

BBMRI-ERIC

Biobanking and
BioMolecular Resources
Research Infrastructure

CALL FOR TENDER

BBMRI-ERIC COMMON SERVICE ELSI

Publication date: 30 April 2014

Deadline extension: 5 June 2014

Main Objective of this Call

The main objective of this call for tender is **to propose an ELSI Common Service** that provides expertise, services and tools relevant to the pursuance of BBMRI-ERIC's tasks and activities.

Short Description of BBMRI-ERIC

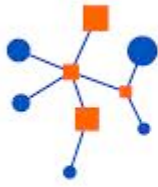
The pan-European Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure is a distributed bio-medical and life science infrastructure for sustainable storage and dissemination of banked samples and associated data in Europe. On 3 December 2013, BBMRI was officially awarded the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). This specific legal form is designed to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research infrastructures of European interest. BBMRI-ERIC will provide access to the collections of partner biobanks and biomolecular resources, their expertise and services on a non-economic basis.

Further information on the aims, mission, governance, and statutes of BBMRI-ERIC can be found at www.bbmri-eric.eu.

General Description of BBMRI-ERIC Common Services

BBMRI-ERIC Common Services form a key element for the infrastructure as they provide the biobanking community and biobank users with expertise, services and tools specific to biobanking.

In the Statutes of the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium (BBMRI-ERIC), as published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 30 November 2013 (L320/63-80) under Article 15 on the Common Services, it is specified that:



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1. *Common Services shall consist of the facilities of BBMRI-ERIC that provide expertise, services and tools relevant for the pursuance of BBMRI-ERIC's tasks and activities, laid down in the Work Programme.*
2. *Common Services shall be established under BBMRI-ERIC and under the responsibility of the Director-General.*
3. *Common Services shall be hosted in countries that are BBMRI-ERIC Members. The selection procedure for hosting Common Services shall follow the principles set out in Annex IV.*
4. *Each of the Common Services shall be managed by a director, appointed by the Director-General after consultation with the national delegates of the hosting Member State.*

General Description on the Selection Procedure of BBMRI-ERIC Common Services

The selection procedure for hosting Common Services is specified in ANNEX IV of the BBMRI-ERIC Statutes as follows:

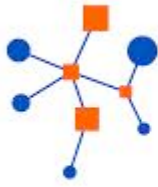
The following selection procedure shall be applied to all Common Services where the benefits accrue to the entire scientific community and which are remunerated by the BBMRI-ERIC:

1. *The hosts of Common Services shall be selected by an open call procedure. A description of the service to be selected shall be prepared by the Director-General and approved by the Assembly of Members. This will be made publicly available when the open call for a Common Service is launched. Only applicants from BBMRI-ERIC Members are eligible to answer the call.*
2. *The Assembly of Members shall define the composition of an ad hoc committee to evaluate the applications as well as a set of objective and non-discriminatory evaluation criteria that the ad hoc committee shall apply.*
3. *The Assembly of Members shall decide on the selection of a Common Service based on results of the ad hoc committee and after positive recommendation by the Finance Committee.*

General Requirements

Acknowledging the importance of ethical issues, as well the legal and cultural differences across countries, the ELSI Common Service shall:

- provide solid monitoring of ELSI issues related to biobanks and biobanking based on state of the art and deep knowledge of relevant ethical and legal frameworks in application;
- follow up relevant evolution in legislations/regulations at the European level and organize coordinated answers to relevant public consultations and other possible



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intervention to address joint matters for the biobanking community on the European level;

- build conclusions and advise on a sound scientific/academic basis and experience in ethical reviews of European/international projects;
- provide updated background information and practical guidance to biobankers to respond to ELSI issues, especially in relation to the exchange of human samples and data for research use in Europe ('help-desk'-format);
- ensure the dissemination of results of relevant surveys and studies toward the various audiences;
- organize tools and services to address ELSI issues related to biobanks and biobanking by building on already available tools and generating new ones if necessary;
- organize experience sharing and exchanges regarding ELSI aspects between BBMRI-ERIC members;
- set up training and education on ELSI issues related to biobanks and biobanking;
- provide an ethics check of compliance for research proposals submitted to BBMRI-ERIC in compliance with the BBMRI Business Plan and Statutes and with the European Commission research ethics framework.

Tenderers shall take into consideration that the ELSI Common Service:

- has a designated national ELSI representative in each National Node,
- is free of charge to be used by Members and Observers,
- is chargeable to Non-Members, and
- can provide ideas for financial sustainability.

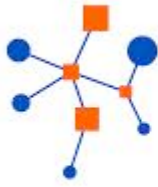
Overall, the tender has to be in compliance with the Statutes of BBMRI-ERIC. The Statutes reflect the Commission implementing decision on setting up BBMRI-ERIC and its Member States.

Application Procedure

Participation in the tendering procedure is open on equal terms to all applicants coming from BBMRI-ERIC Member States. A single joint application, building on the existing ELSI expertise in Europe and a consortia reflecting the whole of Europe is favoured.

The tender shall follow the structure of the Work Programme 2014 using the format for Work Streams (with Background, Mission, Goals and Deliverables, Priority, Time Plan, Project Group, Resources).

Financial contribution of the hosting countries needs to be guaranteed for a minimum of 3 years. Applications should not exceed 7 pages (excluding CVs and supporting material).



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As a minimum requirement, however, the tender has to include:

- (a) an administrative part including all information on the consortium,
- (b) a technical part specifying how expertise, services and tools are provided in compliance with the general requirements of this call, and
- (c) a financial part including documentation of the support of the host Member State where the Common Service shall be located.

Background Documents:

- BBMRI-ERIC Statutes
- BBMRI-ERIC Business Plan
- Minutes of the International Meeting on ELSI in BBMRI-ERIC. Expectations and Proposals from National Nodes, 4 March 2014 in Toulouse/France

Only tenders in compliance with the BBMRI-ERIC Statutes can be taken into consideration.

The **deadline to submit tenders** via email to the Director General of BBMRI-ERIC Prof. Jant Eric Litton (jant.eric.litton@bbmri-eric.eu) is **EXTENDED TO 28 July 2014 (17:00 CET)**.