ERIC Forum Survey findings on ERICs SEI evaluation practices

Evi-Carita Riikonen, ICOS ERIC
WP4: Evaluation and Impact Assessment  
Task 4.3 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Practices

• Survey about the current status on SEI assessment among ERICs and those in preparatory phase: 26 responses

• **Some Key Findings:**
  
  • 61% had not yet assessed their SEI
  
  • 27% had not defined their aimed at SEI anywhere yet
  
  • Nearly 85% of those that had already assessed their SEI said it was very, or somewhat, challenging to define SEI for their ERIC / preparatory ERIC
  
  • 23% of those that had already assessed their SEI had used an external service
The most challenging aspects about assessing SEI among those that had not yet assessed AND for those that had already assessed were:

- Geographical dimensions (distributed infra) and many levels of SEI
- Traceability / trackability
- Lack of a unified method for assessing / Defining the correct methods, indicators and organizing data collection
- Clarifying what ‘societal’ and ‘economic’ impacts are

Important aspects of the SEI of ERICs / prep. ERICs to communicate to the stakeholders / policy-makers are:

- Relevant distribution of funding inside the RI (for assessing SEI)
- Assessing SEI is important (this should be acknowledged by stakeholders)
- The RI needs to keep communicating and explaining its SEI to stakeholders / policy-makers to highlight the RI’s importance to society (dialogue)
- Usage of data and services, data policies should be defined
- Multinational cooperation is important (not just assessing SEI nationally)
Suggestions for EC / Stakeholders for providing support in addressing challenges / gaps in assessing the SEI of ERICs:

- Would be good to see examples of improving SEI and its linkage to funding
- More guidance re assessing SEI, defining KPIs and methodology, with case studies
- Recognition of the diversity and individual purpose of each RI rather than comparing them
- Letting ERICs decide on suitable indicators for themselves; taking also pathways into use
- Taking also qualitative indicators into account
ERIC Forum has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grand agreement N. 823798