## ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures)

ESFRI is a forum for reflection on the European policy regarding scientific infrastructure. This form was established in 2002 to provide support for the establishment of a coherent European policy in this setting and to act as an incubator and catalyst for initiatives related to scientific facilities. The ESFRI brings together representatives of the EU member states, the associated states and the European Commission.

In 2006, ESFRI developed a strategic plan for research infrastructures (European Roadmap for Research Infrastructures) whose objective was to identify projects of pan-European interest. The roadmap designed by ESFRI identified a total of 35 large research infrastructure projects in seven different study areas: environmental sciences, energy, materials science, astrophysics, astronomy, nuclear and particle physics, life and biomedical sciences, social sciences and humanities and data processing and programming.

In December 2008, at the request of the European Research Council, a new roadmap was created and published (ESFRI Roadmap Update 2008). This edition presented a series of new infrastructures in the fields of environmental sciences, energy and health. With this update, the number of identified projects increased to 44.

Taking into account the discipline to which they belong, the projects are classified as follows:

- Social Sciences and Humanities: CESSDA, CLARIN, DARIAH, ESS-European Social Survey, SHARE
- Environmental Science: AURORA BOREALIS, COPAL, EISCAT_3D Upgrade, EMSO, EPOS, EURO-ARGO, IAGOS, ICOS, LIFEWATCH, SIAEOS
- Energy: ECCSEL, HiPER, IFMIF, JHR
- Biological and Medical Sciences: BBMRI, EATRIS, ECRIN, ELIXIR, EMBRC, EU-OPENSCREEN, EuroBioImaging, High Security BLS4 Laboratory, Infrafrontier, INSTRUCT
- Laboratory Materials and Facilities: EMFL, ESRF Upgrade, EuroFel, ESS, European XFEL, ILL20/20 Upgrade
- Physical Sciences and Engineering: CTA, E-ELT, ELI, FAIR, KM3NeT, PRINS, SKA, SPIRAL2
- e-Science: PRACE

They are expected to participate in the following international networks:

1. **ECRIN – The European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network for Clinical Trials and Biotherapy.**

   As a result of the implementation of the EU directive 2001/20/EC in all EU member states in early 2004, independent researchers in six European countries (Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Sweden and Spain) presented a project for funding by the European Commission within the context of the Sixth Framework Programme. The project is known as ECRIN (European Clinical Research

Infrastructures Network for clinical trials and biotherapy). Its objective is to create bridges to interconnect the national networks of clinical research centres and clinical trial units located in public centres of the various countries through the creation of a common European infrastructure thus enabling the development of clinical research in a multinational network.

This European infrastructure will help overcome the fragmentation of European clinical research, reflected in the considerable regulatory, legislative and methodology heterogeneity present in the various countries.

Participation in this European network will be coordinated through the *Consorcio de Apoyo a la Investigación Biomédica en Red* (Biomedical Research Centres Network Consortium, CAIBER), counting on HULP as one of its nodes.

## 2. EATRIS – The European Advanced Translational Research Infrastructure in Medicine.

The EATRIS project (European Advanced Translational Research Infrastructure in Medicine) aims to establish a European infrastructure using a network of translational research centres specialised in biomedicine to optimise access to results from basic biological research to medical applications. Close cooperation between EATRIS centres will create added value for European citizens and the research community, as well as for the partners of EATRIS themselves, as a competitive factor in the global context.

The *Fundación Instituto de Investigación del Hospital Universitario Vall d'Hebron* (Foundation Research Institute of the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, FIR-HUVH) and the ISCIII are founding members of EATRIS (in 2008). Thus, as a scientific member/centre and government member/agency respectively, they are actively participating in the preliminary phases of the project. In the future, a network of health research institutes of the National Health System of Spain (which will include FIRHUVH) will be the scientific member. Once the FIR-HUVH has been established as an EATRIS centre, it will serve as a model for the implementation of other EATRIS centres in Spain.

## 3. BBMRI – Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure.

The BBMRI (Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure) project was started in 2008 with the mission to design and prepare a proposal to create an infrastructure of biobanks and biomolecular resources for research at the pan-European level, addressing financial, ethical, legal and technical issues. The project's main objectives are:

- Establish an infrastructure based on existing biobanks, resources and technologies, specifically complemented with innovative components properly integrated at the European level in the scientific, ethical, legal and social framework.
- Provide the concept of the key resource to increase excellence and efficacy in biomedical research in the development of drugs and in the promotion of public health.

- Develop and ensure the competitiveness of European research and industry in a global context.
- Develop a sustainable funding system.

For this, the ISCIII has selected 63 biobanks to form a network of hospital biobanks, and has considered the post of a scientific network coordinator, as well as the funding of a centralised coordination structure located in the ISCIII.