

### A Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

The year is drawing to a close and we are looking confidently towards 2018!

Twelve months have passed in which we have further progressed and moved a big step closer towards our goals. This big step forward included among others:

- The successful launch by BBMRI-ERIC of the BBMRI.at initiated **CEN technical specifications Self-Assessment Tool – to support biobanks** evaluating their sample management processes and offering sample according to international quality standards ... [more](#)
- The **public declaration of the quality of biobank sample collections as one of the first in Europe** and indication in the **"BBMRI.at Biobank and Sample Catalogue"** and the BBMRI-ERIC Directory
- The **organization of multiple courses on sample processing, implementation of the CEN/TS** sample quality standards and on biobanking – **to educate and train international biobanks and researchers** ... [more](#)
- The internal **quality management cross audits within BBMRI.at biobanks** which represents a sign of mutual trust – **to further improve quality** ... [more](#)
- **Discussion panels with Austrian citizens and patients – to engage with the public and adapt our work** based on their attitudes and needs
- **Several public activities, workshops for children and "Long Night of Science" – to bring the topic "biobanking" closer to the public** ... [more](#)
- **Exchange with experts from industry** ... to better understand their needs and improve our services

We would like to thank all people who contributed to these wonderful achievements for the great cooperation and their commitment to BBMRI.at!

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

