ERIC Forum Implementation Project

Online toolbox publication

Work Package 5 - Deliverable 5.5

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Executive summary

This deliverable summarises the ERIC Forum Toolkit, the online platform that was created to make available the wealth of knowledge generated in the ERIC Forum project. The aim of the Toolkit is to serve the knowledge to ERICs and prospective ERICs and other users in a way that is easy to find and use even after the project ends. .

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Document log

Issue	Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	Comment	Author/partner

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Background

The ERIC Forum Toolkit collects the wealth of knowledge accumulated by ERIC Forum and communicated in the project deliverables in one practical online platform.

The purpose of the Toolkit is to answer practical questions relevant to ERICs, and support especially RIs in preparatory phases by sharing best practices. The site also includes various documents and templates that ERICs can use as inspiration when developing their operations.

Approaches (Methods)

To understand the needs of project participants and the end-users of the Toolkit, the beginning of the task was dedicated to conducting surveys and interviews among the relevant stakeholders.

Interviews with four WP Leaders (WP 1, 3, 5, 6) were made to understand their needs and the content of the deliverables. A survey was sent to the current and prospective ERICs to map their needs and expectations for the Toolkit. The survey was responded to by eight RI representatives (from six ERICs and from two RIs in the preparatory phase of becoming ERICs). This background information was used for planning the content for the Toolkit and the necessary features for the online platform.

Different online platforms were evaluated for the purpose of the Toolkit and in the end, it was decided to build the Toolkit to be an integral part of the ERIC FORUM website. An external accessibility consultancy company (Liana Oy) was contracted to design a prototype of the Toolkit in accordance with the European Accessibility Act. The site was built by a company called Logikamente, an existing IT partner of CERIC ERIC for the ERIC FORUM website (www.eric-forum.eu)..

The content in the Toolkit is based on the project's deliverables. The content was written in close collaboration with the WP leaders, in a process that allowed them to review the content in two phases. In addition, the website of the RI-VIS project was included in the Communication pages of the Toolkit, as their Communication Toolkit already had exactly what was needed for the page on the ERIC Forum Toolkit. The site was presented to the project partners in several phases throughout the years.

Some difficulties appeared along the way such as finding and developing the right platform for the Toolkit. On the content production side, delays in some of the project deliverables caused delays in writing the content for the Toolkit.

Results
The ERIC Forum Toolkit was published and disseminated internally for the project partners on 22.11.2022 and launched for the wider audience on 20.12.2022. Hereafter the Toolkit will be promoted on the ERIC Forum communication channels.

Discussion and Conclusions
The Toolkit has been received positively by the project partners and a few preparatory ERICs that the site was sent to for comments. Although project partners were helpful in sending out their documents, templates and other materials for the launch, more materials will need to be collected in the future to ensure that the site will have enough practical examples for ERICs and future ERICs. More content and especially practical case stories could be added to the site and information should be updated going forward, as needed.

Next Steps
The Toolkit will be published and open to the public starting 20.12.2022.