

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

Document version: v2.0

Service Center “Bioinformatics for Proteomics – BioInfra.Prot” within the “German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure – de.NBI”

Preamble

As part of de.NBI (<https://www.denbi.de/>) and ELIXIR (<https://elixir-europe.org/>) we, the service center BioInfra.Prot, provide comprehensive bioinformatics and biostatistics services to users that perform proteomics in life science research including medicine. de.NBI is a third party project funded by the “German Federal Ministry of Education and Research” (BMBF), which aims at the provision of frequently required high quality bioinformatics services including software, consulting and training.

Service Conditions

Are the services of BioInfra.Prot free of charge?

Yes, we provide our services to all users at no cost if they are manageable regarding our resources. However, to be able to provide services free-of-charge we have to document satisfied users and service usage. Thus, our co-authorships in scientific articles based partly or completely on our data analyses, citation of our services and their related papers as well as acknowledging our project including our grant number in all scientific articles are mandatory (see “Publication of results”).

Does BioInfra.Prot guarantee to complete the agreed services at the appointed time?

We always strive to adhere to agreed dates and deadlines, but this cannot be guaranteed. In case of delays, we will inform the service user as soon as possible to rearrange the further course of action.

Is BioInfra.Prot responsible for the correctness of the provided information and the results?

We assume no responsibility or liability for errors, which may occur, and the resulting disadvantages.

Data transfer

What has to be considered when transferring data to BioInfra.Prot?

For person-related data the data privacy regulations of the requesting institution (data provider) must be fulfilled. To fulfill our (data receiver) data privacy regulations, data must be pseudonymized and an informed consent of the patient/experimentee about data privacy must exist.

Does the data need to have a certain format?

Please provide mass spectrometry-based proteomics data in PSI standard formats. For quantitative or clinical data, please agree upon a suitable data format and presentation (e.g. coding of categorical variables, representation of missing values) with our responsible scientist.

Publication of results

What has to be considered for publication of results acquired in collaboration with BioInfra.Prot?

It is mandatory that users of our services publish results along with an appropriate reference to BioInfra.Prot according to the extent of our support as co-authorships and/or citations of our services. If results from the data analysis are published, our responsible researcher(s) and the PI have to be included as co-authors. Acknowledging our project (e.g., “This work was supported by the German Network for Bioinformatics Infrastructure – de.NBI, service center BioInfra.Prot, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) – Grant FKZ 031 A 534A”) is always mandatory. We need these references to document service usage and satisfied users for further funding. Please contact us in rational time before paper submission (about two weeks) to exercise our scientific responsibility and check the manuscript.

Exploitation / Intellectual Property

Is there a claim of BioInfra.Prot regarding patents?

If users plan inventions, patents or applications for industrial/intellectual property rights, the participation of the Ruhr-University Bochum as BioInfra.Prot's hosting institution must be arranged in advance.

History of Document Versions

v1.0: 28th January 2016

v1.1: 10th May 2016

v2.0: 16th April 2020