14th June 2023, Data Week 2023, Luleå

European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) – A brief outlook

Ilari Pulli

Coordinator

EURO-BIOIMAGING ERIC

ilari.pulli@eurobioimaging.eu

ERIC FORUM

ERIC Forum has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grand agreement N. 823798

ERIC Forum: who we are

A bottom-up collaboration of all European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC)

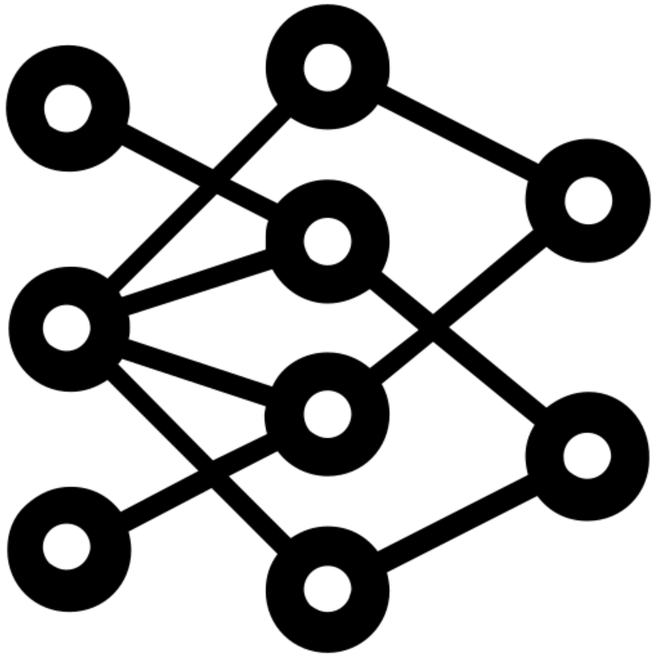
ERIC FORUM

www.eric-forum.eu

Mission of the ERIC Forum: internal view

Ecosystem for collaboration, exchange and support across all ERICs, for

- sharing best **practices** and **experience**;
- identifying common **challenges**;
- increasing interdisciplinary **exchange**.



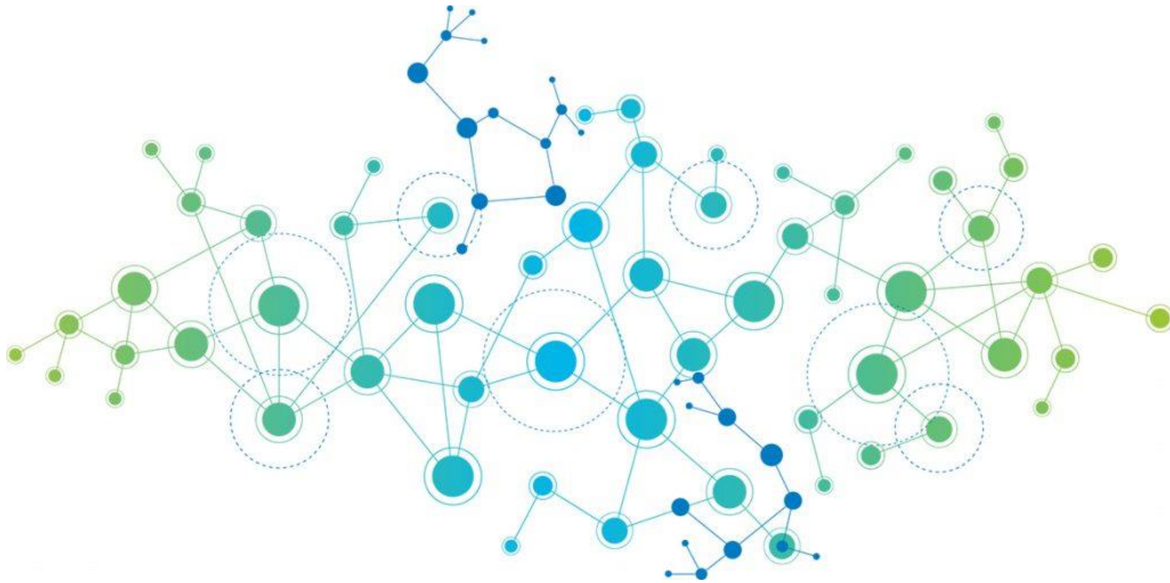
Mission of the ERIC Forum: external view

- Be the **voice of the ERICs** on all matters of common interest
- Foster **visibility**, **impact,** and **sustainability** of ERICs
- Contribute to the development of the **ERIC regulation**, ESFRI framework, and European and international research context

ERICs – who we are

Operating within 5 topic-specific **clusters**:

- Environment
- Health and Food
- Energy
- Physical sciences and engineering
- Social and cultural innovation



ERIC FORUM

Icons source: Flaticon.com

ERICs – who we are

26 ERICs to date:

Environment

LifeWatch ERIC

emso ERIC
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM

Euro Argo

ICOS European Research Infrastructure Consortium

EPOS
ERIC EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM

ACTRiS
Exploring the Atmosphere

Health and Food

eu openscreen

EMBRC EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTRE

instruct ERIC
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM

BBMRI-ERIC®

eatris
European infrastructure for translational medicine

ecrin

EURO BIOIMAGING
Image life, discover the future

AnaEE
Analysis and Experimentation on Ecosystems

MIRRI MICROBIAL RESOURCE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ERIC
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM

Energy

ECCSEL

EU SOLARIS ERIC

Physical sciences and engineering

CERIC Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium

ess EUROPEAN SPALLATION SOURCE

JIVE Joint Institute for VLBI ERIC

eli

Social and cultural innovation

cessda

CLARIN
Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure

DARIAH-ERIC
Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities

European Social Survey

SHARE ERIC
SURVEY OF HEALTH, AGEING AND RETIREMENT IN EUROPE

ERICs - who we are

Basing on the **ERIC regulation:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32009R0723

WHAT IS THE AIM OF THE REGULATION?

- It aims to facilitate the establishment and the operation of research infrastructures of European interest among several European Union (EU) Member States and associated countries by providing a new legal instrument under EU law: the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).
- The ERIC legal framework may be used for new or existing, single-sited or distributed research infrastructures.

ERICs - what we do

Basing on the **ERIC regulation:** https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32009R0723

To set up an ERIC, the following requirements must be met:

- it is necessary for the carrying out of European **research activities;**
- it represents a significant improvement in the scientific and technological fields at the European and international levels;
- it **grants effective access** to the European research community;
- it contributes to the **mobility of researchers and knowledge-sharing within the European research area;**
- it contributes to disseminating and optimising the results of research, technological and demonstration activities.

ERICs - what we do

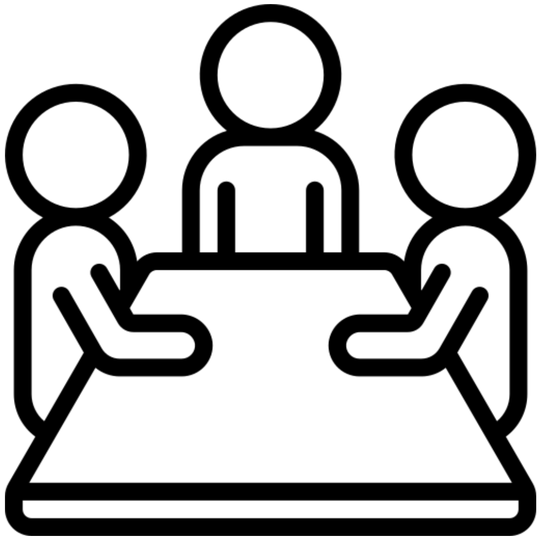
26 European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) have been set up

- As key pillars of the European Research Area (ERA) they are providing their services across all scientific domains
- ERICs are financed by their member states for their basic implementation and operation
- ERIC Forum represents a very diverse community:
  - some ERICs provide physical access to facilities;
  - Distributed or single-sited;
  - while others rely on virtual access.
- ERICs are key facilitators of excellent science by providing a vast variety of cutting-edge services to the European research community, strengthening and contributing to the international positioning of Europe’s research and innovation capacity

What can be improved?

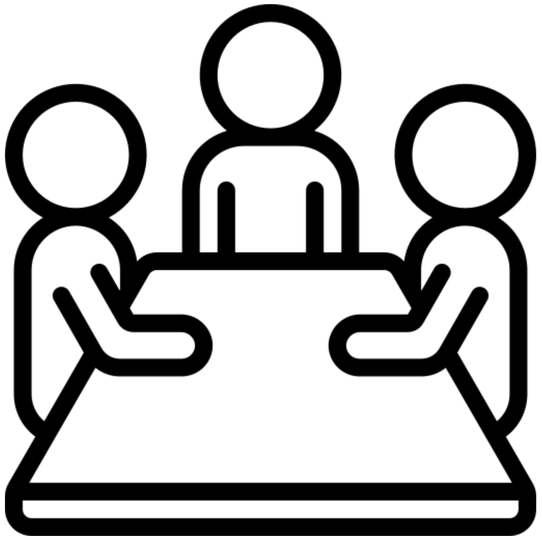
ERIC Forum has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grand agreement N. 823798

Challenges of the Regulation include:



- *Varying fiscal status of ERICs in the various EU countries (recognition of ERICs);*
- *Lack of integration of the national nodes in the ERICs;*
- *Lack of recognition of the legal status of the ERICs as international (research infrastructure) organisations and their Nodes at national level;*
- *ERICs would benefit from support from the EC and Member States to fully benefit from the application of the ERIC Regulation recognizing the ERIC as an international body*

Challenges of the Regulation include:



- *Operational funding of the core infrastructure is restricted to ERIC Members' contributions;*
- *Hurdles or unclear legal conditions for on-boarding of third countries and international organisations;*
- *Complicated and varying implementation of the VAT exemption*

What to consider / improve

- Ensuring ERIC services for the European research communities:
    - **increasing visibility**, uptake and integration of multidisciplinary services across ERICs
- **Improving access to ERICs**, their services, and products through analysing best practices, pilot experiments, and policy recommendations
- Importance of **ensuring national funding for long-term sustainability: raising visibility of the ERICs on the national level**
- Launching future ERICs vs. integration in existing ERICs (landscape analysis)

ERIC Forum Project 2.0 (Sept 2023 - Aug 2027)

- Promoting **RIs across HE Pillars** to ensure full contribution to the ERA
- **Improving access to RIs**
- Collection of **impact data** (SEI & KPI)
- Strategic alignment of ERICs with **European policy priorities**
- *Further strengthen cooperation and **enhance collaboration between ERICs and ERICs in preparation***
- *Support **implementation of the ERIC Regulation and ERICs services** & integration of the national Nodes*

ERIC Forum Project 2.0 (Sept 2023 - Aug 2027)

- *Support **implementation of the ERIC Regulation and ERICs services** & integration of the national Nodes*
- Establishing guidelines and best practices to further **develop relationships** with international organisations and third countries
- Assessment and reporting on progress **towards green and digital transition**: showcasing good practices and recommendations for the future
- *Further strengthen cooperation and **enhance collaboration between ERICs and ERICs in preparation, landscape***

Position papers in 2023

1. ERIC Forum position paper regarding the

“Public consultation on the past, present and future of the European Research & Innovation Framework programmes 2014-2027”

2. Contribution from ERIC Forum to the ESFRI Landscape Analysis about the functioning of the current ecosystem of RIs and its future development

ERIC FORUM

Thanks for your attention!

contact

ilari.pulli@eurobioimaging.eu

ERIC Forum has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grand agreement N. 823798