



German  
Biobank Node  
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# Next Generation Biobanking

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# Connect

The German Biobank Node (GBN) is the umbrella organisation of university biobanks in Germany. Eleven biobank sites and two IT development centres work together within GBN to make biomaterials available for (inter)national biomedical research. GBN also represents the interests of German biobanks within the BBMRI-ERIC European research infrastructure.

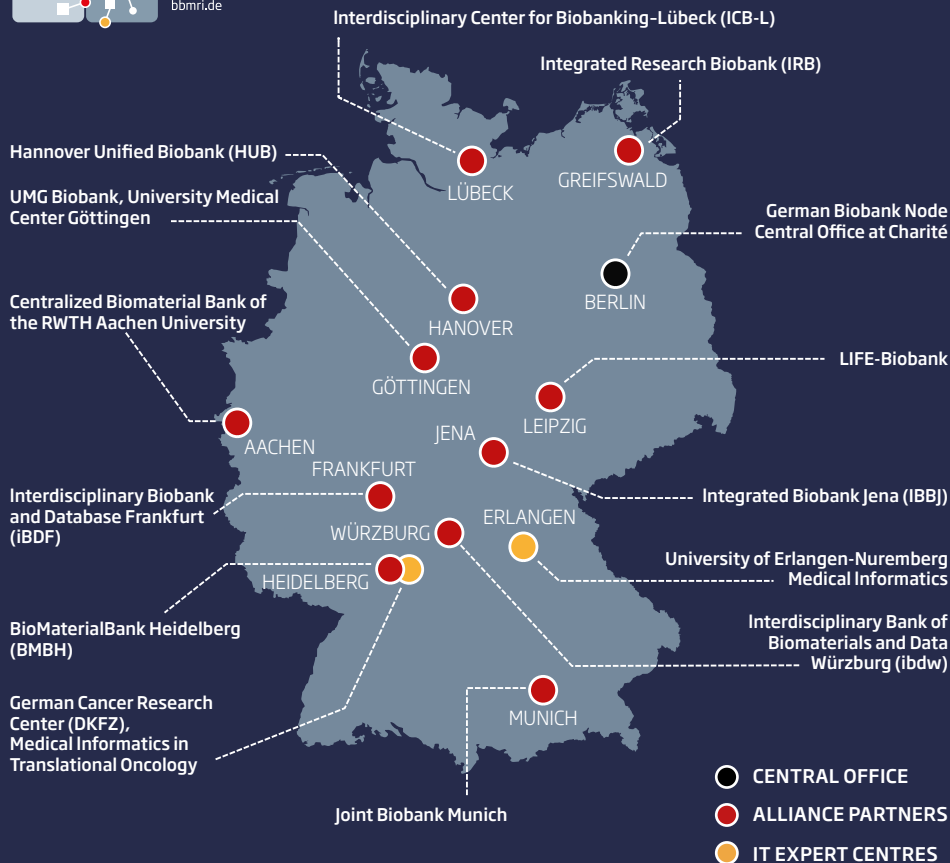
»The German biobanks are engaging in a pioneering collaborative effort towards the professionalisation of individual biobanks, implementation of functional national networks and development of IT infrastructures of European dimensions.«

**Assoc. Prof. Dr.  
Fay Betsou**

Chief Scientific Officer,  
Integrated BioBank of  
Luxembourg, and  
Chairwoman of the  
Scientific and Ethical  
Advisory Board of GBN



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# Enable

The aim is to offer researchers multicentre sample collections in the future. Under the umbrella of the German Biobank Node (GBN), the alliance partners are harmonising their quality standards, establishing a networked IT structure, and creating the legal and ethical framework for next-generation biobanking.

## Quality management activities include:

- alliance-internal ring trials and a biomarker validation study
- training programme for auditors and “friendly audits” meeting the ISO standards for biobanking
- uniform QM software
- further training programme for technical staff
- regular user satisfaction surveys



# Engage

The German Biobank Node (GBN) develops strategies to engage with stakeholders relevant to biobanks – from researchers to patients. GBN offers alliance partners a biobank toolkit for stakeholder communication that includes an information campaign aimed at sample donors. The campaign provides information on biomaterial donations and biobanks: it comprises posters and flyers used in hospitals as well as the website [www.biobanken-verstehen.de](http://www.biobanken-verstehen.de) featuring further information.

»With its information campaign, the German Biobank Node offers a comprehensive as well as an intelligible insight into the work of biobanks.«

**Dr. Stefanie Houwaart**

Coordinator of the  
Scientific and Ethical  
Advisory Board of the  
BRCA-Netzwerk e. V., and  
Member of the SEAB of GBN



"I support  
medical research  
because it  
benefits us all."

**\*THANK YOU**

Due to a chronic illness, Robert (43) goes for regular check-ups. His blood has now been stored in a biobank and is helping scientists to develop better treatments.

Further information (in German):  
**[www.biobanken-verstehen.de](http://www.biobanken-verstehen.de)**

# 11

locations

# 5,321,219

liquid samples

# 705,974

derivatives

# 10,741,579

tissue samples

# 477

publications

# 982

projects supported

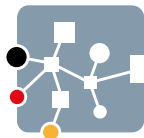
KEY FIGURES FOR 2017



# Next Generation Biobanking

»Our commitment is not limited to the German biobank community. With our work, we also support biobank developments in Europe. Many of our experts are active within the BBMRI-ERIC's common services as well as European working groups. We are therefore making an important contribution to the future of international biobanking!«

**Prof. Dr. Michael Hummel**  
National Coordinator, German Biobank Node



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## German Biobank Node

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