

Multi-site ISO 9001

Vincent Van De Perre¹, Philippe Desmeth¹, Marleen Bosschaerts¹

¹*Belgian Coordinated Collections of Microorganisms/Coordination Cell (BCCM/CC), Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)*

The working context of microbial biobanks is continuously evolving due to: Biotechnological evolution, new/updated legislation, new/updated policies, participation to national or international infrastructures/organizations... Additionally, customers expect high quality materials and services at low prices. All these requirements result in extra administration for the culture collections.

International standards can guide microbial biobanks in coping with evolving requirements imposed on them by their customers and stakeholders and complying with regulatory issues. Both elements are essential for the sustainability of culture collections. Unfortunately, working with standards can have a negative effect on the administrative workload, when inefficiently implemented.

Multiple international standards are applicable for microbial biobanks: ISO 9001, ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 17034, ISO 20387, ISO 24088-1... However, what are good strategies to assure a certain quality level in a culture collection or in a network of culture collections, in a given context, on an efficient manner? This lecture will give more information on the multi-site quality management system of the BCCM consortium, ISO 9001 certificated since 2005.

Acknowledgements: The symposium on quality management systems (sessions 9&10) is possible through the IS_MIRRI21 project, financed by H2020, and the support of MIRRI-ERIC.