

EUPRIM-NET - European Primate Network

Establishing specialized infrastructures and procedures for biological and biomedical research

The Integrated Infrastructure Initiative Project EUPRIM-NET networks eight publicly funded European primate centres that combine research and breeding. Due to the multitude of biological and biomedical research activities in the individual centres, extensive research resources already exist as well as substantial experience in primate housing and breeding.

The project is aimed at improving the ability of its eight partners to provide the best service and support the best science that meets the highest ethical standards for primate-based animal research. Towards this aim the project has the following central objectives:

- Optimization of non-human primate keeping and breeding considering animal welfare and ethical guidelines
- The development and standardisation of procedures and methods for the use of non-human primates in biomedical research
- Availability of non-human primates of high quality as well as extensive banks of primate material for biomedical research
- Training courses for researchers and caretakers working with primates

The Consortium:

DPZ: **German Primate Centre**, Germany

BPRC: **Biomedical Primate Research Centre**, The Netherlands

NIBSC: **National Institute for Biological Standards & Control**, Great Britain

SMI: **Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control**, Sweden

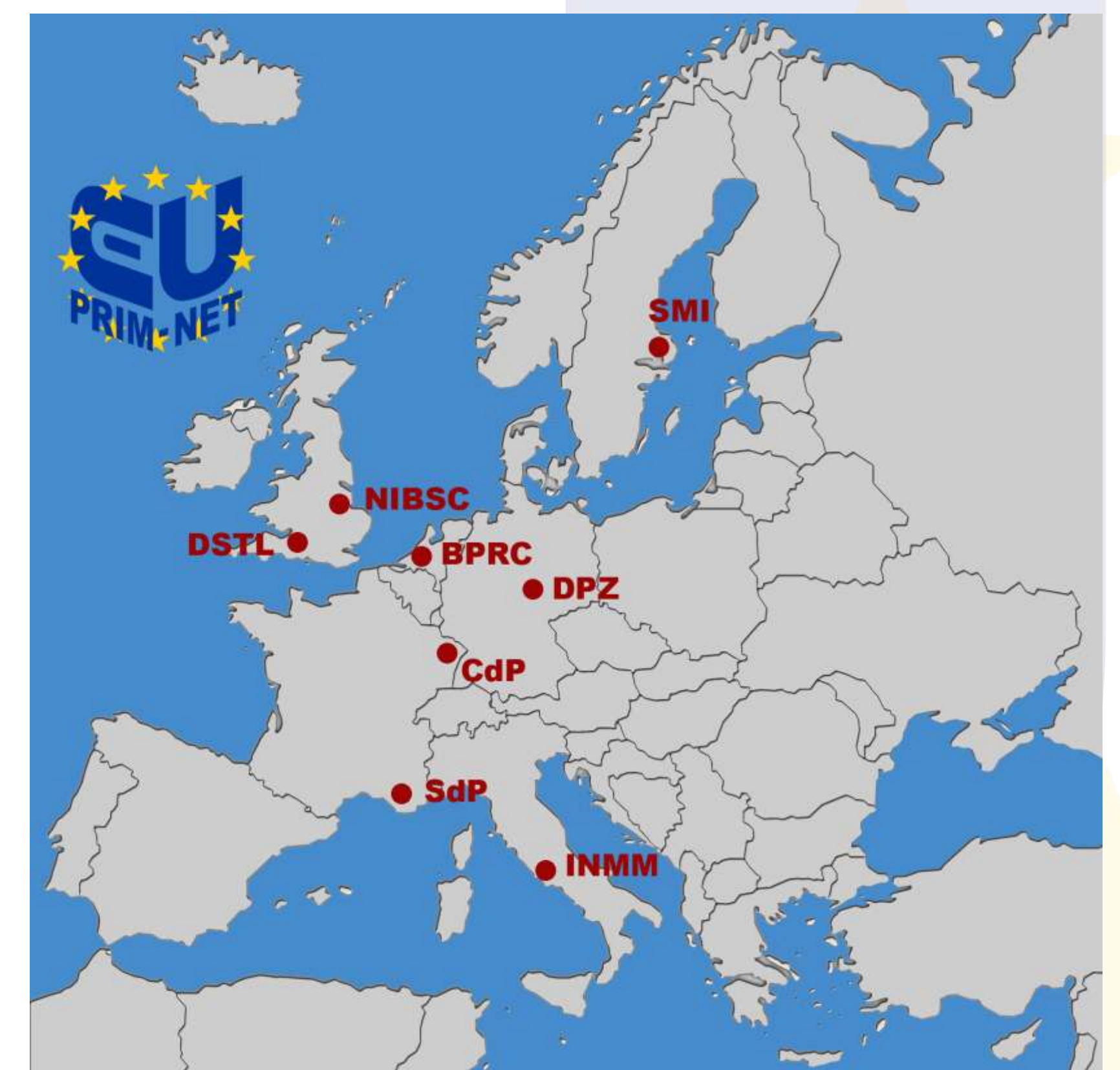
INMM: **Instituto di Neurobiologia e Medicina Molecolare**, Italy

ULP-CdP: **Centre de Primatologie**, France

CNRS-SdP: **Station de Primatologie**, France

DSTL: **Defence Science and Technology Laboratory**, Great Britain

The partners of EUPRIM-NET intent to acquire further European primate centres to join their network

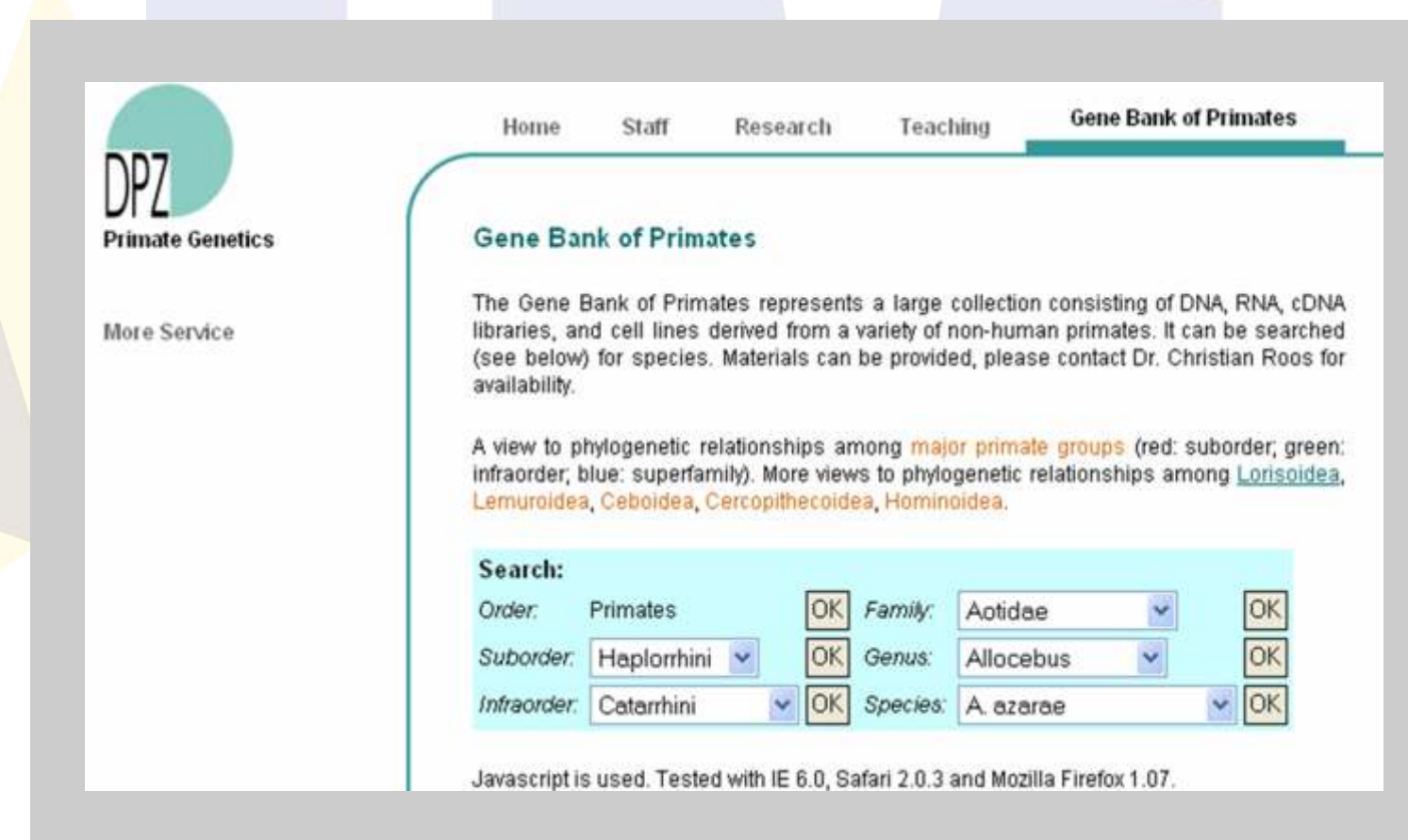


The Activities:

The central objectives will be met through a collection of specific measures provided by three network activities, three transnational access activities and three joint research activities:

Network Activities: The objective of developing methods and procedures and advance their **standardisation** across Europe features prominently in the network activities, e.g. in the form of **workshops and specialised training courses** for scientists and other staff involved in primate research.

Access Activities: A **biobank** will be established providing access to biological material from primates to external users. The collection will comprise tissue, DNA, RNA, cDNA, serum, and cell lines from healthy as well as diseased animals. **Users or user groups will be able to apply for samples via internet.** The access activity PRIMOCID will offer the use of non human primate models of chronic immune disorders.



Research Activities: Two research activities focus on the **viral and microbacterial state and the genetic profile of the primates** bred and housed at the European primate centres as well as those imported. Improving the corresponding characterisation of individual animals is critical particularly for infection studies whose success depends on the availability of animals with a defined viral, microbacterial and genetic status. The development of **tele-metric monitoring devices** in a third research activity will not only reduce the stress involved in some types of primate research but provide tools for entirely new experimental capabilities.



All of these activities contribute to the 3R-concept (Refinement, Reduction, Replacement).

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