

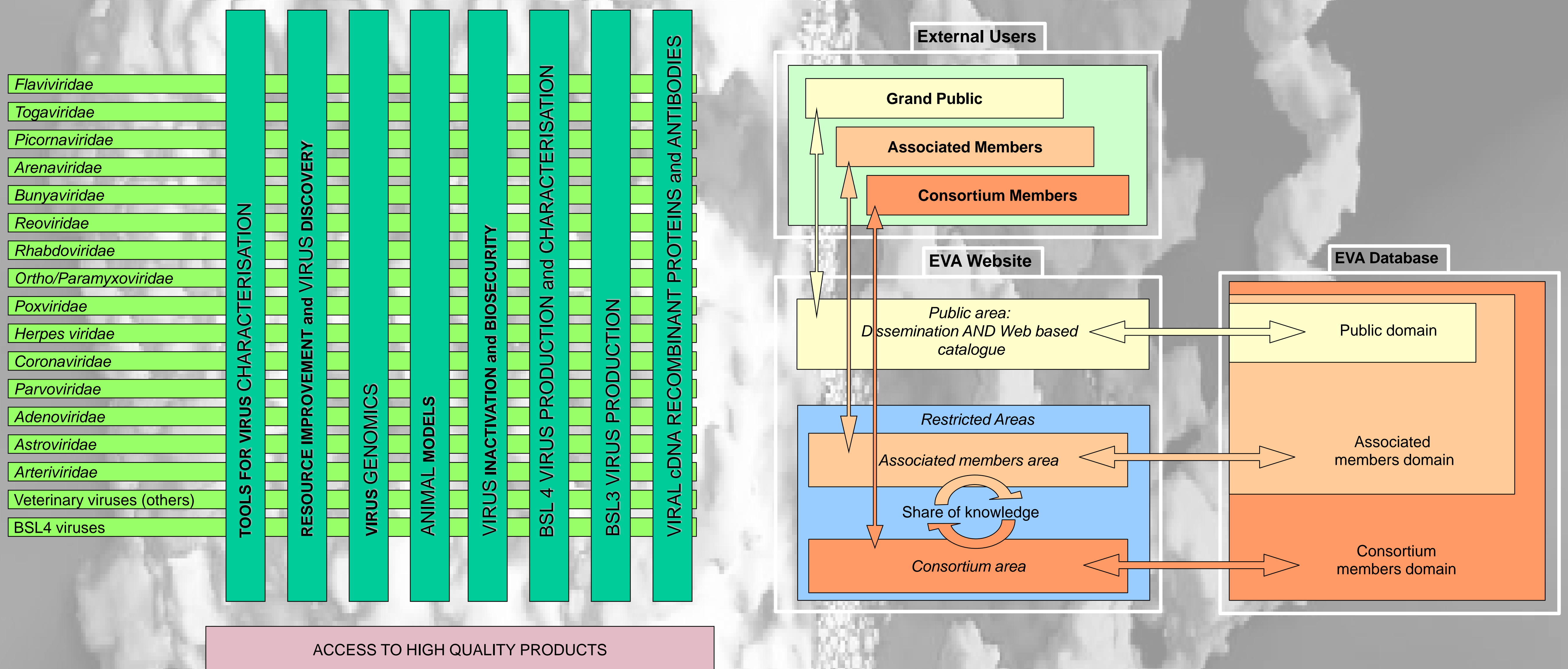
The objective of the European Virus Archive is to create and mobilise a European network of high calibre centres with the appropriate expertise, to collect, amplify, characterise, standardise, authenticate, distribute and track, mammalian and other exotic viruses. EVA will produce associated reagents on demand, to laboratories throughout Europe and also Worldwide.

Concept of the EVA project: to develop a readily accessible virus reference library at the European level

Research laboratories around the world have accumulated collections of viruses that are primarily dependent on the particular speciality of the laboratory. Inevitably, the process of virus standardisation, characterisation, preservation and distribution, has been relatively arbitrary. Despite the efforts of these independent research laboratories, there is currently no centre in the world that systematically coordinates these collections for the benefit of science. Thus, there is no current coordinated, quality controlled laboratory facility that can supply authenticated viruses to research and/or diagnostic laboratories, teaching centres, industries involved in the production of diagnostic reagents, pharmaceuticals, and vaccines. For a variety of reasons, it would be virtually impossible, to establish a single laboratory, to maintain supplies of all recognised mammalian viruses.

Objectives of the project: to provide access to a unique resource

Current taxonomic data define **15 mammalian virus families**, containing an estimated **500 recognised virus species**. Since many distinct strains have been isolated from each virus species, we estimate that more than **10,000 viruses** are distributed globally in small laboratory collections. Many of these could be lost to science if they are not brought together in a co-ordinated high quality collection. The network of EVA laboratories represents an extensive range of virological disciplines and already holds approximately **50% of the 500 recognised species within the EVA collection**. Moreover, through their own local networks they can access the collections of viruses held in small laboratories. The ultimate aim of EVA is to coordinate these collections to produce the largest library of authenticated, quality controlled and available viruses in the world. EVA will therefore "provide a wider and more efficient access to and use of" the virus collections. EVA as a quality assured virus collection will have the important mission to **provide this unique resource**, resulting from the merging of well established infrastructures existing in Europe, to service science, the environmental and public health authorities, the needs of the pharmaceutical industry in developing new technologies for disease control, and provide material for teaching and training purposes.



ARRAY CONCEPT OF EVA

Website, Networking and Database: How the different users interact and illustration of the data pathway

Implement common strategies

Reflecting the successful operation of research infrastructures, EVA partners will implement common strategies to enhance integration on a European scale. The nine laboratories associated with EVA will merge the information concerning their different specific collections into a single database, which will be the foundation for the web-based catalogue that will enable appropriate distribution of the viruses and associated products in the collection. Standardised protocols will be developed for all virus production, assessment, storage and distribution procedures. These will be used uniformly throughout the network.

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