

Governance model of the GBRCN

Dagmar Fritze, DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen, Braunschweig, Germany and GBRCN Demonstration Project Secretariat

Key words: biological resource centres, life sciences, knowledge based bio-economy, global infrastructure

It has been stressed by OECD that a strong science based and user orientated infrastructure is necessary, that would network the BRCs and bring them together with user communities and regulatory bodies, to appropriately underpin bio-economical developments. The GBRCN Demonstration Project, presently supported by the German government, sets the scene for the future GBRCN. To enable the future sustainable growth of the network, the capacity building and enhanced service delivery of the cooperating entities, as well as the coordinating and stimulating role of the secretariat, an organizational framework is being developed.

Plans for the architecture and governance of the future GBRCN include a Memorandum of Understanding in which it is laid down what the purposes are of this initiative and how to reach them, what the responsibilities are and where they lie, start and termination of participation, contributions to the long-term functioning of the initiative, and other items. This document is intended to be signed by participating / funding countries or economies. These might decide to nominate a national entity for cooperating in the practical goals of the network.

For the cooperating entities a Cooperation Agreement is being developed in which, among other items, the various types of cooperation and levels of best practice compliance are described. Cooperating entities would bind themselves to the spirit of this agreement by their signature.

To enable an efficiently functioning central coordinating secretariat, a bidding process for hosting the secretariat is being designed, outlining the tasks of the secretariat, the role of the future hosting institution, and the responsibilities and bilateral duties of the host and the secretariat.

Additional financial models for developing the network, building up the coordinating secretariat and supporting the partners are being explored.