

# Joint human & microbial domain GBRCN pilot phase meeting

Expectations from the member state perspective

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## Importance of Biological Resource Centres

- BRC are a key resource for biological and biomedical research
- This fact has been recognized by several international and governmental bodies globally.
- International organisations were founded (P3G, Isper, etc.)
- An OECD task force on Biological Resource Centres was established in 2001. (definition of guidelines, discussion on a GBRCN)
- EU member states have initiated the preparation of an European Biobanking Infrastructure by setting this topic on the European infrastructure roadmap.
- Initial funds for the preparation of a GBRCN are provided by OECD member states.

## Expectations from the member state perspective

- A GBRCN should have a clear added-value for biobanks and research. Definition of clear aims is a requirement.
- Duplication with other initiatives should be avoided.
- There should rather be an integration of existing initiatives.
- The governance structure should be functional but slim. (challenge of different cultures, challenge of communication and integration between the governance of the network and each single biobank, etc.)
- Clear milestones should be defined.
- Clear responsibilities should be defined.
- Sustainable funding has to be raised by the GBRCN initiative.

## Some hint at the end

- Avoid to be overambitious.
- To build up a network like this is a developmental process. So build it up step by step.