

ERIC Forum Implementation Project

Final Policy Report– 3

Work Package 6 - Deliverable 6.9

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Executive summary

The objective of WP6 is to address, jointly with the ERIC Forum (EF) and national, European and international science policymakers, funding agencies, and representatives of the research communities, policy issues raised by the development of science and technology and the impact of ERICs on the European research ecosystem and to develop productive synergies.

Within this framework, WP6 deliverables ensure the production of periodic science policy reports on identified topics of critical interest for ERICS, which are further discussed and validated during the EF Policy Seminars, and disseminated by the Forward Looking Task Force (FLTF). The objective of these Policy Reports is to better inform the relevant national and 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. Upon finalization, the reports are disseminated by the FLTF and all EF members.

The selection process of the priorities for the ERIC Forum Seminars and Policy Reports has been proposed by the FLTF (described in Deliverable D6.1, see Reference 1). The first topic selected, “Funding models for access to ERIC multinational / transnational services”, was presented during the ERIC FORUM seminar in M21

(September 2020). The second policy report topic “Socio-economic impact (SEI) of ERICs” was selected in M19 (July 2020). The selection of topics was carried out following the consensual participative procedure described in Deliverable D6.1 (Reference 1).

Following WP4 and WP6 discussions, and a WP6-wide consultation and vote, it was agreed with EF coordination, to synergize SEI-related deliverables to avoid fragmentation and to achieve greater impact by better alignment within the ERIC Forum as well as outreach and the inclusion of WP4 external collaborators working on the same theme.

Subsequently the topic “Scaling-up research projects ERICS: Impact of Big Science on the Research Ecosystem” was selected following the same participative methodology, and presented during the EF Annual Meeting 2022 and finalized (see Reference 2).

This final report summarizes all the actions taken to produce the third and final Policy Report on the SEI of ERICs due in 2022 including the EF Seminar on this same topic that took place on April 29th 2022.

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Background

Clarify the background behind the problem the deliverable is aiming to solve.

As defined in Task 6.1, annual science policy reports are drafted and disseminated by the WP6 “Forward Looking Task Force” (FLTF). The topics covered in these Policy Reports are chosen collectively by FLTF members following an agreed methodology (see Reference 1 D6.1). The Policy Reports inform the preparation of the ERIC Forum Seminars, during which they are further discussed (Task 6.13 - 15) with all the ERIC Forum representatives and relevant stakeholders in view of their finalization and dissemination by the FLTF through selected national, European and international channels.

This document reports the preparation process of the final Policy Report on *SEI of ERICs* including the EF Policy Seminar that took place on April 29th 2022.

Approaches (Methods)

Describe the steps that have been undertaken for the deliverable.

This report summarizes all the actions taken to produce the final EF Policy Report on the *SEI of ERICs*.

The first step towards this activity was to establish a collaboration with WP4 and to work together on Task 4.3. The activities in Task 4.3 are designed to support ERICs by contributing to develop an ERIC-specific framework for socio-economic impact (SEI) assessment. This is achieved by:

- Mapping and analysing of existing SEI systems within the ERIC network,
- Understanding the current developments for establishing a standardised international approach,
- Development of an ERIC-specific SEI framework.

The result of Task 4.3 is Deliverable D4.3: Report on SEI ERIC Framework. Moreover, Task 4.4 will also indirectly contribute to the development of the SEI ERIC Framework within Task 4.3 by systematically improving the policy-funding-research-dissemination continuum. The outcome of Task 4.4 will be Deliverable D4.4: “Report and proposal for a model sustainability plan for ERICs”.

Collaboration between WP4 and WP6 began in 2020 with the collaborative design of the WP4 4.3 Survey to better understand the SEI assessment practices of the ERIC Forum members. The table below summarizes all the TCs carried out at different levels to coordinate the activities leading to the organization of the EF Policy Seminar and drafting the Policy Report:

WP4/WP6	WP6	Coordination	EIRO Forum
11/09/2020			
30/09/2020			
29/10/2020 WP4/WP6	16/10/2020	23/10/2020 ExBo	
	3/11/2020 LIFEWATCH		
	18/12/2020 TC1 PB2		
	22/1/2021 TC2 PB2	26-27/1/2021 Annual Meeting	
1/3/2021 TC1 D4.3/D4.4	4/3/2021 TC3 PB2		
31/3/2021 TC2 D4.3/D4.4	15/4/2021 TC4 PB2		
3/5/2021 TC3 D4.3/D4.4	21/5/2021 TC5 PB2	7/5/2021 PMT	
27/5/2021 TC4 D4.3/D4.4	25/6/2021 TC6 PB2		

	08/10/2021 WT Leads		
	11/10/2021		
	18/10/2021 WT		
18/11/2021 D4.3/D4.4	TC5		
15/12/2021			
21/1/2022			
31/1/2022			
14/2/2022 ESFRI	24/2/2022		
	11/3/2022		
	17/3/2022		
	4/4/2022		
11/4/2022			
25/4/2022			

The second step was the organization of the Policy Seminar bringing together the ERIC Forum, the EIRO Forum and relevant national and European stakeholders including entities and/or projects addressing methodology options for RI SEI assessment. The Seminar objectives, agenda and speakers, were discussed and finalized following joint WP4, WP6 and EIRO Forum TCs.

The objectives of the ERIC Forum Policy Seminar were the following:

- Showcase the diversity of ERICs and their impact (both at an individual level as well as their contributions to tackling societal challenges through, for example: EU Missions, Green and Digital Transitions, ERA Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)).
- Present the findings from the ERIC Forum Survey on the SEI assessment practices of ERICs, followed by case studies of SEI assessment from the EIROForum and ERICs belonging to different clusters during different phases of their lifecycle,
- Engage with the relevant ERIC national and EU stakeholders as well as cross-sectoral user communities, taking into consideration their perspectives,
- Propose joint recommendations on how capturing the diversity, value and impact of ERICs can be supported.

The Seminar targeted audience included all ERICs and prep-ERICs, the EIRO Forum, all RIs, as well stakeholders such as national/regional/EU funding bodies and/or policy-making entity(s), users from Academia and Industry as well as relevant projects/entities working on RI SEI assessment methodologies.

In order to avoid any potential disruptions due to COVID-19, the proposed format was online in 4 blocks with each session lasting a maximum of 1h30 over one morning. Prior registration was required with invitations sent to each single registration form.

Each block was chaired by ERIC representatives' as chair(s) and rapporteur. The WP6 lead prepared beforehand the discussion questions with all the panellists (Appendix C: Brief for Speakers). During the Seminar, the rapporteurs monitored the chat and provided the session chairs with the questions raised for the panelists.

The ERIC Forum Policy Seminar took place virtually on April 29th 2022. It brought together more than 90 participants (Appendix D) from Research Infrastructures and ERICs, with their national, regional and European stakeholders and collaborators, including funding and policy-making bodies as well as relevant projects and entities working on RI SEI assessment methodologies.

The Seminar underscored the rich landscape and the diversity of European RIs and raised many key points including the challenges regarding the design, the timing and M&E of SEI assessment. The proceedings of this Policy Seminar will serve as the basis for the third ERIC Forum Policy Report on the Socio-Economic Impact of ERICs.

The Seminar recording and presentations are available on the ERIC Forum portal:

<https://www.eric-forum.eu/2022/05/04/overview-eric-forum-policy-seminar-socio-economic-impact-of-erics/>

► EVENT PRESENTATIONS

ERICs and Socio-Economic Impact (SEI) Assessment:

- EIRO forum /EMBL Case Study, Jessica Vamathevan (EMBL): [here](#)
- ERIC Forum Survey findings on SEI evaluation practices by ERICs: Evi-Carita Riikonen (ICOS ERIC): [here](#)
- **Case Studies from the ERIC Forum:**
 - Jimmy Andersen (European Spallation Source ERIC): [here](#)
 - Ornella de Giacomo (CERIC-ERIC): [here](#)
 - Lorna Ryan (European Social Survey ERIC), Franciska de Jong (CLARIN-ERIC): [here](#)

Stakeholders perspectives from different constituencies:

- Michela Vellico (European Commission, DG RTD): [here](#)
- Nad'a Witzanovya (ELI ERIC): [here](#)
- Chris Hartley (CERN/ EIROforum): [here](#)
- Antje Keppler (Euro-BioImaging ERIC): [here](#)
- Frédéric Sgard (OECD): [here](#)
- Elisabetta Marafioti (University of Milano–Bicocca; EMMRI): [here](#)

Results

The final Policy report on Assessing the Socioeconomic Impact of ERICs is provided in Annex.

If delivery is late, enter here the explanation.

This deliverable due in M39 is submitted in M46 following the Policy Seminar held in M40 and the amendment submitted to this effect.

Discussion and Conclusions

Discuss and conclude your results.

The revised timelines for the EF Policy Report on the *SEI of ERICs* allowed the alignment of the activities with WP4 as well as the collaboration with the EIROForum. This alignment, with the generous and knowledgeable input, insight and experience of external key stakeholders, has enhanced already the content following the discussions during the EF Seminar and shall continue to do so for the final report. We thank the PO for having made this possible in order to produce a report that will contribute productively to the development and support of SEI assessment for RIs taking into account their diversity.

Next Steps

Include the future work to be undertaken and recommendations.

The proceedings of the Policy Seminar served as the basis for the third and final ERIC Forum Policy Report on the Socio-Economic Impact of ERICs.

Considering the timelines required for the preparation of the EF Policy Reports, given their participative nature since inception until completion, this type of bottom-up activity should benefit from more dedicated resources for the participating entities in order to lighten the workload for the WP coordinator and delivery within shorter timelines.

We thank the coordination and our Project Officer for their understanding and support and look forward to the implementation of the Policy Reports' recommendations.

References

1. ERIC Forum Deliverables 6.1 and 6.2: Definition of priorities for the next ERIC Forum Seminar and Policy Report 1 & 2
2. ERIC Forum Deliverables 6.5, 6.6, 6.8: Policy Report 2

Appendix

ERIC Forum Policy Report 3: Assessing the Socioeconomic Impact of ERICs