

# BBMRI.be

Biobanking and  
BioMolecular resources  
Research Infrastructure  
Belgium

ISSUE 1

## News

January 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

### The first BBMRI.be newsletter!

Welcome to the first BBMRI.be newsletter! From now onwards, we will inform you three times a year on the ongoing biobanking activities in Belgium and abroad.

#### BBMRI.be background

The participation of Belgium in BBMRI-ERIC involves the three Belgian network biobank initiatives i.e. [Belgian Virtual Tumourbank](#) project assigned to the Belgian Cancer Registry, [Biothèque de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles](#), and the [Flemish Biobank Network](#). Together, this network connects 13 biobanks that are linked to public institutions such as hospitals, universities and research centers. All these biobanks and networks are included in the [Directory of BBMRI-ERIC](#).

The scientific participation of Belgium in BBMRI-ERIC is exerted by a national node, hosted at the Belgian Cancer Registry, which collaborates closely with the central executive management office of BBMRI-ERIC. The Board of Directors of BBMRI.be, with representatives of the 3 partners involved and chaired by the President of BBMRI.be (Prof. S. Bekaert) is responsible for the development and implementation of the strategic vision of BBMRI.be. The scientific and administrative management of the National Node of BBMRI.be is coordinated by the National Node Director (A. Debucquoy).



#### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual BBMRI.be meeting

We look back at our first annual BBMRI.be meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> in Brussels.

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<b>IT &amp; Minimal Datasets</b> Directory National IT platform (SI) Collaboration with other EU projects Chair: Katta Emmerechts Co-chair: Joachim Geeraert	<b>Quality and Procedures</b> - Quality control - Guidelines - Quality of data Chair: Nadine Ectors Co-chair: Etienne Marbaix	<b>Ethical- Legal</b> - GDPR Belgian Biobank Law EU IVDR Informed Consent Chair: M. Remmalnik Co-chair: S. Salmen & I. Huys
<b>Stakeholder Involvement</b> Meetings with stakeholders Priority setting (KBS) Communication Chair: Laurent Dohé Co-chair: Sofie Bekaert	<b>Networking &amp; partnerships</b> Integration of new partners - Biobank meetings Chair: Annelies Debucquoy Co-chair: Sofie Bekaert	

#### Action Plan 2018-2020

We give you a brief overview of the action plan 2018-2020 of BBMRI.be

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Biobanks of BBMRI.be

#### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on BBMRI.be, have a look at our [website](#) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

# Annual BBMRI.be meeting

On September 21<sup>st</sup> 2017, the first annual meeting of BBMRI.be was organized. Thirty-five members of the BBMRI.be community participated in our first meeting.

After an introduction by the President of BBMRI.be (Sofie Bekaert), the meeting was kicked off with a keynote lecture about the General Data Protection Regulation by Nour de San and Michiel Verlinden.

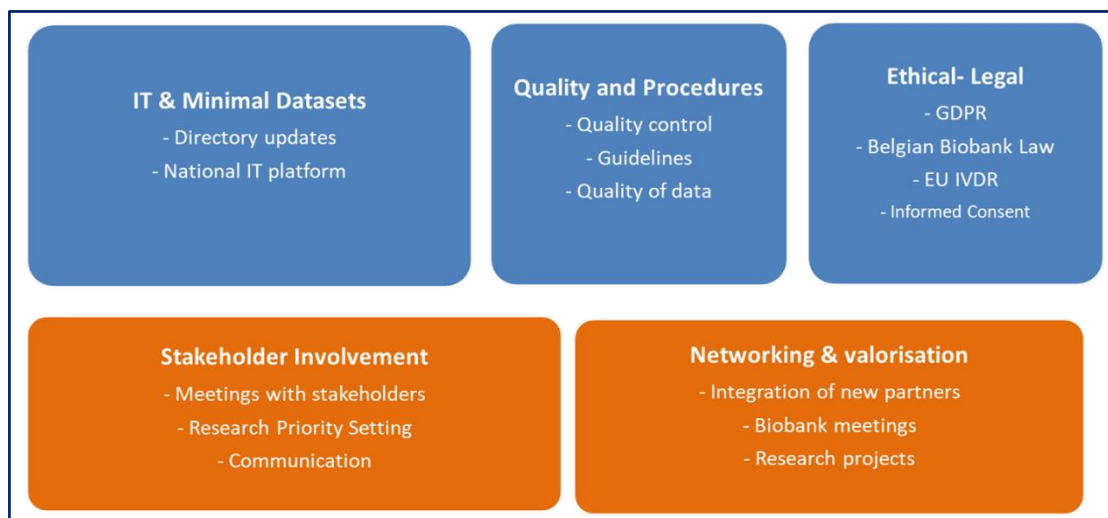
The keynote lecture was followed by an update of the BBMRI activities at the European and Belgian level by the National Node Director of BBMRI.be (Annelies Debucquoy).



Afterwards, the chairs of the five Working Groups of BBMRI.be (IT, Quality, ELSI, Stakeholder Involvement, Networking and Valorization) presented their Action Plan for 2018-2020.

After the coffee break, the Action Plan was discussed more in detail in different break-out sessions which focused on the ELSI, Quality and IT group.

## Action Plan BBMRI.be



In 2017, A SWOT analyses of BBMRI.be was performed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for BBMRI.be.

Moreover, all BBMRI.be biobanks were visited by the National Node Director to discuss the needs and expectations of the biobanks.

The SWOT analyses and feedback received from the BBMRI.be biobanks showed that next to the already existing Working Groups on IT, ELSI and Quality, there was also a need for Working Groups focusing on Stakeholder Involvement and Networking and Valorization. The main topics of the Working Groups proposed in the action plan are based

on the SWOT analyses and the feedback received during the biobank tour (see figure). Based on these bullet points, the (co)-chairs of the different Working Groups worked out an action plan for 2018-2020.

More specific news on the different working groups will follow in our next newsletters!

## HOT NEWS

### EUROPE BIOBANK WEEK 2018



From 4-7th September 2018, the Europe Biobank Week will be organized in Antwerp! The theme of the conference will be: **"Biosharing for Scientific Discovery"**

We hope to welcome you all in Antwerp!

Registrations open on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Keep an eye on the website for more information: <http://europebiobankweek.eu/>

### SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEYS BBMRI-ERIC



More than 100 quality experts of the BBMRI-ERIC community, developed a self-assessment tool based on the requirements of the European Committee for Standardization Technical Specifications (CEN/TS). As a result, biobankers and researchers based in BBMRI-ERIC countries can now request the [BBMRI-ERIC Self-Assessment Surveys](#) and submit them after completion. When a biobank/sample

collection meets the quality criteria according to CEN/TS, it will be flagged in the [BBMRI-ERIC Directory](#) – an online catalogue of biobanks allowing users to search samples and data. This will increase the visibility of the high-quality collections that are available in the biobanks.

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

The EU General Data Protection Regulation comes into force on 25 May 2018. Given that legal texts are not always easily accessible, a Code of Conduct for Health Research is being developed by BBMRI-ERIC. More information can be found on the [Code of Conduct for Health Research website](#). The [FAQ section](#) aims to answer your most burning questions (why a code of conduct, how to get involved, what has happened so far, etc.).



### RITRAIN NEWS

Several staff exchange opportunities and surveys are available at the [Ritrain website](#). Have a look for interesting opportunities in the area of biobank management!



**Ritrain**  
Driving Leadership for  
Research Infrastructures

[Staff exchanges](#)

[Surveys](#)

### MEETINGS OF INTEREST

[ETHICAL REVIEW FOR BIOBANK-BASED RESEARCH PROJECTS: TOWARDS RISK-BASED ETHICAL REVIEW](#)

February 20, 2018 - Paris

[ISBER EUROPEAN BIOSPECIMEN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM](#)

February 27-27<sup>th</sup> 2018 - Luxembourg

[BELGIAN BIOBANK DAY](#)

March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 – Gent

[EUROPE BIOBANK WEEK](#)

September 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup> 2017, Antwerp

## BBMRI.be

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