

## P22: Adapting to pandemics and the climate crisis: The transition to virtual cross-audits at BBMRI.at

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### Introduction

For the past decade, BBMRI.at has operated a cross-audit program among its participating biobanks. Amidst global challenges like pandemics and climate change, the adoption of innovative research and collaboration methods has become increasingly crucial.

### Methods

Faced with the challenges of the pandemic, BBMRI.at revised its cross-audit approach, moving from traditional in-person methods to virtual formats. The effectiveness of this new virtual approach was assessed through questionnaires answered by auditors and auditees, which were developed with the assistance of ChatGPT.

### Findings

The original BBMRI.at cross-audits comprised the generation of an audit plan, followed by a one-day one-site visit of auditors nominated by the BBMRI.at partner biobanks at the auditee's site. After this, the auditors compiled a detailed audit report provided not only to the auditee but also to other consortium partners. The virtual cross-audits, in contrast, commence with a four-week document review phase, culminating in an auditor meeting where open questions are 54 compiled, followed by a virtual interview with the auditee. Techniques such as desktop sharing and camera tours enable random checks. The audit again concludes with the generation of a comprehensive report. The change to this format has been well received by both auditors and auditees.

### Conclusions

In summary, the shift to a virtual cross-audit format at BBMRI.at has been met with widespread approval, showcasing a consortium's adaptability and the effectiveness of digital solutions in modern research collaborations. This successful transition establishes a valuable model for similar audit programs seeking to adapt.

### Keywords

cross-audits, virtual, BBMRI.at, pandemic, climate crisis