



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

BBMRI Turkey

Number of biobanks and stand-alone collections: 4

Number of samples / size of collections: 44, 100

Number of samples/data used for research: 30,900

Number of Projects supported: 11 projects (5 international, 6 National)

Introductory paragraph about the Node

The Turkish Node of the European Biobanking Research Infrastructure BBMRI-ERIC, BBMRI.tr aims to create a collaborative research infrastructure between biobankers, biomedical researchers and patients in Turkey to accelerate research. Furthermore, the BBMRI-tr seeks to expand the scope of bio-banking in Turkey, the Euro-Mediterranean region and MENA countries. With a population of over 80.0 million people, we are in the process of mapping all biobanking activities in our country. The BBMRI.tr network has links with university biobanks, and actively participates in the establishment of the National Biobanking Research Infrastructure of Health Institutes of Turkey (TUSEB). Currently the partner Biobanks of BBMRI.tr are *i) Hacettepe University Center for Biobanking and Genomics, ii) Istanbul University, Institute of Experimental Medicine (DETAE) H. Behcet Life Science Center Biobank Facility, iii) Acibadem University Biobank, and iv) Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center Biobank*. BBMRI.tr develops strategies to accelerate Biomedical research via increasing the close collaboration, integration and harmonization between biobanks in Turkey to facilitate the access to high quality biospecimens and related data. Additionally, it actively participates in the national activities to implement CEN and ISO standards to Turkish Biobanks.

Top 3 areas of expertise

1. Rare and undiagnosed diseases: Clinical expertise on rare diseases and a repository of large consanguineous families
2. Education and training for biobanks
3. Rare cancers and cancer: Clinical expertise on hereditary & sporadic solid and hematological cancers, and a repository of tissue, blood and bone marrow samples.

Top 3 key successes in 2019

1. Organization and participation of several local, national and international education and training activities were held to increase awareness on the importance of Biobanking to create a comprehensive and sustainable rare diseases research ecosystem in Turkey (*ie: Seminars on "The Role of Biobanks in Medical Research and BBMRI-ERIC" on 21-23th of February 2019 in Adana, 22th of November 2019 in Izmir, and 13-14th of December 2019 in Malatya; "Rare Diseases Research Information Day" on 11th of June 2019 by TÜBİTAK's Bilateral and Multilateral Relations Department at Acibadem University Kerem Aydınlar Campus / Istanbul, ACURare; Teleconferences on Data Harmonization, ELSI and FAIR Principles, Training Methods and programmes with project partners of European Rare Disease Project- EJP RD partners; attendance of "Quality Experts to BBMRI-QM ISO 20387" web conferences; attendance to "EJPRD Biobank Course" in Latvia in 2019*)
2. Rare Diseases and Cancer Biobanks projects to increase biological sample & data collection in Turkey, funded by TUSEB calls on Applied Projects in the Field of Personalized and Translational Medicine.
3. Contribution to the National Standard Development for Biobanking in Turkey (*TURKAK, Turkish Accreditation Council*) harmonization studies for the General Requirements for Biobanking, ISO 20387.