



Health NCP Net

Guide on how to leverage health-relevant European Research Infrastructures in a proposal

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	3
What are Research Infrastructures (RIs)?	3
Why do RIs matter for applicants to Cluster Health calls in Horizon Europe?	4
CLUSTERING OF RIs BY SERVICES	5
1. Biological samples, biobanking and biomolecular resources	5
2. Data infrastructures, bioinformatics and digital research platforms	5
3. Translational research, clinical research and regulatory support	5
4. Imaging, structural biology and advanced analytical technologies	5
5. Preclinical models and experimental systems	5
6. High-containment facilities and pathogen research	5
7. Drug discovery, chemical biology and biotechnology scale-up	6
8. Environmental, ecosystem and exposome research	6
LIST OF HEALTH-RELEVANT RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES	7
BBMRI-ERIC	7
EATRIS	7
ECRIN-ERIC	8
ELIXIR	8
ERINHA	8
EU-OPENSOURCE ERIC	9
Euro-BioImaging ERIC	9
INFRAFRONTIER	9
Instruct-ERIC	10
MIRRI	10
EIRENE	10
EBRAINS	11
AnaEE ERIC	11
EU-IBISBA	11

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The aim of this guide is to help applicants to Cluster Health calls better understand how they can engage with RIs and give an overview of the RIs in the health domain.

What are Research Infrastructures (RIs)?

European Research Infrastructures (RIs) comprise facilities, platforms and services —such as biobanks, imaging facilities, data repositories and high-performance computing systems — that provide the resources and expertise needed to perform high quality, multidisciplinary research and innovation. These infrastructures are open to external users from academia, the private sector and many other organisations and sectors.

RIs have a policy defining how they regulate, grant and support access to users from academia, business, industry and public services. Access policies may vary from one RI to another depending on the services provided. The access can be transnational or virtual or RIs can offer both types of access.

Transnational access (in-person or remote) is granted via a peer-reviewed process to research teams based in a different country than the host infrastructure.

Virtual access (always remote) provides access to digital infrastructures and services (computing and data analysis tools, data repositories, collaborative platforms). No selection process is required in this case.

More information on the access provision (transnational and/or virtual) and open calls for access can be found on the [RICH Europe](#) website and on the website of the respective RI.

The most important RIs are part of the [roadmap](#) of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures ([ESFRI](#)). ESFRI is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. All RIs listed below are part of the current ESFRI roadmap.

Why do RIs matter for applicants to Cluster Health calls in Horizon Europe?

- RIs provide tools and services

If you plan to use tools and services of specific RIs, mention it in the proposal, e.g. if you need access to distributed biobanks and harmonised data for personalised medicine research from BBMRI-ERIC or support in multinational clinical trial design from ECRIN. Access fees can be included in your budget.

- RIs can be part of the project as partners or associated partners

If the involvement of the RI goes beyond access and it is providing integrated services across the project lifecycle, the RI can be part of the consortium, e.g. Euro-Biolmaging contributes to enhance imaging for better treatment response for cancer in the IHI project [ILLUMINATE](#).

If you plan to involve the RI as a partner, contact them early in the proposal preparation phase.

In the Health Work Programme 2026-2027 applicants are encouraged to advance research by leveraging already existing and emerging state-of-the-art RIs, e.g. EuroBioImaging, ECRIN, EATRIS, EBRAINS, BBMRI.

For a list of topics please consult the [Overview of the Health Calls 2026 and 2027 from Horizon Europe](#) on the HNN 3.0 website.

CLUSTERING OF RIs BY SERVICES

1. Biological samples, biobanking and biomolecular resources

These RIs provide access to **biological samples, associated data, and quality-controlled biomolecular resources**.

- **BBMRI-ERIC** – Human biobanks, clinical samples, associated health data
- **MIRRI** – Microbial collections, strains, and associated data
- **EMBRC ERIC** – Marine organisms, biodiversity resources, marine bio-samples

2. Data infrastructures, bioinformatics and digital research platforms

These RIs support **data storage, integration, analysis, modelling and interoperability**.

- **ELIXIR** – Life-science data, bioinformatics tools, standards
- **EBRAINS** – Neuroscience data platforms, brain atlases, AI tools, simulation
- **EIRENE RI** – Exposome data integration (environment–health data)

3. Translational research, clinical research and regulatory support

These RIs help bridge the gap from **discovery to clinical application**.

- **EATRIS-ERIC** – Translational medicine services (biomarkers, therapies, GMP support)
- **ECRIN-ERIC** – Multinational clinical trials, regulatory and operational support

4. Imaging, structural biology and advanced analytical technologies

These RIs provide **high-end technologies and expertise** to study biological systems.

- **Euro-Biolmaging ERIC** – Biomedical imaging technologies and services
- **INSTRUCT-ERIC** – Structural biology, macromolecular analysis

5. Preclinical models and experimental systems

These RIs provide **model organisms and experimental platforms** for studying disease.

- **INFRAFRONTIER** – Mouse models, phenotyping, disease modelling

6. High-containment facilities and pathogen research

These RIs provide access to **secure facilities for studying dangerous pathogens**.

- **ERINHA** – BSL-4 and BSL-3 laboratories, high-risk pathogen research

7. Drug discovery, chemical biology and biotechnology scale-up

These RIs support **early-stage discovery and industrial translation**.

- **EU-OPENSOURCE ERIC** – Compound screening, target validation
- **EU-IBISBA** – Industrial biotechnology, scale-up, biomanufacturing

8. Environmental, ecosystem and exposome research

These RIs enable research on **environmental determinants of health and One Health approaches**.

- **EIRENE RI** – Human exposome (also data infrastructure)
- **AnaEE** – Ecosystem experimentation and environmental change

LIST OF HEALTH-RELEVANT RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

For a detailed service catalogue and overview over EU projects, visit the individual research infrastructure's website. On the [HNN 3.0 website](#) you also find a list of health-relevant RIs with the main information for each.

BBMRI-ERIC



BBMRI is a European Research Infrastructure for **biobanking and biomolecular resources** bringing together researchers, biobankers, industry, and patients – to boost health and life science research for the benefit of patients.

BBMRI's directory covers around 500 biobanks across 25 countries and 1 international organisation (IARC/WHO). Researchers can browse BBMRI's catalogue and filter by diagnosis, type of material, quality characteristics or country. They can send single access requests to multiple biobanks. Biobanks can increase their visibility by allowing their samples to be findable by Europe's 500,000 life scientists. Quality management and ethical and legal services are also available for users.

- Established on 22 November 2013
- Coordinated in Austria (Headquarters in Graz)
- Website: bbmri-eric.eu

EATRIS



EATRIS is a European infrastructure for **translational medicine** that plays a fundamental role in the advancement of knowledge and technology in translational research and drug development.

The RI provides access to a vast array of expertise and facilities from over 175 top-tier academic centres across Europe. They focus on improving and optimising preclinical and early clinical development of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics, and overcome barriers to health innovation. They offer regulatory services, translational feasibility assessments, education and training.

- Established on 7 November 2013
- Coordinated in the Netherlands
- Website: eatris.eu

ECRIN-ERIC



ECRIN, the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network, facilitates **multinational clinical research**, through the provision of advice and services for the set-up and management of investigator or SME led clinical studies in Europe. ECRIN unites national networks of clinical trial units across Europe, through its scientific partners, to fulfil its vision of generating scientific evidence to optimise medical practice.

They include 130 clinical trial units in their network and offer services and different tools.

- Established on 29 November 2013
- Coordinated in France
- Website: ecrin.org

ELIXIR



ELIXIR is the distributed infrastructure for **life-science data and bioinformatics**. It coordinates and develops life science resources across Europe so that researchers can more easily find, analyse and share data, exchange expertise, and implement best practices.

Projects can store their data in the databases run by ELIXIR Nodes (fulfilling open science mandates) and access existing data. Consortia can use software, analysis tools and workflows, services for data management support. Training courses and online training materials are also available.

- Established in December 2013
- Coordinated in the UK
- Website: elixir-europe.org

ERINHA



ERINHA is the European RI on **highly pathogenic agents**. They connect researchers with Europe's highest-level labs (BSL3 and BSL4), which are designed to study diseases that have no current treatments or vaccines. It coordinates and supports major vaccine and antiviral drug programmes on a large range of deadly viruses (e.g. Ebola, Marburg, Lassa, Nipah, coronaviruses, Mpox and others).

It also leads the "Integrated Services for Infectious Disease Outbreak Research" (ISIDORE) initiative which supports preparedness and response research and innovation to improve Europe's capacity to fight outbreaks and epidemics caused by highly infectious disease threats.

- Established in 2017
- Headquarter in Belgium; Central Coordinating Unit in France
- Website: erinha.eu

EU-OPENSREEN ERIC



The European Infrastructure of Open Screening Platforms for Chemical Biology develops **novel small chemical compounds** that elicit specific biological responses on organisms, cells or cellular components.

Their network includes 30 partner sites, featuring facilities for compound screening, medicinal chemistry, and chemoproteomics to develop tool compounds and high-quality leads.

- Established on 20 March 2018
- Coordinated in Germany
- Website: eu-openscreen.eu

Euro-Biolmaging ERIC



Euro-Biolmaging provides world-class **biological and biomedical imaging services** to researchers across Europe and the globe. Through Euro-Biolmaging, researchers can access state-of-the-art imaging instruments, expertise, training opportunities and data management services.

- Established on 6 November 2019
- Coordinated in Finland
- Website: eurobioimaging.eu

INFRAFRONTIER



INFRAFRONTIER is the RI for modelling human diseases. It contributes to human health by advancing disease prevention and therapies through appropriate in-vivo and in-vitro models.

With a collaborative network comprising over 20 leading research institutes across 15 countries, INFRAFRONTIER investigates the relationship between gene function and human diseases. This knowledge facilitates the development of innovative prevention, diagnosis, and treatment strategies, tackling health-related challenges. Through its commitment to collaboration and knowledge sharing, INFRAFRONTIER contributes to health equity by promoting access to cutting-edge services and resources worldwide. Moreover, INFRAFRONTIER advocates for animal welfare in biomedical research, ensuring the responsible and humane use of animal models.

- Established on 23 December 2023
- Coordinated in Germany
- Website: infrafrontier.eu

Instruct-ERIC



Instruct is the integrated RI for **structural biology**. High-end structural biology techniques are available through Instruct, including Cryo-EM, X-ray techniques, NMR, mass spectrometry, biophysical techniques, and nanobody discovery, as well as offering sample preparation expertise.

- Established in 2011
- Coordinated in the UK
- Website: instruct-eric.org

MIRRI



MIRRI, the Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure, is the pan-European distributed RI for the preservation, systematic investigation, provision and valorisation of **microbial resources and biodiversity**.

MIRRI offers a single point of access to a broad range of 400,000+ high-quality microorganisms and their derivatives, plasmids and viruses, as well as associated data and services.

- Established on 16 June 2022
- Coordinated in Portugal
- Website: mirri-eric.eu

EIRENE



EIRENE (European InfrastructurE for humaN Exposome) is the first European RI focused on the **human exposome** and the environmental determinants of health. It is a distributed infrastructure intended to support large-scale interdisciplinary research on how indoor and outdoor environmental factors, lifestyle, socio-economic conditions, and other stressors shape health. It plans harmonised workflows for data and sample collection and open-access services for researchers, companies, authorities and citizens.

- Established in 2021
- Coordinated in Czech Republic
- Website: eirene.eu

EBRAINS



EBRAINS is Europe's digital infrastructure for brain research. It provides data, tools and services for brain-related research – from the molecular and cellular levels to the whole organ. The EBRAINS infrastructure, originally built by the Human Brain Project, aims to establish a new standard for brain atlases, gather and connect multimodal brain data and advance digital twin approaches.

- Established in 2019
- Coordinated in Belgium
- Website: ebrains.eu

AnaEE ERIC



AnaEE (Analysis and Experimentation on Ecosystems) is a RI which brings together a series of state-of-the-art experimental, analytical and modelling platforms for **ecosystem research** throughout Europe.

Keeping ecosystems healthy is vital for our planet's future, and AnaEE-ERIC is at the forefront of research to understand and protect them. By experimenting with real ecosystems under conditions like pollution and climate change, they provide crucial insights to help predict and mitigate environmental challenges. Their work supports researchers, policymakers, industry, and agriculture in developing sustainable strategies to address global environmental issues.

- Established on 22 February 2022
- Coordinated in France
- Website: www.anaee.eu

EU-IBISBA



EU-IBISBA is a pan-European RI dedicated to **industrial biotechnology** to federate European expertise to provide researchers with integrated services for all stages of bioprocess development projects.

- Established in 2018
- Coordinated in France
- Website: [Home | IBISBA](#)