The Établissement Français du Sang (French Blood Establishment – EFS), a public institution established in 2000 under the responsibility of the French Ministry of Health, is the only public blood transfusion service in France. In this capacity, the organisation manages the collection of labile blood products (red blood cells, platelets, plasma) as well as their preparation, screening and distribution/issuance throughout mainland France and its overseas departments. Furthermore, EFS is involved in numerous activities linked to its medical expertise. It is therefore France’s leading biomedical laboratory and a leader in the national cell and tissue product market. Lastly, EFS has made research and innovation one of its priorities and now has several platforms for the production of advanced therapy medicinal products.

Internationally, EFS engages in a large number of cooperation activities. Its international affairs activities contribute to the long-term improvement of transfusion systems worldwide and the promotion of the French donation model which is based on voluntary participation, non-remuneration, anonymity and non-profitability. EFS, a key stakeholder in the French public health sector, currently operates one of the world’s best transfusion systems, which is used as a benchmark.

**RESEARCH**

EFS is implementing an ambitious policy of research, innovation, training, knowledge dissemination, and technology transfer and development. The research teams cover an extensive range of research areas: public health, infectious diseases and microbiology, immunology, regenerative medicine, ethics, health economy, etc. This is combined with active scientific monitoring, particularly in the context of emerging or re-emerging diseases, and new risks related to transfusions and transplants. Research teams within EFS apply a fundamental approach within the context of medical practice which will directly benefit from a transfer to applied research, which also includes clinical research. With an overall budget of 23 million euros, EFS funds research from its own budget. The organisation works in partnership with public, scientific, and technical research establishments (CNRS, Inserm), hospitals, and universities. Joint supervision is standard practice in all teams. With regard to funding, researchers also respond to national calls for tender (ANR, Alliances, etc.) and those issued by European research programmes.

**STRENGTHS**

Each year, EFS collects nearly 3 million samples from 1.6 million donors. It supplies blood products to 1500 public and private healthcare institutions and provides the extremely important service of offering transfusion advice to prescribers. Through its biomedical activities, the organisation performs over 500 million procedures per year. Furthermore, it operates 74 health care centres, one reagent production unit, six multi-tissue banks, two cornea banks and 18 cell therapy units.

**LOCATION**

EFS employs nearly 10,000 people and operates 13 regional blood establishments, three of which are located in French overseas departments. The organisation’s head office, which employs more than 300 people, is located in the La Plaine Saint-Denis district, near the Stade de France. For those who wish to give blood, there are more than 120 collection sites located throughout France and more than 40,000 mobile collection sessions are organised each year.

https://www.efs.sante.fr/