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ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Abstracts

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Learnings from the Green Biobanking Survey of BBMRI.at Biobanks

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Introduction

The green bio banking survey was conducted within the EvolveBBMRI project and the BBMRI-ERIC Work Programme strategic objective SO3.1 (Foster Greening for biobank operations through mapping the challenges). Preliminary Europe-wide results were presented at the EBW 2025 in Bologna. This abstract focuses on responses from BBMRI.at partner biobanks.

Material and Methods

We reviewed the answers from the BBMRI.at biobanks, clarified ambiguities in personal discussions with the biobanks and requested additional information where needed. To better understand their environmental impact, we also asked partners to provide an overview of their infrastructure (e.g., number of freezers, automated storage systems, and other large equipment).

Results

Nearly all BBMRI.at biobanks rely on the Austrian electricity mix (fossil and renewable sources), operate energy-intensive systems (e.g., HVAC, cryogenics storage, ULT freezers) and report limited awareness of equipment energy efficiency. Specific water management measures are absent, and waste reduction efforts are modest beyond standard separation; only a minority engages in specialized recycling or reuse initiatives. No formal data management strategies target carbon reduction. Identified key barriers include limited product availability, insufficient knowledge and funding, and limited management support.

Conclusion

This survey provides an initial overview of the sustainability landscape of BBMRI.at partner biobanks including awareness and practices related to energy, waste management, water and resource usage, as well as future planning. The findings highlight clear opportunities for improvement and help to identify potentials and the planning of the next steps within the BBMRI.at consortium.
