BBMRI-ERIC: Cross-Border Procurement

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www.bbmri-eric.eu
What is BBMRI-ERIC

- European Research Infrastructure Consortium to facilitate access to high-quality biobanks and biomolecular resources
  - legal entity on European level,
  - est. 3 December 2013,
  - headquarters moved in into the offices in Graz, AT, in May 2014.

BBMRI-ERIC shall establish, operate, and develop a pan-European distributed research infrastructure of Biobank and Biomolecular Resources in order to facilitate the access to resources as well as facilities and to support high-quality biomolecular and medical research. BBMRI-ERIC shall implement its Work Programme as adopted by the Assembly of Members.
Why is That Important?

– ERIC enjoys certain advantages:

“Being considered as an international organisation within the meaning of the directive on public procurement (Directive 2004/18/EC and Directive 2014/24/EC), an ERIC may adopt its own procurement rules based on transparency, non-discrimination and competition. An ERIC must be recognised by the host Member State as an international body within the meaning of directive 2006/112/EC on VAT and as an international organisation within the meaning of Directive 2008/118/EC on excise duty. …

Exemptions may apply to goods or services acquired by the ERIC for the official use of the ERIC. Definition of the scope, limits and conditions of the exemption may be part of the statutes or contained in a separate agreement among the members or with the host State.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=eric2"
Why is That Important?

- We are still young and this tool has not been used in practice yet.
- We are one of the very first ERICs and thus we have to pioneer a lot of things ourselves.
- There is an administrative problem to deal with:
  - how to link together the BBMRI-ERIC and the national nodes?
    - Members are countries, not national nodes,
    - national nodes get appointed by the countries,
    - according to some legal explanations, there is not sufficient legal link between the two per se.
    - BBMRI-ERIC has come up with Framework Agreement between BBMRI-ERIC and national nodes, but it is still being discussed by the lawyers of the national nodes.
Foreseen Computing Model

- IT challenges for BBMRI-ERIC are not in the sheer volume of data/computations
  - data sensitivity – and how to make them as accessible and usable as legally/ethically possible,
  - this is likely to evolve in the future due to growing amount of accompanying data – namely omics.
- Central BBMRI-ERIC computing facilities
  - will be acquired under BBMRI-ERIC umbrella as a part of Common Service IT (CS IT),
  - funding (both CAPEX/OPEX) comes directly from member states – typically “hosting countries” of CS IT,
  - maximum expected extent – <100 CPUs, <100 TB storage.
Foreseen Computing Model

- Additional data storage and processing facilities at participating institutions
  - currently taken care of by the institutions themselves,
  - it is in the long-term plans,
  - central support has not undergone appropriate discussion yet.

- Use of other computing/storage infrastructure for de-sensitized data
  - will not be procured as a part of BBMRI-ERIC,
  - we assume work with other RIs.

- Cross-border procurement goes well beyond IT for BBMRI-ERIC
  - scientific/lab instruments and consumables (incl. vials, etc.).
Thank you for your attention!

Q&A!

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