

# Expanding the BBMRI-ERIC Directory into a Global Catalogue of COVID-19-Ready Collections: A Joint Initiative of BBMRI-ERIC and ISBER



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## INTRODUCTION

As part of the global biobanking communities' response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BBMRI-ERIC Directory is expanding to include established biobanks with COVID-19-ready sample and data collections from around the globe. This provides a single point of contact for biobankers to engage with COVID-19 researchers to find the solutions needed to move us out of this pandemic.

The impact of connecting researchers and industry scientists with biobanks offering samples and datasets for COVID-19-related research will be seen in (i) increased numbers of well-annotated and curated tissue specimens contributing to cutting-edge research accompanied with clinically relevant data, (ii) increased availability of services provided by the biobanks that are relevant for COVID-19 research (e.g., BSL-2/3 laboratories, diagnostic methods, ability to setup clinical trials), (iii) availability of a global reach of biospecimens, (iv) reduction in time for organisations sourcing relevant tissue to support their research, (v) a resource that represents the global presentation of COVID-19 infection.

This collaboration leverages the strengths of one of the world's largest catalogues of samples and datasets, the BBMRI-ERIC Directory, with over 600 biobanks and 2500 collections listed. Users can browse collections or search using the Directory's new COVID-19 filters to find relevant samples. The user registers for an account and then, using the BBMRI-ERIC Negotiator tool, can negotiate access to biobanks from their search results. The Negotiator can handle parallel negotiations with many biobanks at the same time and streamline the process. Additionally, BBMRI-ERIC offers guidance on ethical, legal and societal issues via the ELSI Helpdesk. Interested biobanks are invited to fill out a questionnaire which captures general information about the nature and number of collected biospecimens in the biobank as well as access contact details. The Directory does not require a detailed inventory of the biobank holdings nor biospecimen-specific detail.

This poster exemplifies how to bring biobanks on the map, which was achieved in the use case of ISBER involvement, adding 12 new biobanks so far.

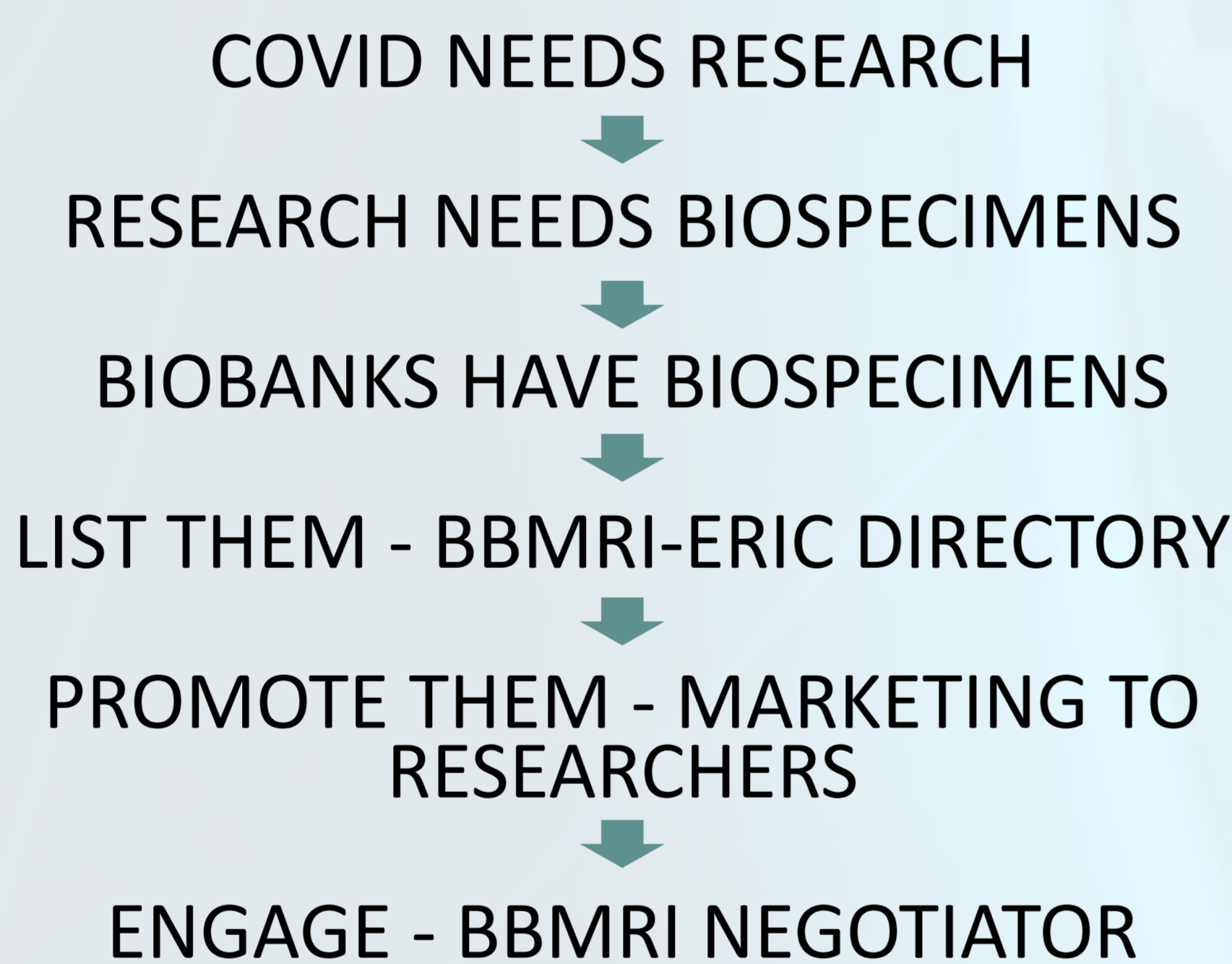
Register here:

[www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/isber-biobank-collaboration/](https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/isber-biobank-collaboration/)

## PURPOSE

The urgency and global nature of the crisis propels us to open the BBMRI-ERIC Directory beyond our membership to include biobanks around the world to contribute samples and data relevant to SARS-CoV-2 research. ISBER provides a valuable use case in expanding awareness and use of the BBMRI-Directory to (thus far) 12 additional biobanks around the globe with samples and data open to researchers.

## DESIGN



### A. Register

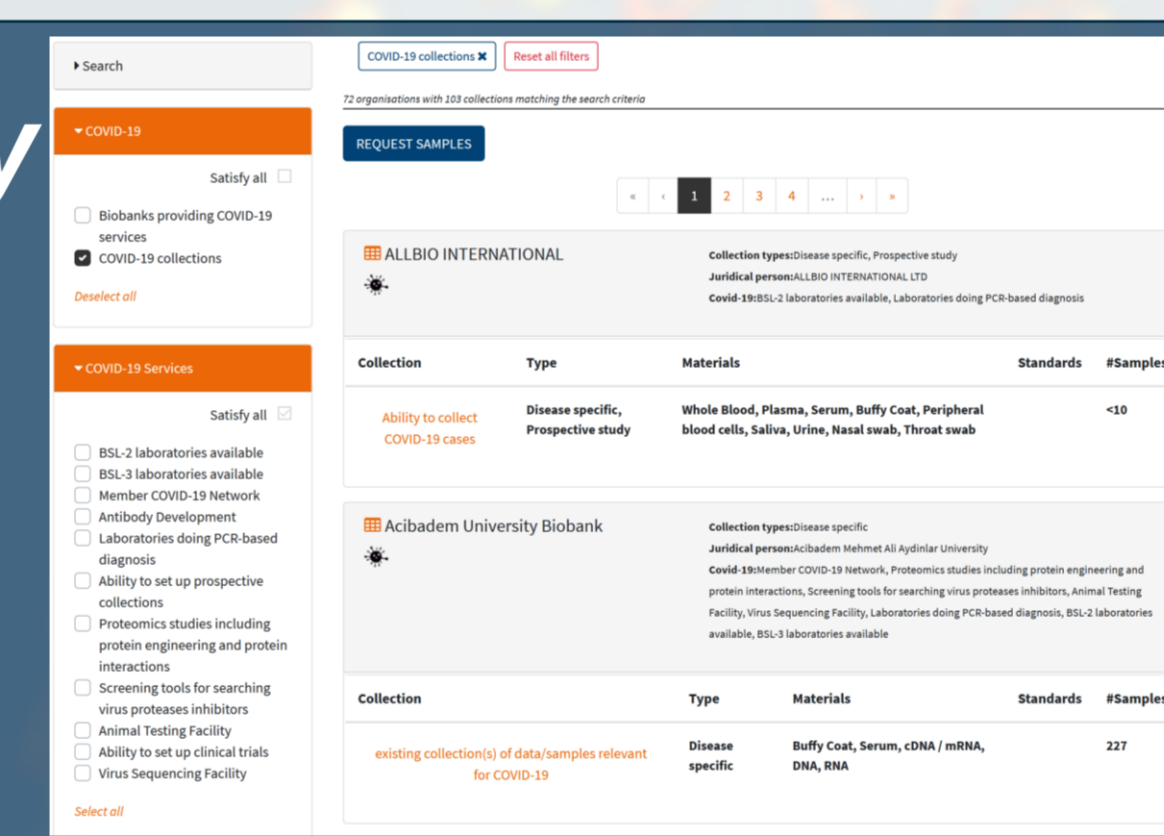
Fill out this input form to have your biobank listed under the BBMRI-ERIC Directory. Someone from the BBMRI-ERIC IT team will get in touch about transferring data.

[www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/isber-biobank-collaboration/](https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/isber-biobank-collaboration/)

### C. Browse Directory

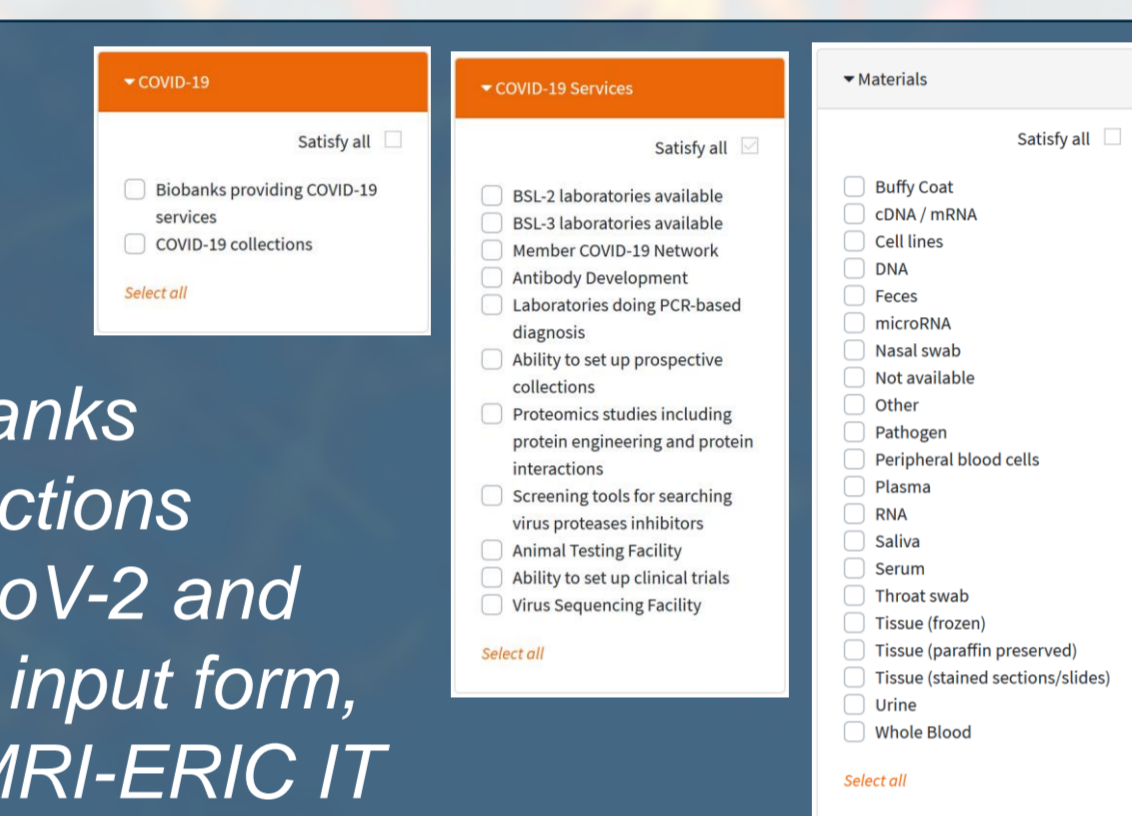
Familiarize yourself with our Directory and its new COVID-19 filters. ISBER and other biobank collections will be listed and filtered by country and other filters to the left.

[directory.bbmri-eric.eu](https://directory.bbmri-eric.eu)



### B. List Details

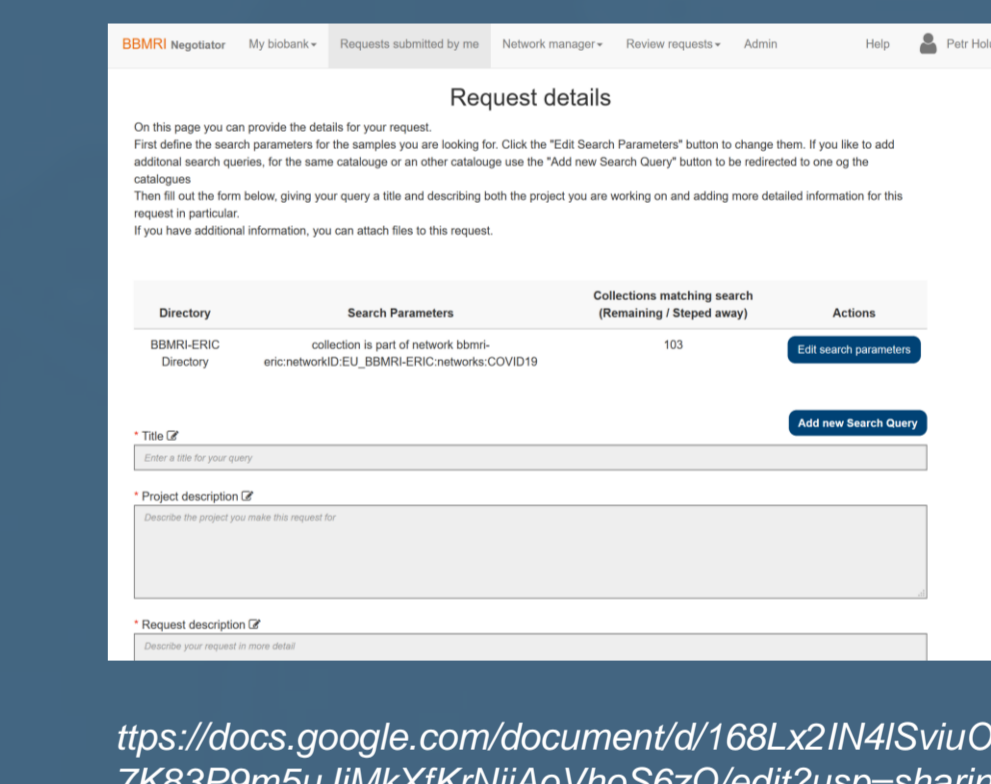
The form has been designed for collection of resources from biobanks that have samples and data collections relevant for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. Upon completing this input form, you could be contacted by a BBMRI-ERIC IT member to continue the process.



### D. Request Samples

The Negotiator is a communication platform for biobankers and researchers requesting samples and/or data. If you do not complete this step, requests will not reach you!

[negotiator.bbmri-eric.eu](https://negotiator.bbmri-eric.eu)



## ENGAGEMENT

We now invite all biobanks, regardless of affiliation, to consider supporting this worldwide initiative. **Does your biobank have biospecimens from patients with COVID-19 or related samples and datasets that can be readily used to assist in research? If so, we invite you to join the BBMRI-ERIC Directory to make your samples easily accessible to the global research community. There is no cost to participate in the registry.**

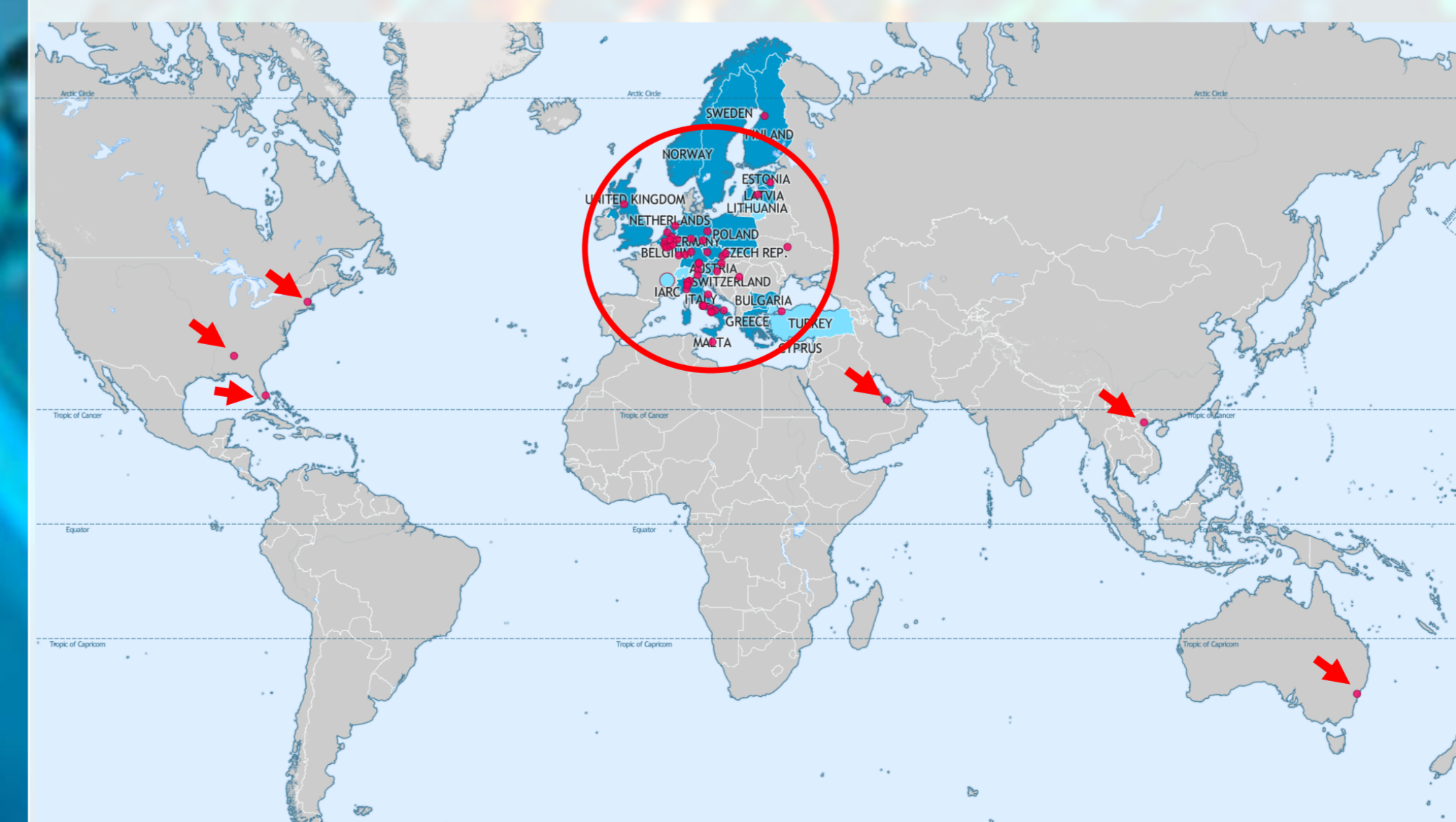
**JOIN US !!!**

[www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/isber-biobank-collaboration/](https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/isber-biobank-collaboration/)

**Privacy and GDPR:** The BBMRI-ERIC Privacy Policy can be viewed at <https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/privacy-notice/>. Please note that all information listed under our Directory (e.g. name and location of biobank) is public information. Requests sent through the Negotiator are visible only to select BBMRI-ERIC personnel and are subject to GDPR. Please also read the BBMRI-ERIC Access Policy.

<https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/services/access-policies/>

## RESULTS



BBMRI-ERIC Directory "COVID-ready" collections (red circle):  
72 biobanks with 103 collections  
>250,000 samples  
>37,000 donors

Arrow indicate the 12 biobanks in 6 additional countries resulting from ISBER collaboration

## OTHER KEY WEBSITES

- [www.bbmri-eric.eu](https://www.bbmri-eric.eu)
- [www.isber.org](https://www.isber.org)
- [www.bbmri-eric.eu/covid-19/](https://www.bbmri-eric.eu/covid-19/)
- [www.isber.org/page/covid-19](https://www.isber.org/page/covid-19)

### COVID-19-READY BIOBANK REGISTRY

ISBER is pleased to announce that we have partnered with BBMRI-ERIC to provide a COVID-19 Ready Biobank Registry to connect researchers with biobanks across the globe that are offering samples and datasets available to assist with COVID-19 related research.

JOIN THE REGISTRY NOW

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKOl9EqMkoo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKOl9EqMkoo)

