



Deliverable 2.2

Different Options for Transnational Access

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Responsible author(s)

Martien Groenen
martien.groenen@wur.nl

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None

Dissemination and uptake

This is a public deliverable.

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1. Introduction

Deliverable 2.2 of WP2 is deliverable from task 2.2 that is focused on the extension of the EuroFAANG governance to support access to the infrastructure and provision of appropriate Human Resources support. The task concerns the request to users of the EuroFAANG infrastructure to comply with FAANG policies to follow the standards and share samples, collections, software and datasets with the rest of the community. The collaboration agreements that will be developed will cover Intellectual Property and publication clauses for specific cases, e.g. for industrial partners willing to develop new patentable results whose dissemination should be delayed. All funding offers will be provisional based on budget and resources being available, and a suitable collaboration agreement being signed between the users and the host research infrastructure. The current deliverable (D2.2) addresses how trans-national access (TNA) to the infrastructure will be set up, managed, and distributed between on-site, or remote virtual access.

The aim of the EuroFAANG infrastructure is to underpin Genome to Phenome (G2P) research in farmed animals by providing:

1. Access to data, including genomic and phenotype data, and sample metadata.
2. Access to biobanks of reference samples, including organoids and genome edited cell lines.
3. Access to in vitro methodologies and tools to bridge G2P knowledge gaps.
4. Access to world leading expertise in G2P research for farmed animals.
5. Access to training, to establish the next generation of researchers in farmed animal science.

The EuroFAANG infrastructure in principle strives to be open, but the inclusion of industrial resources and data with IP rights also offers clear advantages and increases the relevance of the infrastructure. We realize that this might generate potential friction with the aim of FAANG for open science, FAIR data sharing and open public access to the biological material. TNA by industrial users therefore will be evaluated considering the balance of added value to the infrastructure versus protection of IP rights of these industrial users. Partnership with industry representatives will ensure that pipelines, data sets and cellular models can be used by industry stakeholders.

2. Core report

The different possibilities for TNA and use of the infrastructure

Access to and/or use of the infrastructure can be either virtual or on site. Furthermore, the rules that apply for using the infrastructure will depend on the goal of the TNA, the extent to which the TNA will further our insight of G2P and on the benefit the TNA will have for the infrastructure itself and its future use by other users.

The different possibilities for TNA and use of the infrastructure can be visualised as a matrix of “Use x User” as shown in table 1 below with the cells outlining the specific requirements and access fees for that specific situation. Although we anticipate that access to the infrastructure will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis. We plan to formulate a number of formal guidelines to be followed for this. These requirements will be further developed and formulated during years 2 and 3 of EuroFAAG.

Table 1: Matrix showing the different possibility for TNA

	A	B	C	D	E
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Types of Use

- A: Retrieve data stored at the infrastructure and use locally
- B: Obtain biological resources stored at the infrastructure and use locally
- C: Online access to and use of the compute resources of the infrastructure
- D: On site access to and use of the compute resources of the infrastructure
- E: On site access to and use of the experimental facilities of the infrastructure

Types of Users

- 1: Academic user fully open access
- 2: Academic user partial open access (e.g. for use of the infrastructure within an ongoing collaboration between an academic and industrial partner)
- 3: Industrial user fully open access
- 4: Industrial user partial open access
- 5: Industrial user, private use only

Types of resources to be used by the TNA

- Specific laboratory techniques and specialized equipment within the resource
- Standard operating procedures as defined within FAANG
- Biological material stored within the infrastructure biobanks
- Data stored within the data repositories of the infrastructure
- Analyses pipelines and specialized software
- Scientific expertise by staff within the infrastructure

For accessing and using biological resources stored in biobanks within the infrastructure and use of data connected to these resources, specific rules have been developed which

are described in Deliverable 4.2 “Set of biobanking access rules for future TNA for input in WP2”.

TNA application process.

As previously outlined in EuroFAANG deliverable D2.1 (submitted 30-6-2023) applications to use the infrastructure will be evaluated by a selection panel consisting of highly experienced scientists and industry stakeholders from inside and outside the consortium and independent from the Orientation Committee, who will monitor and oversee use of the infrastructure. Access will be granted based on scientific excellence for academia and based on feasibility and impact for industry and SMEs. Common criteria of selection will be soundness of concept and adequacy of the experimental design.

Before submitting an actual application for TNA, applicants should contact the Access Officer of the infrastructure. The Access Officer will guide the applicants throughout the process and interact with Liaison Officer to verify the feasibility of the project. Before submitting a project proposal, users must first register in the TNA portal. The applicants should draft a research proposal according to the parameters described in the application form. They should complete the application online and upload the requested documents (for more details see Deliverable 4.2).

Ethical aspects of using the infrastructure

Use of the infrastructure should comply with the ethical standards/rules of the EU. Submitted projects will be evaluated by an Ethics Adviser. In case of provisional acceptance of a project the Ethics Advisor will provide further comments and recommendations that are required before giving access to the infrastructure. Ethical standards and rules will relate to the use of animals in research and ensure that TNA is provided according to the relevant Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) guidelines.

Data policy

The starting point for the infrastructure is that it supports the community generation of open data and research output for genotype to phenotype research. A key aspect, therefore, is a data policy that ensures all data generated by the infrastructure to be open and findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability (FAIR). All the generated data will be collated in the context of existing EuroFAANG, FAANG and community datasets with the EuroFAANG Data Portal. Further details of the data policy can be found in EuroFAANG Deliverable D2.1 submitted on 30 June 2023.

Intellectual Property (IP)

In case it is anticipated that the use of the EuroFAANG infrastructure could result in data, resources or procedures that can be protected with IP rights, the use and ownership of such IP rights need to be agreed before commencing the TNA. Any background knowledge

(e.g. information, know-how, data or material, including any IP Rights pertaining to such knowledge) that is held by the user prior to use of the Infrastructure also needs to be described in the TNA agreement before commencing with the TNA. This will be particularly important for the type of access 2,4 and 5.

Acknowledgement of the Infrastructure

Data derived from the use of the infrastructure that is submitted to public repositories should acknowledge the EuroFAANG infrastructure. Publications, be it in peer reviewed journals, presentations at conferences or in papers directed to the public, should also acknowledge the use of the infrastructure. Furthermore, for publications in peer reviewed journals, staff from the infrastructure that significantly contributed to the results presented in the publication should be included as co-author.

Access Fees

Users of the infrastructure should be able to support the direct costs of the experiments by externally funded projects, while industrial users would be charged a fee. These access fees will provide the core budget to fund the operations of the infrastructure. It is anticipated that the use of the EuroFAANG infrastructure will generate valuable data for the repositories hosted by the infrastructure (WP4) increasing its value for other users. The amount of the fee for commercial users (e.g. animal breeding organisations) might vary depending on the added value to the infrastructure (e.g. valuable biological samples or access to data).

3. Conclusions

In this deliverable we have summarised the different options for TNA focusing on ethical aspects, data policy, IP and access fees, as well as how the infrastructure should be acknowledged. Some aspects will need to be explored further, as the EuroFAANG Research Infrastructure concept develops, including whether specific ethical advisors will be required to manage TNA in the context of EDI and the use of animals in research. We have an on-going dialogue with industry stakeholders on TNA and also on the issues of IP and data sharing, which are linked with work package 3. We will update this deliverable as concept development for the EuroFAANG RI project progresses and the options for access and needs of stakeholders are explored further through planned activities for work packages 3, 4, 5 and 6.