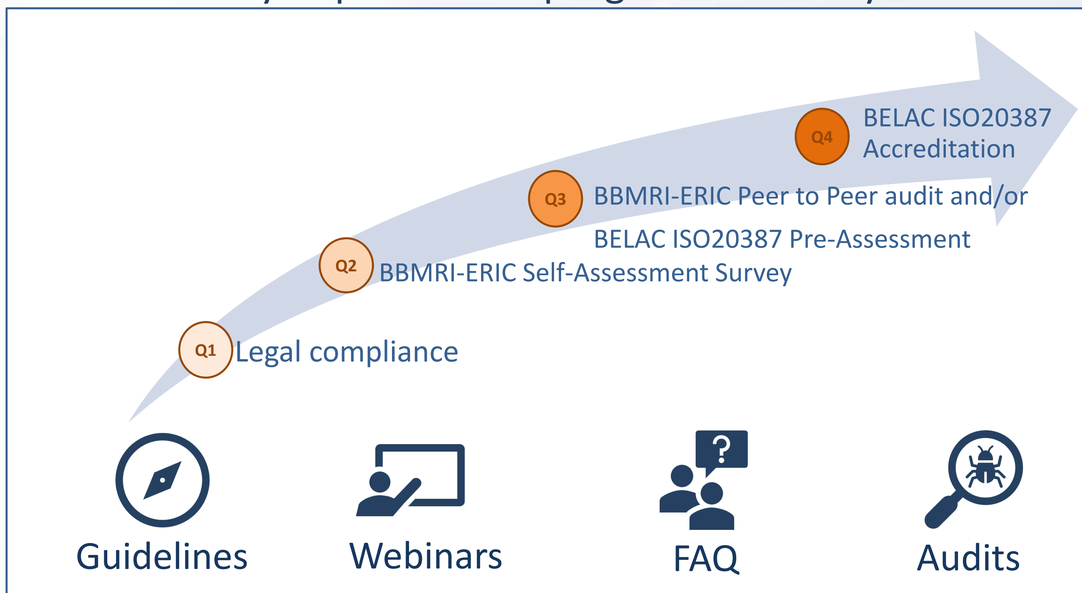
BBMRI.be: the Belgian biobank network

The European infrastructure for biobanking BBMRI-ERIC is reflected in the National Node BBMRI.be, established in 2013 at the Belgian Cancer Registry and connects 20 Belgian biobanks. Many of these biobanks arose from existing sample collections, sometimes with limited quality management systems (QMS).

The biobank standard (ISO 20387), which was recently published and will be included in the portfolio of the Belgian accreditation organization BELAC, will allow biobanks to formalize their competences and because of its international recognition will allow the Belgian biobanks to demonstrate their readiness to support (inter)national translational research .

B3-ISO project plan

I. Quality improvement program: 4 Quality levels



- BBMRI.be develops a stepwise quality improvement program that can be implemented at the individual biobanks.
- In cooperation with the participating biobanks (n=15) , BBMRI.be coordinates the development of guidelines (templates and SOPs/policies), the organization of webinars, and the development of an interactive FAQ tool.
- A step-wise auditing program is being established, ultimately leading to ISO20387 accreditation.

II. Harmonization and integration program

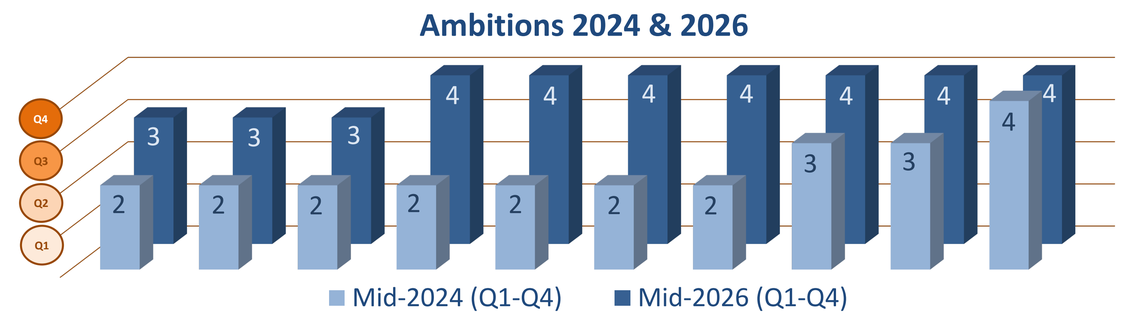
Datasets | Consent | Sample & data exchange | Cost structure

Templates are being harmonized and integrated in the domains of IT, ELSI and sustainability.

B3-ISO project milestones 2024

Feedback results

- One on one focus discussions (n=10, Oct –Dec 2023) evaluated the project as being helpful.
- All biobanks aim to receive a BBMRI-ERIC peer-to-peer audit or ISO20387 accreditation audit by June 2026.



Current status & timelines

	ISO20387 implementation workbook for Belgian biobanks Policy & SOP guidance for 11 topics required by Belgian law
	Webinars (4) & in-person workshops (2)
	FAQ: under development in BBMRI.be WG (IT, Q, ELSI, Sustainability, Stakeholder Involvement)
	BBMRI-ERIC peer to peer audits & BELAC ISO20387 audits available upon request
	Minimal Data Set is under discussion in BBMRI.IT WG
	Modular Consent draft will be reviewed by Stakeholder Involvement WG
	DTA & MTA under development in BBMRI.be ELSI WG
	Cost Structure: feedback from biobanks (Come & hear all about it in Session 22 Green Biobanking & Sustainability, Talk 89)

The setup of this program and the implementation of the ISO 20387 standard will substantially contribute to (inter)national translational research and foster collaborations between industry and academia in the biomedical sector.

B3-ISO@kankerregister.org
www.bbmri.be

The B3-ISO project is financed by BELSPO in the framework of the ESFRI-FED call