TENDER FOR COMMON SERVICE IT

The Assembly of Members of **BBMRI-ERIC**,

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Statutes establishing BBMRI-ERIC
Adopts the text as following:

CALL FOR TENDER

BBMRI-ERIC COMMON SERVICE IT 2025-2027

Publication date: 1st December 2024

Main Objective of this Call

The main objective of this call for tender is **to propose continuation of the Common Service IT** (CS IT) that provides expertise, services, and tools relevant to the pursuance of tasks and activities of BBMRI-ERIC. It reflects development of the 10-year strategy of BBMRI-ERIC approved by the Assembly of Members in 2024[1] and is aligned with the Work Programme 2025-2027.[2] The proposal is expected to build on the current CS IT, while allowing to optimize the structure, focus effort on the key services, and renegotiate contributions of BBMRI-ERIC Member States.

Short Description of BBMRI-ERIC

BBMRI-ERIC is a European research infrastructure for biobanking and biomolecular resources. BBMRI-ERIC enables the development of innovative technology and processes as a cross-domain network that facilitates responsible access to high quality samples, data and biomolecular resources. We achieve this through multidisciplinary expertise and service provision, scientific excellence, knowledge exchange and partnerships in health and life sciences. Ultimately, by unlocking the potential of biobanking and biomolecular resources, BBMRI-ERIC inspires the best research to benefit patients, the public and the planet.

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[1] https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/news-events/bbmri-eric-launches-10-year-roadmap-biobanking-for-a-healthier-world/

[2] Provided as an annex to the Call for Tender due to the two documents being approved during the same BBMRI-ERIC Assembly of Members meeting.

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 communities and biomolecular resources communities and their users with expertise, services and tools specific to the fields of common interest. Common Services can only be hosted in countries that are BBMRI-ERIC Members.

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

The selection procedure for hosting Common Services is specified in ANNEX IV of the BBMRI-ERIC Statutes:[3]

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 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

The general requirements for the Common Service IT (CS IT) are split into the following sections: (1) structure of the service development, which outlines development phases for any service developed, deployed, operated, and supported within BBMRI-ERIC, (2) the minimum required services (components) and their required timing of service delivery, (3) software licensing and IPR aspects, (4) indicative budget, and (5) performance indicators.

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[3] 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 30th November 2013 (L320/63-80)

Structure of the Service Development

The Common Service IT shall undertake development and operations of the services in at least the following phases, unless otherwise agreed:

- P1: Definition of users, terms, use cases, and benefits

  For each service, there needs to be a documentation specifying user needs, defining precisely terms of use, considering also their previous use in the field, use cases and discussion of benefits for the users. Each service shall have performance indicators defined, how its performance and impact is to be measured.

- P2: Review of existing tools and standards (also outside BBMRI-ERIC)

  This phase will result in a concise survey of existing standards and tools, and will provide a summary of their evaluation results, with recommendations for further steps. Relevant established standards must be followed by default (e.g., ICD-10[4] and SNOMED CT[5] standards for disease nomenclatures, CEN/TC 140[6] and ISO/TC 276 and ISO/TC212 for vocabularies, interoperability and quality standards, MIABIS[7] for minimum biobanking datasets), and any deviations must be justified.

- P3: Design & development

  This phase will result in a software implementation that is ready for deployment and operation. Both design and development need to address all relevant security and privacy concerns. The development phase needs to include testing and continuous integration of the developed software (e.g., unit testing or other methods as appropriate, using continuous integration infrastructure). Choice of the development tools needs to be consulted with and approved by the Chief IT Officer of BBMRI-ERIC, who can further include the Management Committee in the process as necessary, to ensure long-term sustainability of the BBMRI-ERIC infrastructure.

- P4: Deployment & operations

  This phase will start with delivery of software from phase P3 or P2 (in the case that existing tools are sufficient for the service) and its deployment. CS IT applications must include the costs of hardware investments and their operations, to provide the tendered services with at least 50% capacity reserve for expected growth of the services in the next 3-5 years. Together with P5, this phase is expected to deliver statistics about usage of the BBMRI-ERIC CS IT services, in

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[4] http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd10/

[5] http://www.ihtsdo.org/

[6] http://standards.cen.eu/dyn/www/f?p=204:7:0::::FSP_ORG_ID:6122 &cs=1E6FE477DD1CD53BDDE5FF10BAA8ACFB3

[7] https://github.com/BBMRI-ERIC/miabis

accordance with the service-specific performance indicators defined in P1.

- P5: User support, training, dissemination

  This phase will provide technical support for the users using specific services. The CS IT will be required to work with the Outreach, Education & Communication team of BBMRI-ERIC on developing a communication strategy for the whole CS IT service portfolio and on developing specific training and outreach materials. Proposing consortium is encouraged to form a hierarchical support structure via NNs in order to scale the support and to liaise with NN outreach and dissemination activities. It is expected that this phase will also provide input for the next P1–P4 cycle based on users' feedback, and the input has to be delivered in a well-documented way.

Depending on the specific needs, some phases may be omitted, or new phases may be introduced, but there always needs to be a written record documenting reasons behind such decisions (e.g., if the existing tools are sufficient to achieve the goals, P3 may be omitted). The phases may also be reiterated based on outcomes of the previous phases – e.g., P3 may be repeated based on reflections from P4 and P5.

The tenderers shall adopt agile development models to obtain continuous feedback from the prospective users of the service. To achieve its mission, the CS IT must cooperate closely with all the relevant departments of BBMRI-ERIC – most notably IT, biobanking development (BBD), quality management (QM), outreach and communication (OEC). CS IT will cooperate with these departments also to continue and further CS IT User Forum, to have a representative user community be involved in the agile development.

Tenderers should also specify minimum requirements for BBMRI-ERIC National Nodes to implement and support services of the CS IT nationally. This specification will have to be maintained as a part of the CS IT operations.

The overall development capacity of the CS IT proposal must be no less than 2.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions continuously through the duration of the Common Service, as further listed below for specific services. This minimum capacity may not be fragmented into less than 0.5 FTE (while the persons may change within the duration of the Common Service IT, the minimum core developers should be employed no less than 5x 0.5 FTE to avoid unproductive fragmentation of the development effort; additional development effort may be fragmented as deemed necessary by the tender applicants). Note that the FTE fragmentation requirements include project obligations and support from project funding (i.e., consortium is free to use this project funding to implement requirements on unfragmented capacity). The consortium is free to propose capacities above the minimum required capacities in this tender. The services which have no requirement on minimum FTE are fully up to the consortium to decide how much capacity is allocated to them.

Each of these minimum services must be developed and operated by at least 2 institutions to allow for a smooth transition in case that one of the contributing groups leaves the

Common Service IT.[8]

Minimum Required Services

Specification of the Minimum Required Services refers to Key Performance Indicators of BBMRI-ERIC (referred to as KPI #*n*) and to Strategic Objectives, which were prioritized from the 10-year Strategy into the Work Programme 2025-2027 (referred to as SO*m.n*).

1. **BBMRI-ERIC Directory** [minimum 0.5 FTE unfragmented]

   The Directory provides a metadata-based catalogue for locating biobanks, their collections, and other related resources, with search capabilities based on aggregate metadata rather than individual sample-level data. Key users are researchers who need to locate biobanks with potentially relevant samples or data. Overall, this contributes to the KPI #1.

   Development Priorities:

   a. Enhanced Metadata Support: Expand support for structured metadata, including descriptors for cohort variables and in-depth collection-level information (namely fact-sheets using star-schema). Methodological support of National Nodes in collecting and providing this information. (SO2.3, SO2.6)

   b. Support for non-human data sources: e.g. animal, plant, microorganisms, environmental models (SO1.3)

   c. Multi-Biobank Sample Collections: Develop direct search functionalities for consortia, studies, and projects to allow users to identify sample collections spanning multiple biobanks. (SO2.3, SO2.6)

   d. Integration with European Data Spaces (EHDS2) and EOSC: Generate HealthDCAT-AP metadata for EHDS2 Data Catalogue compliance, enabling discoverability within the European Health Data Space. (SO2.3)

   e. Linking to services of other RIs where available (e.g., incorporating integration with MDR of clinical trials by ECRIN developed in EOSC-Future project) (SO1.2, SO2.3)

   f. User experience and performance optimization: Implement tools to collect analytics on search usage patterns to enable Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for discovery services. (SO5.1)

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[8] For BBMRI-ERIC Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure (AAI) this requirement may be fulfilled by implementing LifeScience AAI with multiple life-sciences Research Infrastructures contributing to its development and operations.

g. Expansion of services portfolio supported in discovery/access pipeline, including support of new business/access models. (SO2.3) Integration with capabilities and complementary service of National Nodes and biobanks. (SO5.1)

h. BiobankApps Light: a solution for collecting information on software used at different biobanks and biomolecular resources, and collecting experiences with it. (SO5.1, SO6.3)

i. Integration with the services of the National Nodes and support of operation of Nodes, which in turn support biobanks and biomolecular resources in the given Member/Observer country. (SO5.1)

j. Technological, usability, and security updates (KPI #1)

Delivery Timing: At least one major release per year, with additional minor releases as needed for improvements and bug fixes.

2. **BBMRI-ERIC Locator** [minimum 0.5 FTE unfragmented]

The Federated Platform is designed to support distributed data access across BBMRI-ERIC's network, enabling National Nodes and biobanks to share data while retaining control over local data governance. The service overall contributes to the Strategic Objective 2 on datafications, namely (SO2.1) and (SO2.4).

Development Priorities:

a. Directory Sync: Finalize and implement "Directory Sync" to enable automatic data upload of all or selected attributes from Federated Platform Bridgeheads to the BBMRI-ERIC Directory, minimizing integration efforts. (SO2.4)

b. Development and standardization of search APIs via ISO. Support of Beacons V2 and contributions to the Beacons V3 development as necessary. (SO2.5)

c. Support of integration of relevant services in the National Nodes (SO2.5). providing insights in search and relevance search terms and descriptions for findability of samples/data/services to Nodes (SO1.3, SO2.1)

d. Concept to support for non-human data sources: e.g., animal, plant, microorganisms, environmental models (SO1.3)

e. Support for direct search for collections in the Locator with multiple collections per biobank and biomolecular resource. Support for multi-site collections. (SO2.4)

f. Support biobanks in displaying patients and samples at source as a local result of a query. (SO2.1, SO2.4)

g. Support of PIs of local collections to view their samples and data deposited in the biobanks. Dashboard allowing a consortium of PIs to monitor their prospective sample collections across biobanks. (SO2.4)

h. Quality Assurance Mechanisms: Develop and implement tools for federated quality analysis and data assurance, ensuring consistency and reliability of data across biobanks. (SO2.2)

i. Support for onboarding of new members. Active support of large or otherwise significant collections to be onboarded into the Locator.

Delivery Timing: Major releases annually, with additional updates based on integration needs and user requirements.

3. **BBMRI-ERIC Negotiator** [minimum 0.5 FTE unfragmented]

The Negotiator facilitates user access to biobanks by implementing the BBMRI-ERIC Access Policy. The Negotiator integrates with systems of BBMRI-ERIC's National Nodes, allowing direct negotiation requests for access to biobanked resources. The overall service links to (KPI #2, KPI #3, KPI #4) (SO5.1)

Development Priorities:

a. API development and standardization: Create APIs for direct integration with capabilities and complementary services of National Nodes and biobank databases to streamline access requests. (SO5.1)

b. Expansion of services portfolio supported in discovery/access pipeline, including support of new business/access models. Aligning with EHDS2 standards where relevant. (SO4.1, SO4.2, SO4.6)

c. Monitoring and Reporting Tools: Implement tools for National Nodes and biobanks to track and report on usage, access requests, and service performance. (KPI #5) (SO5.1)

d. Support of operation of National Nodes (SO5.1).

Delivery Timing: One major release annually, with updates and fixes deployed as part of an agile development process.

4. **AAI - LifeScience Login** (Authentication and Authorization Infrastructure) [minimum 0.5 FTE unfragmented]

This service provides a federated authentication system for BBMRI-ERIC, interfacing with eID and European Commission Authentication Service (ECAS) for EHDS2 interoperability. The LifeScience Login offers both OpenID Connect and SAML interfaces for secure, compliant access across BBMRI-ERIC services.

Development Priorities:

a. User Registration Optimization: Streamline the registration experience, enabling broader user adoption. (KPI #2)

b. Implementation of eID support (KPI #2) (SO2.5, SO2.6) and EHDS2 protocols compliance (ECAS integration) (SO2.3)

Delivery Timing: Continuous development, with updates driven by emerging user needs and integration requirements across BBMRI-ERIC services.

5. **MIABIS and Interoperability Standards on Data and Samples**

MIABIS provides interoperability standards for data exchange within BBMRI-ERIC, including data models and ontologies essential for human and non-human biobanking. Incorporation of DUC/CCE standards into the BBMRI-ERIC portfolio.

Development Priorities:

a. Expansion of Data Models: Develop data and metadata models for animal, plant, and environmental biobanking, supporting OneHealth initiatives and interconnecting biobank-specific models with other human (clinical and non-clinical), non-human and environmental models (SO1.3, SO2.1)

b. Alignment with External Standards: Update MIABIS to align with OpenEHR, HL7 FHIR profiles, and OMOP. (SO2.3)

c. Ontologization and Dissemination: Update or introduce new ontologies where needed, and promote MIABIS within the biobanking community. (SO2.3)

d. Maintenance of the existing MIABIS model, collaboration with NNs and experts (SO5.1),

e. Dissemination on MIABIS (SO6.1, SO6.3)

f. Consider extending the MIABIS scope to biorepositories (currently biobanks only) and to be used as an internal operations vocabulary for biobanks (SO2.1, SO6.3)

g. Maintenance of DUC/CCE[9] (standards for describing access restrictions in machine-readable way) (SO2.1, SO2.3)

Delivery Timing: Ongoing updates as needed, with annual reviews to ensure standards meet user and regulatory needs.

6. **Unified Discovery and Access Interface** [minimum 0.5 FTE unfragmented]

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[9] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41597-024-03280-6

An interactive, AI-assisted discovery tool that supports researchers in articulating search queries across BBMRI-ERIC's catalog and federated data sources. This service connects discovery with access applications, facilitating seamless transitions for users seeking biobank resources and is an initial step to fundamentally changing how the discovery and access pipeline is perceived by the users – a unified process rather than a series of tools

Development Priorities:

a. Re-evaluation of existing integration and attachment/integration of Nodes (SO5.1)

b. Simple interface unifying catalogue-based search (Directory), federated search (Locator and Finder), and application filing process (Negotiator) (KPI #3). Support for discovery of retrospective data and on-demand services. (SO4.1, SO4.2) Incorporation of central data repositories (SO2.6)

c. Optionally, based on availability of results from external projects such as UNCAN: AI-Assisted Discovery, enabling natural language processing to allow researchers to describe project needs that translate into specific search queries. (SO2.3)

d. Support for On-Demand Services: Implement tools for generating data and sample outputs customized to user needs. (SO4.1, SO4.2)

Delivery Timing: Major functional updates biannually, with minor releases to improve user experience and support on-demand customization.

7.   Unified KPI Collection Interface

This service supports the collection and integration of performance indicators across BBMRI-ERIC's Directory, Negotiator, and other IT components. This supports implementation of distributed KPIs such as (KPI #4)

Development Priorities:

a. Distributed KPI Support: Design interfaces for distributed collection of key performance indicators (KPIs), accessible via a user interface and APIs. (KPI #4)

b. Component Integration: Facilitate KPI data flow from various CS IT services and services of National Nodes, providing dashboards for monitoring service performance and user metrics. (KPI #1, KPI #2, KPI #3, KPI #4)

Delivery Timing: Continuous integration of new metrics and annual reviews to ensure alignment with BBMRI-ERIC's performance goals.

8.   Support for Datafication at Source and Support for Federated Platform Onboarding

This service assists biobanks in generating, managing, and tracking data at the source, facilitating data provenance and improving data quality, and integration of the biobanks and biomolecular resources into the Federated Platform. Relates to the whole Strategic Objective (SO2).

Development Priorities:

a. Training Resources: Develop training materials for biobanks on best practices for datafication and integration of the data platform of biobanks and biomolecular resources into the Federated Platform. Training resources to be included in the BBMRI Academy. (SO6.1, SO6.3, SO2.4)

b. Provenance Infrastructure: Implement Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) infrastructure for institutions lacking such systems, supporting robust data provenance. (SO2.2)

c. Support of biobanks and biomolecular resources in integration with the Federated Platform (for all solutions contributing to the Federated Platform: Locator, Finder, possible other solutions as the platform develops). (SO2.4)

Delivery Timing: Regular updates to training materials, with infrastructure enhancements as needed.

9. **Centralized Data Collections**

Centralized data collections provide storage and access to data from multiple domains, including phenotypical, clinical, omics, imaging, and non-human data sources. This service includes data curation and return interfaces. This supports overall (SO2.6).

Development Priorities:

a. Data Deposition and Return Interfaces: Implement standardized deposition and return interfaces to support secure, compliant data handling. (SO1.3, SO2.1, SO2.6).

b. Alignment with International Standards: Continuously update data structures to remain aligned with evolving international standards and regulatory requirements (e.g., EHDS2, EOSC) (SO2.3, SO2.6)

c. Support for organizations / persons returning data (SO2.6)

Delivery Timing: Regular updates as standards evolve, with biannual reviews of data structure and curation practices.

10. **Penetration Testing and Security Hardening** [sub-contracting budget allocated for external team]

An external team or company will conduct regular penetration testing and

security audits to ensure the resilience and data protection compliance of BBMRI-ERIC IT services. This may be provided by the organizations contributing to the CS IT but must be provided by organizationally separated security teams to ensure independence of testing.

Scope: Comprehensive penetration tests across all CS IT services, with detailed reporting on vulnerabilities and action plans for security enhancements.

Delivery Timing: Annual testing and reporting cycles, with ad-hoc tests and updates as required by emerging threats or regulatory changes.

Note that budget for penetration testing is not included in the CS IT budget as of 2025.

11. **Continuous analysis of user requirements**, **creation/maintenance of CS IT services roadmap and specifications**, evaluation **of services**, operation of **BBMRI-ERIC CS IT User Forum** [P1-P2]

This service will provide a continuous monitoring and analysis of users' needs, based on comprehensive analysis of users' needs as well as in-depth use of the CS IT User Forum. It will also provide continuous analysis of usage and usability of existing BBMRI-ERIC CS IT services, in order to propose shutdown or revamping of services. The User Forum needs to be maintained to have good representation of various types of end users, willing to contribute testing and further development of the IT services.

Together with the management of the CS IT, it will prepare and continuously update a roadmap of the CS IT services. Designs and development versions of CS IT services should be evaluated as a part of the agile development methodology. Proposals for new services as well as shutdown or revamping of existing services will be subject to review and approval by BBMRI-ERIC management.

Delivery timing: Continuous analysis and documentation of user needs, and evaluation of the. Continuous operations of user forum.

Development priorities are based on the 10-year strategy of BBMRI-ERIC approved in 2024 and on prioritization of topics from the Work Programme 2025-2027 and can be partially updated based on the continuous analysis of user requirements as well as feedback from the users in the agile development process, subject to approval of the Director General and Chief IT Officer of BBMRI-ERIC.

Management structure

Until nomination of a CS IT Director, CS IT is led by the BBMRI-ERIC Chief IT Officer, who will act as Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the CS IT, in order to maintain alignment between CS IT and all IT activities of BBMRI-ERIC. CIO reports to the Director-General of BBMRI-ERIC and keeps the BBMRI-ERIC Management Committee informed.

The CS IT should be organized into Work Packages (WPs), with a designated WP leader who will be responsible for agile behaviour in development and operations and for timely delivery and quality of the service. WP leaders together with CIO will form the management team of the CS IT.

CS IT will align with the infrastructure operations managed by the BBMRI-ERIC headquarters, via a dedicated WP with will be included into the CS IT management after the winning proposal is selected. This WP will not be financially supported by the CS IT, but will ensure coordination of the infrastructure operations.

Synergies with activities of National Nodes

As agreed by the National Node representatives, additional services might become part of the CS IT portfolio, but may not be funded from the CS IT budget due to budgetary constraints. This includes namely the BIBBOX[10] (reference open-source toolbox for biobanks). BBMRI-ERIC management together with the CS IT management will prepare a generic procedural mechanism for endorsement of such services, as well as other services proposed by the National Nodes.

National Nodes shall declare such services as part of the CS IT proposal and including their anticipated roadmap. This portfolio of services can further evolve throughout the duration of the CS IT and roadmaps of those services shall be continuously updated in collaboration with the respective activity of the CS IT (point 6 above).

Synergies with projects

CS IT is expected to contribute with projects identified by the BBMRI-ERIC management that are critical for BBMRI-ERIC IT services. At the time of publishing this call, these include

- European Cancer Imaging data space (EUCAIM)
- Genomics Data Infrastructure data space (GDI)
- European Partnership for Rare Diseases (ERDERA)

Contributing to these projects includes support of BBMRI-ERIC IT services adopted/used within these projects and their customizations for the needs of these projects.

Specific requirements of projects:

- EUCAIM
  - topics:
    - support of EUCAIM discovery (Catalog = Directory, Explorer = Locator) and access (Negotiator) pipeline
    - contributions to the interoperability standards for discovery of imaging resources (MIABIS-Imaging, MIABIS-Imaging-DigitalPathology)
    - integration of imaging biobanks from BBMRI ecosystem into the

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[10] http://bibbox.bbmri-eric.eu/

EUCAIM
- support for discovery of AI models and data processing software from BBMRI communities
- o volume:
  - 2025: 85,500 EUR
  - 2026: 85,500 EUR
- GDI
  - o topics:
    - integration of genomic resources into the GDI via Directory and Federated Platform into the GDI discovery
    - integration of access requests issued via GDI into the Negotiator platform
    - support of LifeScience Login integration
  - o volume:
    - 2025: 34,500 EUR
    - 2026: 34,500 EUR
- ERDERA
  - o topics:
    - integration of rare diseases in the Directory, Federated Platform, Negotiator and the unified discovery interface
    - integration of BBMRI-ERIC services with EJP RD/ERDERA Virtual Platform
    - support for data curation of rare disease biobanks under rare disease exemption of BBMRI
    - support for DUC/CCE to described machine-readable access conditions
  - o volume:
    - 2025: 11,187 EUR
    - 2026: 11,187 EUR
    - 2027: 11,187 EUR

Software licensing and IPR aspects

In order to achieve long-term sustainability and to support the growth of BBMRI-ERIC and its members, the developed software shall be implemented using one of the common open-source licences (BSD, Apache, MIT, GPL, or similar). In case pre-existing software is reused, it must be either open source or the source code must be made available perpetually to BBMRI-ERIC and its members at no additional charge for continuous use in the service portfolio as well as for reuse in the future development. In case that the software employs technologies covered by IPR protection (e.g., patents, commercial software licenses), it is the responsibility of the Common Service IT to ensure that BBMRI-ERIC and its members have perpetual license for use of these technologies. This is required for sustainability and cost-efficiency reasons.

Indicative budget

Year	2025	Outlook 2026	Outlook 2027

Indicative budget [EUR]	345,863	356,239	366,926

The indicative budget numbers are based on extrapolation from budgets from years 2023– 2024, with assumed annual 3% indexing based on inflation coefficient as of 2024.

Performance indicators

The key performance indicators will be:

- timely and high-quality delivery of new versions of the software based on requested functionality and schedule specified above;
- uptime of the operated services;
- reaction times to support tickets filed via the Helpdesk.

Tenderers shall take into consideration that the Common Service IT:

- has a designated national IT representative in each National Node and the IT decisions need to be communicated with the National Node representatives (both director and IT representative),
- 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 IT expertise in Europe and a consortia reflecting the whole of Europe, is favoured.

Financial contribution of the hosting countries needs to be guaranteed for a minimum of 3 years. Applications should not exceed 15 pages (excluding CVs and supporting material).

As a minimum requirement, however, the tender must 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[11]
- 10-Year Strategy of BBMRI-ERIC[12]
- 2025-2027 Work Programme

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. Jens K. Habermann, M.D., Ph.D. (jens.habermann@bbmri-eric.eu) is **31th January 2025 (17:00 CET).**

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[11] http://www.bbmri-eric.eu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/BBMRI-ERIC_Statutes_Rev2_for_website.pdf

[12] https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/wp-content/uploads/Roadmap_document_web_pages.pdf