

The ERIC Forum Fact Sheets



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WHAT IS AN ERIC

An ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) is a legal form under EU law created to set up and operate research infrastructures of European relevance. ERICs are primarily non-profit organisations, although they may carry out limited economic activities directly related to their mission. They can own assets, employ staff, enter into contracts, and serve as a coordinated provider of research facilities and services for the European research community. Its members include EU Member States, associated countries, non-EU countries, and intergovernmental organisations. They can be single-sited, concentrated at one location, or distributed, with a central hub coordinating multiple national or regional nodes across different countries.

HOW ERICS ADD VALUE TO YOUR RESEARCH PROJECTS

1

Access to advanced research facilities and services you might not have at your home institution, including state-of-the-art equipment, digital archives, imaging, materials, or specialised labs.

2

Support for complex, interdisciplinary, or large-scale projects, from early-stage research to applied testing, prototyping, and validation across multiple techniques and disciplines.

3

Opportunities for international collaboration and resource sharing, enabling cross-border, multidisciplinary work and integration into broader European research networks.

4

Open and FAIR-access mechanisms, often through calls for proposals, giving researchers from any institution a chance to use top-tier infrastructure.

5

Boost the credibility and visibility of your research by linking your work to recognised European infrastructure, which can strengthen funding applications, publications, and collaborative efforts.

HOW AN ERIC TAKES PART IN RESEARCH PROJECTS



ERICs can act as a project partner/beneficiary in grant proposals or funded projects.



A distributed ERIC can also participate via one of its member institutions or national nodes rather than the central entity itself, or with both (having a central hub as a beneficiary and national nodes/facilities as Affiliated Entities).



ERIC can coordinate or manage project/ Work packages/ tasks, including coordination of multi-site, multi-country research efforts (especially relevant if the ERIC is distributed). Many have multiple EC projects experience.



For projects needing trans-national access or shared infrastructure use, ERICs are often explicitly encouraged or required as beneficiaries (or via their nodes) in calls under major European funding schemes.



ENVIRONMENT CLUSTER

Infrastructures focused on observing, monitoring, modelling and understanding environmental processes — from climate and ecosystems to pollution and biodiversity — to support science-based decision-making on global environmental challenges.



ACTRIS is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure dedicated to the observation and understanding of short-lived atmospheric constituents and their interactions. ACTRIS offers open access to high-quality data, state-of-the-art facilities, and tailored services, supporting atmospheric and climate research.

www.actris.eu



DANUBIUS-RI is the International Centre for Advanced Science on River-Sea Systems. It facilitates interdisciplinary science on the continuum from river source to sea, it offers state-of-the-art research infrastructure, and provides the integrated knowledge required to sustainably manage and protect River-Sea Systems. Its services range from in situ and Earth Observations, analysis, numerical modelling and management scenario development.

www.danubius-ri.eu



EMSO, the European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and water column Observatory, aims to explore the oceans, to gain a better understanding of phenomena happening within and below them, and to explain the critical role that these phenomena play in the broader Earth systems.

www.emso.eu



EPOS, the European Plate Observing System, is a multidisciplinary, distributed research infrastructure that integrates data, services, and facilities from solid Earth science communities across Europe. It provides sustainable, open access to harmonised, high-quality data and advanced tools, enabling collaborative research and innovation to better understand geodynamic processes, natural hazards, and their impacts on society.

www.epos-eric.eu



Euro-Argo ERIC is a Research Infrastructure which allows active coordination and strengthening of the European contribution to the international Argo programme.

www.euro-argo.eu



ICOS, the Integrated Carbon Observation System, is Europe's dedicated research infrastructure for high-precision observations of greenhouse gases. Through harmonised data spanning the atmosphere, ecosystems and oceans, it enables cutting-edge research on the carbon cycle and its response to natural and societal pressures, laying the foundation for informed solutions to climate change.

www.icos-ri.eu



LifeWatch ERIC is Europe's only e-Science biodiversity and ecosystem research infrastructure, offering FAIR-compliant data and analytical services dedicated to research in both areas. Covering a specific and unique niche in the European and international landscape, it provides access to biodiversity content, services, and communities to promote science-based and reliable answers to global ecosystem challenges. Through LifeWatch ERIC researchers can discover, access, harmonise, standardise, integrate, and analyse data, enabling advanced modelling of biodiversity and ecosystems.

www.lifewatch.eu





PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING CLUSTER

Infrastructures for foundational research in physics and engineering disciplines — including astronomy, particle physics, materials, and space science — which underpin technological innovation and understanding of fundamental phenomena, while offering access to some of the most advanced facilities in Europe.

CERIC

CERIC is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) integrating and providing open access to some of the most advanced analytical facilities in Europe to help science and industry advance in all fields of materials, biomaterials and nanotechnology, with a focus on energy materials and life sciences.

www.ceric-eric.eu

CTAO

The CTAO ERIC oversees the construction and operation of the Cherenkov Telescope Array Observatory, which will be the world's largest and most powerful observatory for gamma-ray astronomy. With more than 60 telescopes across both hemispheres, the CTAO will be the first of its kind to operate as an open, proposal-driven observatory, advancing our understanding of questions in and beyond astrophysics.

www.ctao.org



ELI ERIC (Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC) is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium established to provide access to world-class high-power and ultra-fast lasers for science and enable cutting-edge research in the physical, chemical, materials, and medical sciences, as well as breakthrough technological innovations.

www.eli-laser.eu



The European Spallation Source is a joint European organisation committed to building and operating the world's leading facility for research using neutrons.

www.ess.eu



JIV-ERIC (the Joint Institute for VLBI ERIC) is an international astronomy research institute that provides central support for users of the European VLBI Network (EVN).

www.jive.eu



LOFAR, the Low Frequency Array, is the largest and most sensitive radio telescope for low frequencies. Its network of antennas across Europe provides exceptional sensitivity and resolution, advancing research from studies of the Earth's ionosphere to the farthest corners and earliest moments of the Universe.

www.lofar.eu



SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES CLUSTER

Research infrastructures that support empirical, theoretical and methodological work on human societies, cultures and behaviour, providing tools and data to understand social dynamics, cultural heritage and societal challenges.



CESSDA, the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, provides large-scale, integrated, and sustainable data services to promote high-quality and trusted social science research. By doing so it enables social scientists and other disciplines to contribute to the production of effective solutions to the major challenges facing society today and tomorrow.

www.cessda.eu



CLARIN, the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, makes digital language resources available to scholars, researchers, students and citizen-scientists from all disciplines, especially in the humanities and social sciences through single, sign-on access.

www.clarin.eu



DARIAH ERIC supports researchers working in the diverse community of practice known as the Arts and Humanities to build, analyse and interpret digital or hybrid resources. For this purpose, DARIAH maintains and evolves a distributed infrastructure. This ecosystem empowers research communities by providing the necessary technical services, shared knowledge, and collaborative methods required to create, connect and share knowledge about culture and society.

www.dariah.eu



EHRI-ERIC overcomes the geographical fragmentation of Holocaust related sources and expertise and sets standards for excellence in transnational Holocaust research, documentation, education and remembrance. EHRI maintains a digital and human infrastructure that provides access to archival resources and services to a diverse community.

www.ehri-project.eu



E-RIHS applies an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to answer the specific needs of cultural and natural heritage assets and improve their understanding and preservation. It delivers integrated access to expertise, data and technologies for protecting heritage.

www.e-rihs.eu



The European Social Survey (ESS) provides high-quality open access data measuring public attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in 39 countries. Every two years since 2002/03, around 50,000 interviews are conducted across Europe with nationally representative samples on a wide range of topics

www.europeansocialsurvey.org



SHARE is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status, and social & family networks of more than 160,000 individuals aged 50 and over from 28 countries.

www.share-eric.eu



ENERGY CLUSTER

Research infrastructures that address the scientific and technological challenges of energy systems, including renewable generation, storage, distribution, and efficient use to support the transition to sustainable and secure energy.



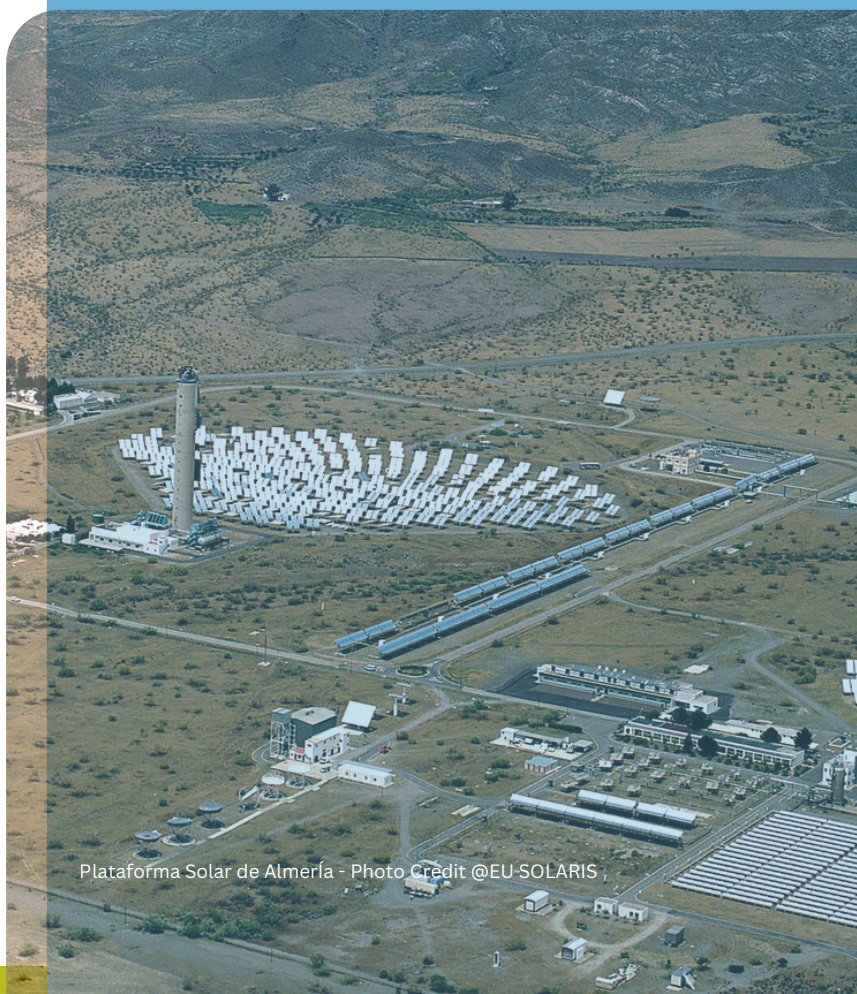
ECCSEL ERIC is a permanent, distributed, and integrated European research infrastructure, providing a single-point open-access gateway to more than 155 world-class research facilities across Europe. These facilities span the full CCUS and CDR value chain as well as it includes subsurface low carbon energy storage (such as hydrogen, heat, and compressed air), CO₂ storage as a feedstock, and geothermal energy. ECCSEL supports research and innovation activities from TRL 1 to TRL 7, serving academia, research organisations, industry, and public authorities alike.

www.eccsel.eu



EU-SOLARIS ERIC aims to become the leading European research infrastructure for the development of Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) technologies and their applications, providing optimal conditions for both scientific and industrial communities to carry out CST research

www.eu-solaris.eu



Plataforma Solar de Almería - Photo Credit @EU-SOLARIS



AnaEE-ERIC is a landmark European Research Infrastructure connecting cutting-edge facilities dedicated to global change ecology — the study of how ecosystems function and respond to environmental change. We bring together experimental sites, analytical tools, and modelling capabilities to tackle pressing environmental challenges.

www.anaee.eu



INFRAFRONTIER investigates the relationship between gene function and human diseases. It promotes access to cutting-edge services and resources worldwide, and advocates for animal welfare in biomedical research.

www.infracfrontier.eu



BBMRI-ERIC is the European Research Infrastructure for biobanking and biomolecular resources in health and life sciences. It comprises 26 Member and Observer Countries plus IARC/WHO and around 500 biobanks. Our services for, and provided by, the biobanking community (clinicians, researchers, biobankers, industry, patients, citizens) facilitate responsible access to high-quality samples, linked data and medical information through expertise in research, ethics, quality, datafication, imaging, AI and biobanking development.

www.bbmri-eric.eu



Instruct-ERIC is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure funding access to high-end technologies and methods in structural biology. Instruct-ERIC is comprised of 17 Member Countries and organisations. Through its specialist research centres in Europe, Instruct-ERIC offers funded research visits, training, internships and R&D awards. By promoting integrative methods, Instruct-ERIC enables excellent science and technological development for the benefit of all life scientists.

www.instruct-eric.org



EATRIS is the European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine. We bring together facilities and expertise to translate scientific discoveries into patient benefit, specialized in cell & gene therapies, AI-enabled clinical decision-making, and medicines development & repurposing. Comprising 15 member countries, we provide pre-clinical and early clinical development services for academia and industry, as well as specialized advisory for research funders.

www.eatris.eu



MIRRI-ERIC, the Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure, is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure that offers coordinated access to high-quality microbial resources, data, and services, supporting their preservation, systematic investigation, provision, and valorisation while enabling research and innovation in biosciences and the bioindustry.

www.mirri-eric.eu



ECRIN facilitates multinational clinical research in Europe, by providing expert advice, services and tools for the set-up and management of investigator or SME led clinical studies. It connects national networks of clinical trial units across Europe, with the vision of generating high-quality scientific evidence to optimise medical practice.

www.ecrin.org



The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) is Europe's only research infrastructure for marine biology and ecology. Through our pan-European network of marine stations and research organisations, we help researchers from both academia and industry advance scientific knowledge and innovation, and promote the sustainable use of marine biological resources.

www.embrc.eu



The European Infrastructure of Open Screening Platforms for Chemical Biology develops novel small chemical compounds that elicit specific biological responses on organisms, cells or cellular components.

www.eu-openscreen.eu



Euro-BioImaging is a research infrastructure that offers open access to imaging technologies, training and data services in biological and biomedical imaging. Euro-BioImaging enables researchers and innovators of all backgrounds and experience levels to access expertise, accelerate discovery, and turn scientific excellence into societal impact in health, life science and beyond.

www.eurobioimaging.eu



HEALTH & FOOD CLUSTER

Facilities, platforms and networks that generate critical data and capabilities for biomedical, clinical, nutritional and food-systems research, addressing public health priorities and the sustainability and safety of food systems.

