

MEMOS ON INTERNATIONAL
BIORISK MANAGEMENT NETWORKS

European Research Infrastructure on Highly Pathogenic Agents (ERINHA)



Purpose

ERINHA is a pan-European network of BSL4 and BSL3+ laboratories that provide access to their facilities for researchers focused on highly pathogenic agents.

Research is separated into four streams: diagnostics for high-risk pathogens, characterization of pathogens, development of novel therapeutics, and methods for transitioning therapeutic and diagnostic technologies to the market. ERINHA prioritizes research involving viral hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola virus, Marburg virus, Lassa virus, and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever virus; emerging viral pathogens such as Nipah virus and Hendra virus; and unknown pathogens.

Formation

The concept of developing a pan-European high-containment laboratories infrastructure was outlined in the Roadmap 2008 report from the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI). Citing the (re-)emergence of highly infectious human pathogens, such as the Ebola virus, the report stressed the importance of pooling resources across Europe to conduct research on these pathogens in appropriate BSL4 environments.

ERINHA was registered as an international nonprofit organization (AISBL) in Belgium during the 2016-2017 project cycle.

Structure

ERINHA has a formalized structure as established in its AISBL statutes and internal regulations. ERINHA consists of management, decision-making, and executive bodies, while the membership is divided into two groups, member countries and nodes.

The Central Coordinating Unit (CCU) is in charge of the day-to-day operations of ERINHA, and serves as the access point for external users and funding bodies. This includes managing membership applications, maintaining communications with members, preparing and submitting an annual budget, auditing, and reviewing the progress on project plans.

The Executive Board is composed of four members, appointed by the General Assembly on a three-year rotation. Broadly speaking, the Executive Board provides advice for setting the strategy and goals of ERINHA.

Nodes are the laboratories and institutes where pathogen research takes place.

Membership

Member countries,
followed by laboratory nodes

Austria

Medizinische Universität
Graz (MUG)

Belgium

Prins Leopold Instituut voor
Tropische Geneeskunde (ITM)

France

Inserm and Inserm Transfert

Greece

Hellenic Pasteur Institute (HPI)

Hungary

Hungarian National Center
for Epidemiology (NCE)

Italy

Istituto Nazionale Malattie
Infettive L. Spallanzani (INMI)

Portugal

Instituto Nacional de Saúde
Dr. Ricardo Jorge (INSA)

Romania

Dr. Victor Babes Clinical
Hospital of Infectious and
Tropical Diseases (SVB)

Spain

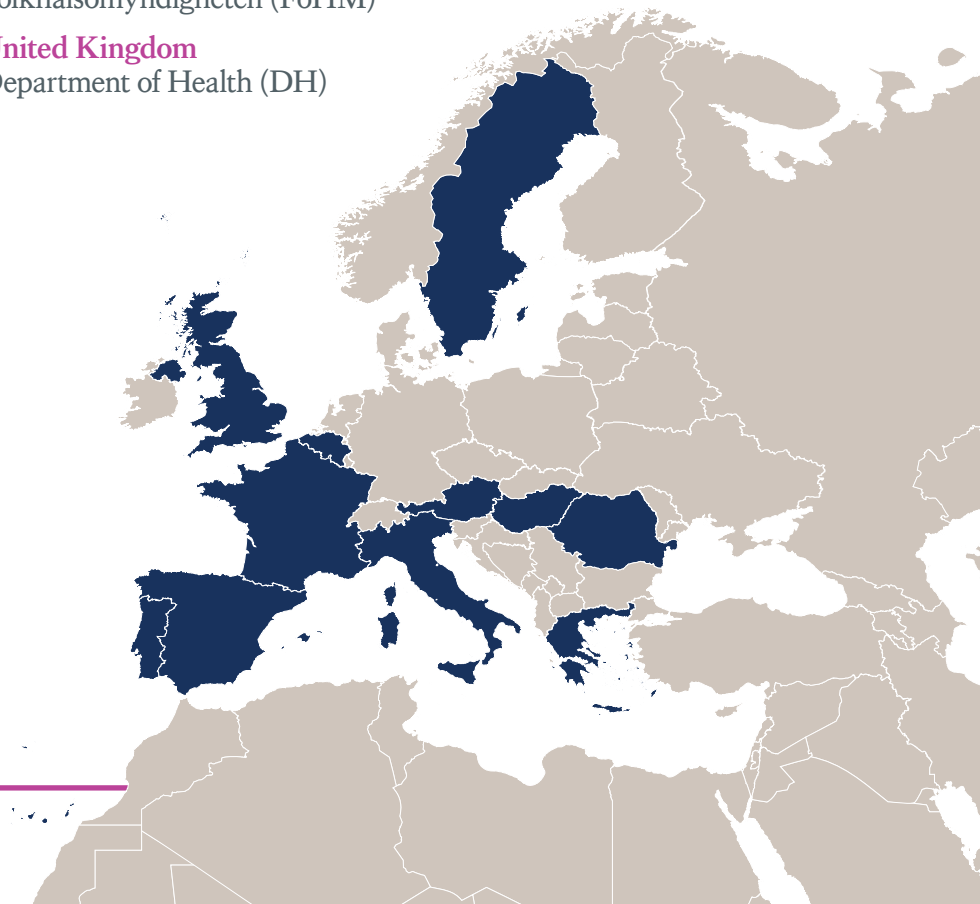
Instituto de Salud
Carlos III (ISCIII)

Sweden

Folkhälsomyndigheten (FoHM)

United Kingdom

Department of Health (DH)



Key Activities

Access

A unique added value of ERINHA is the provision of access to BSL4 laboratories for researchers. Any researcher or organization—regardless of their location or affiliation—may apply. The applicant must conduct an eligibility check (if the pathogen is classified as risk group 4), a feasibility check (if the capacity to conduct this research is actually available), an ethical check (if ERINHA's ethical principles are met), and a scientific check (if the research conforms to ERINHA's current portfolio).

Training

ERINHA training providers conduct courses on safety in high-containment laboratories, biosecurity, and laboratory operations. The financial cost for training is contingent on the nature of the request.

Expert Advising Services

ERINHA can provide expert advising services, covering topics ranging from how to develop risk assessments, how to operate and manage a BSL4 or BSL3+ laboratory, how to create and implement a biosafety and biosecurity program, how to manage projects that involve high risk pathogens, and best practices in handling and storing high-risk pathogens.

Key Resources

ERINHA
erinha.eu ▶

ERINHA User Handbook
erinha.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/20201118_ERINHA-User-Handbook_Website-Version.pdf ▶

ERINHA Transnational Access
(TNA) Program Guidelines
erinha.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ERINHA-Advance_TNA-Programme_Guidelines_Version-1.1-1.pdf ▶

ERINHA Ethical Guidelines
erinha.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/20201118_ERINHA-Ethics-Policy_Website-Version.pdf ▶

