



## STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

BETWEEN

ELIXIR

AND

BBMRI-ERIC

### Preamble

BBMRI – ERIC is the European Research Infrastructure for Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources in Health and Life Sciences, legally established under EU law as ERIC, funded by 24 member and observer countries and an international organisation, with Headquarters in Graz, Austria. BBMRI-ERIC is represented by its Director General Prof. Jens K. Habermann (hereinafter “BBMRI-ERIC”).

ELIXIR is an intergovernmental organisation that brings together life science resources from across its 23 Member States and one Observer country. Legally established as an international organisation, with Headquarters in Hinxton, UK. ELIXIR Europe is represented by its Director, Dr Niklas Blomberg (hereinafter “ELIXIR”).

Hereinafter jointly referred to as “The Partners”

*Outline the following:*

- *Considering the importance of European collaboration in the area of life sciences, bridging the link between fundamental and health-focused research;*
- *Recognizing the need to leverage efforts and complement expertise in the areas that are of particular strength for both infrastructures, and for the benefit of the European investments in research;*
- *Noting an overlapping membership of 15 European countries in both infrastructures, and thus aiming to better alignment on national level;*
- *Aiming to set up a long-term strategic and structured collaboration between both infrastructures;*

*And have thus agreed as follows:*

### Principles



This Statement aims to stimulate mutually beneficial exchanges between BBMRI-ERIC and ELIXIR for the benefit of advancing life science research in Europe, whereby bioinformatics and biobanking represent an indispensable source of knowledge towards solutions in personalised medicine.

### **Scope of collaboration**

The Partners identify the following joint interests:

- Knowledge sharing and exchanges: Leadership of both infrastructures is committed to exchanging knowledge on topics of research infrastructure operation, approach to European funding, public and external affairs and other overarching issues.
- Strategic communication on a national level: The Partners will work towards providing clarity to their individual National Nodes in Member States, that are members of both infrastructures, with the aim to align and identify joint priority areas also on the national level.
- The European Union's research framework: The Partners will seek to identify areas for collaboration on mutually beneficial European Commission projects, to support synergies and scientific collaboration in Europe.
- Human data and the European Genomics Data Infrastructure (GDI) project: The Partners will align around the interface of biobanks into GDI overall and work together to enable access to large collections of personal genomes to advance European research and health care.
- Life Science AAI: The Partners agree on the need to integrate the AAI services into an existing legal entity and will link these efforts to their own individual services for operational planning.
- ELSI: As ELIXIR is starting to develop its knowhow in ELSI, BBMRI-ERIC will provide its experience for recruitment and operation. Areas for specific cooperation will be identified.
- Research data management: Each Partners' services will mutually align on standards pertaining to human genomics, biomolecular data and other relevant international standards, with the aim of making data accessible for the benefit of scientific research.
- Training: Joint training activities will be pursued when needed.

### **Financial Responsibilities**

For cooperation EU funding will continue to be sought. Without external funding, each Partner will, in principle, bear the costs of participation of their representatives from their own resources, unless specified otherwise.



### **Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality**

Should any intellectual property arise from any of the collaboration activities, this will be dealt with in a separate agreement.

The Partners shall treat as confidential any information that is labelled as such during the collaboration activities.

### **Promotional Material and Use of Logos**


The use of a name or logo of either Partner in external activities requires a prior consent of that Partner.

### **General terms**


In the event that questions arise concerning the interpretation of this Statement, the Partners shall consult with each other and find a mutually acceptable solution.

Each Partner may suggest at any time written modifications to the present Statement.

The Statement shall enter into force when both Partners have signed it and shall remain valid for a period of five years, though it can be ended by Partners earlier and may be superseded if desired.



**Signed for BBMRI-ERIC: Prof. Jens K. Habermann**  
**Date:** March 24th, 2023



**Signed for ELIXIR: Dr Niklas Blomberg**  
**Date:** March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023