



# Memorandum of Understanding

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to establish and promote a strategic and cooperative partnership between VIVO and euroCRIS.

euroCRIS is a not-for-profit, statutory association ( <https://www.eurocris.org> ) established in 2002, governed by Dutch law and dedicated to the development and implementation of efficient and effective institutional, national and international research information systems and their interoperability, based on CERIF (Common European Research Information Format). One of euroCRIS's main objectives is the promotion of cooperation and exchange of expertise between stakeholders in the research information domain, in particular by setting up Strategic Partnerships with international organisations in the field of research information.

The VIVO community ( <https://www.lyrasis.org/programs/Pages/VIVO.aspx> ) is an open-source software community focused on the development of an open-source software platform of the same name and an ontology for representing scholarship. The VIVO community is one of eight community-supported software programs supported by LYRASIS that serve a wide-range of organization types, sizes and disciplines across the globe. LYRASIS is a 501 c 3 (US law) non-profit membership organization whose mission is to support enduring access to the world's shared academic, scientific and cultural heritage through leadership in open technologies, content services, digital solutions and collaboration with archives, libraries, museums and knowledge communities.

## Motivation

Both VIVO and euroCRIS share the same vision of realising an optimal availability of and access to information on research through research information systems, for the benefit and support of all stakeholders involved in research. In this respect, standards and ontologies are key to recording information on research and scholarly activities in research information systems in an unambiguous manner. In addition, standards allow for the exchange of interlinked metadata on research in a

technical and semantic interoperable manner. This will increase the reuse of research information by researchers, institutions, funders for monitoring, reporting, evaluation and profiling of research.

Given the valuable role of standards and ontologies in the research information management ecosystem, a close cooperation between euroCRIS, the organisation representing the community and expertise around the Common European Research Information Format (CERIF) used in research information systems, and VIVO representing the community and expertise on the VIVO ontology and the VIVO open-source software would be highly advantageous for both communities.

## Objectives

The strategic partners express their intention:

(a) To cooperate on the interoperation and convergence of research information representation in CERIF and VIVO.

(b) To cooperate on the area of system interoperability in order to allow homogeneous access over and information exchange across heterogeneous research information systems.

(c) To explore the utilisation of the VIVO user interface as a front-end to 'monolithic' CERIF-based research information storage environments.

(d) To keep the VIVO and euroCRIS communities regularly informed on the developments and adoptions of the VIVO-ontology and CERIF standards.

(e) To reciprocally raise awareness of and communicate each other's activities and achievements.

(f) Up to two representatives of each organisation shall be invited, on a waived fee basis, to conferences and/or strategic meetings organised by the other organisation. The invitation should include a time slot to present relevant ongoing developments within the other organisation. In case of on-site events, the hybrid (face-to-face/online) model should be considered, if/where required, given the geographical distance between both organisations.

## Publicity

The logo of both strategic partners will be placed on each other's website under the respective heading with a hyperlink to the homepage of the strategic partner. Both parties shall approve any public announcement regarding this MoU. Each party may suggest that its logo be used in accordance with provided guidelines.

## Liabilities and Termination

This agreement does not define a financial relationship between the strategic partners but does not exclude that such relationships could be negotiated. The agreement does not restrict the rights and responsibilities of each partner nor increase them. This agreement remains in force until terminated in writing by each party. Upon termination, both parties will remove the logo and hyperlink of the other party from their websites.

Signed in the Netherlands on July 21, 2021.

For VIVO

For euroCRIS

DocuSigned by:  
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Bruce Herbert  
Chair VIVO

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Pablo de Castro  
euroCRIS Secretary