

Presentation EF WP6 Policy Brief 2

Scaling-up research projects through ERICs

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► Rationale & objectives

The **main objectives** of the ERIC Forum Implementation Project are to:

- **Strengthen coordination and networking**, reinforcing the informal ERIC network or its successor framework,
- **Support the organisation of specific meetings**, targeted thematic workshops focusing on shared challenges,
- Support ERICs in preparation, based on **best practices**,
- Support **common communication and outreach activities** and strengthen the external representation of ERICs as a stakeholder in consultations and other policy actions that could affect them.

Within this framework, WP6 deliverables ensure the production of periodic science policy reports on jointly identified topics of critical interest for ERICs.

The objective of these policy reports is to better inform the relevant European policy and decision-making bodies of topics critical to the ERICs, helping to expand their impact and their contribution to an innovative and sustainable European Research Area.

The WP6 policy reports are further validated during the ERIC FORUM Seminars' discussions where national, European and international stakeholders meet to develop productive synergies by jointly addressing science policy issues raised by the development of science and technology and by the impact of ERICs on the European research ecosystem.

▶ Methodology

Annual science policy reports are selected, drafted and disseminated by a “Forward Looking Task Force” (FLTF) within WP6.

- All ERIC Forum beneficiaries have been invited to join the FLTF, on a voluntary basis, through email consultation. The WP6 FLTF is composed of representatives from 22 partner ERICs and associated organizations.
- The selection of the priorities for the ERIC Forum policy briefs and seminars was based on a preliminary list of relevant policy topics proposed and discussed at the EF KoM. Additional topics were added following consultations and discussions.
- The topics for the policy briefs were selected by the FLTF by vote (email and teleconferences) with 1 vote per participating ERIC.
- The drafted policy reports contribute to prepare the ERIC Forum Seminars, are further discussed with external stakeholders during the seminars and then finalized and disseminated by the FLTF.



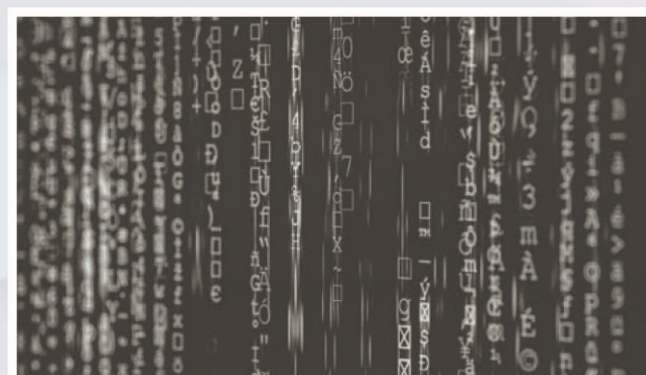
Scaling-up research projects Big Science on the research



ERIC Forum Policy Brief

SCALING-UP RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH ERICS: IMPACT OF BIG SCIENCE ON THE RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM

January 2022



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



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▶ Key points

This second ERIC FORUM policy brief showcases the role of RIs, and ERICs in particular, in the European R,D&I ecosystem at the interface of science and technology users and providers, as well as direct and indirect spillover effects when possible considering their diverse modes of tackling scientific and societal challenges.

- Scaling-up Big Science through ERICs covers the value chain from basic to applied research with the objective of increasing both access and impact for the players as well as for the society at large.
- The technical requirements of RI instruments to explore the frontiers of science surpass existing tools, positioning RIs on the forefront of technological developments.
- The unique combination of scientific excellence, cutting edge technology and interdisciplinary research partnerships embedded within a regional ecosystem provides the RIs with the capacity to respond rapidly to major global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, avoiding fragmentation and duplication while contributing to cross-fertilisation and interdisciplinary research.
- Actionable recommendations are proposed to optimise the ERIC research ecosystem and effectively scale-up its contribution to research and SEI impacts so that the ERIC System can continue to serve as the backbone of ERA within a sustainable framework

► Challenges

1. Visibility of the ERIC
2. Competition between the ERIC and partners
3. Lack of RI recognition as stakeholder
4. Member States' support for RI: Access to national funding streams
5. Inclusion in European Research funding schemes
6. Legal constraints
7. Collaborations with Industry and SMEs
8. Sustainability of RIs
9. Translation of science results in policies

► Recommendations to optimise the ERIC research ecosystem and effectively scale-up its contribution to research and SEI 1/2

1. The added value of Pan-European Research Infrastructures as Big Science instruments should be further underscored among the research community and key stakeholders including the Industry at national and international levels.
2. The benefit of joining and/or collaborating with an ERIC should be manifest when individual partners engage in projects in order to create synergies and increase impact by the prioritisation of research questions and the collaborative design of research protocols.
 - Authorship rules, evaluation criteria and career development policies should be developed to promote the participation of research and infrastructure staff in highly collaborative competitive projects.
 - The operational and legislative frameworks for data standards, sharing, reuse and analysis should be strengthened.
3. Member State support for ERICs should be promoted in competitive funding calls in the framework of national programs, supporting the national nodes and hubs and increasing the quality and impact of the proposed activities.

► Recommendations to optimise the ERIC research ecosystem and effectively scale-up its contribution to research and SEI 2/2

4. Funding mechanisms should be adapted to unfold the full potential of ERICs to meet the needs of large science projects in terms of volume and multinational and cross-border availability, as well as prioritisation criteria in order to fully benefit from the ERIC infrastructure support.

5. ERICs are valuable to Industry. The visibility of these collaborations can be promoted by creating an “ERIC label” that Industry can exploit as a label of excellence.

6. The EC must maintain its role and support ERICs beyond the preparation phase, through instruments such as the INFRADEV contracts and promoting their participation in all the pillars of the EU Framework Programme, to support and facilitate the international collaboration.

7. Evidence-based policy-making should be supported by strengthening the dialogue between ERICs and policy-makers through dedicated fora to promote regular formal and informal communication



THANK YOU



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