



Working Group on Environmental Sustainability

REPORT TO THE ERICs • 31 AUGUST 2026
Workshop on the Green and Digital Transition

Sonja Kleiner (CERN) & Brendan Rouse (EMBL) • on behalf of the Working Group

A network that has nearly doubled since 2020

2020

working group initiated

10 → nearly 20

members today

A forum to share
environmental sustainability
activities, identify common
ground and build synergies



Member	Organisation
Sonja Kleiner, Head of Environmental Protection Group – HSE Department (Chair) Brendan Rouse, Head of Sustainability (Chair) + a Scientific Secretary (Administrative Support)	CERN EMBL CERN
Sustainability Officer	CERN
Sustainability Officer	EMBL
Chief Climate & Sustainability Officer Infrastructure & Sustainability Engineer ESA Corporate Social Responsibility – Team Leader	ESA
Sustainability and Diversity Officer	ESO
Head of Technical Infrastructure Division	ESRF
Head of ESH & Security division	ESS
Management Board Officer Management Board Assistant	European XFEL
Scientific Researcher	EUROfusion
Head of Fluid Automation Group	ILL
Fusion for Energy, Procurement Officer Commercial Manager	F4E
Observer	Organisation
Sustainability Manager Human Rights Officer / Sustainability and Energy Management	FAIR/GSI

OPERATING RHYTHM

Two touchpoints a year turn exchange into action

2×
per year

SPRING

Online
Half day

AUTUMN

In person
1.5 days



SHARED MANDATE

Environmental Sustainability Working Group

The **nine intergovernmental organisations** involved in EIROforum recognise the importance of carrying out environmentally responsible research.

The EIROforum Environmental Sustainability Working Group exchanges on members' approaches to decarbonization, highlighting best practices and sharing innovations. Within the context of both strategic planning and operations, areas of interest for the group are energy management, the reduction of emissions from scientific and campus facilities, travel and mobility as well as responsible procurement. Other topics the group covers include water management, biodiversity, and waste management.

The challenges of environmental sustainability reporting are addressed by the group, focusing on the mechanisms that drive the definition of environmental sustainability objectives. The Environmental Sustainability Working Group also seeks synergies with other EIROforum Working Groups, such as those related to procurement, information technology, and knowledge/technology transfer.

Meeting minutes and presentations shared on a workspace managed for EIROforum WGs by EMBL

Meetings combine peer updates, deep dives and site learning

01 Peer updates

News from nine EIROforum Organisations and the observer, with occasionally guest speakers

02 Strategic focus

Policies, roadmaps, reporting processes and key performance indicators linked to environmental sustainability within the Organisations

03 Topic deep dives

Energy, procurement, mobility (duty travel), sustainable IT, carbon targets, funder requirements & roles, *to come: Life Cycle Assessments*

04 Learning across boundaries

On-site visits and punctual exchanges with other working groups

Working groups

EIROforum maintains a series of Working Groups. Within their mandate, the Working Groups propose and implement activities of interest to the EIROforum members, often in cooperation with external partners.

The EIROforum Working Groups are:

- Communications (ComG)
- Diversity and Inclusiveness
- Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)
- Environmental Sustainability
- Information Technology (IT)
- Innovation Management and Knowledge and Technology Transfer (IMKTT)
- Instrumentation
- Internal Audit
- International Affairs (IA)
- Library and Information Services
- Ombuds
- Procurement
- Safety
- Training and Career Development

Joint statements turn shared positions into public influence

Two coordinated interventions connected research excellence with climate responsibility

EARTH DAY 2021

[Home](#) » [News](#) » EIROforum statement on Earth Day 2021

22 APR 2021

EIROforum statement on Earth Day 2021

The theme of **Earth Day 2021** is 'Restore Our Earth'. Last year, despite significant slowdowns in global economic and social activity due to the pandemic, only a short, sharp reduction of -7.7% in carbon emissions was observed in Europe, compared to 2019. The impact of the coronavirus has captured much of our attention over the past year and in most parts of the world we are yet to restore day-to-day life. However, this has not diminished the threat that our planet faces from human activity, and the world must urgently focus its attention on the environmental challenges that remain to be solved. The rapidly accelerating loss of biodiversity across the globe and the impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible. In our cities, air pollution continues to threaten lives and demonstrates how closely the health of the environment is linked to human well-being.



AHEAD OF COP26



PRESS STATEMENT

THE NATIONAL
LABORATORY
DIRECTORS'
COUNCIL

UNITING SCIENCE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE
The engagement of US and European Big Science facilities

26 October 2021 – Key leaders and researchers from major US and European big science laboratories, namely EIROforum (Europe's eight largest intergovernmental scientific research organisations, including CERN, EMBL, ESA, ESO, ESRF, EUROfusion, European XFEL and ILL) and the US Department of Energy's seventeen National Laboratories (Ames, Argonne, Brookhaven, Fermi, Idaho, Jefferson, Los Alamos, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, NETL, NREL, Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest, PPPL, SLAC, Sandia and Savannah River), met by videoconference ahead of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26).

Sharing the same values, and convinced that science performs best through collaboration, the EIROforum's directors and NLDC (comprised of directors from the US National Laboratories) affirmed their common commitment to unite science towards a sustainable and resilient global society and economy:

- By stepping up their scientific collaboration on carbon-neutral energy and climate change
- By sharing best practices to improve the climate sustainability and carbon footprint of Europe's and US's big science facilities
- By sharing knowledge and fostering public engagement on clean energy and climate change research



A shared voice linked European Research Organisations and US National Laboratories

A Horizon Europe proposal tested a new collaboration model

HORIZON-INFRA-2023-TECH-01

Coordination

Led by CERN's EU Office

Working model

Developed outside the regular working-group meetings

Outcome

The proposal was not retained, but it created a concrete collaboration beyond the WG rhythm



CARAT

research infrastructure for a sustainable future

Participant No.	Participant organisation name	Country
1	European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)	International Organisation
2	European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)	FR
3	GSI Helmholtzzentrum für Schwerionenforschung GmbH (GSI)	DE
4 (*)	Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe GmbH (FAIR) [affiliated entity to GSI]	DE
5	European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)	International Organisation
6	European X-Ray Free Electron Laser Facility GmbH (EuXFEL)	DE
7	Institut Max von Laue-Paul Langevin (ILL)	FR
8	European Southern Observatory (ESO)	International Organisation

(*) Note: There is an inconsistency in the way the EC Participant Portal has numbered the organisations, versus how organisations are automatically numbered in the template Excel-sheet for the project budget (which must also be submitted). **To remain as consistent as possible, we have followed the partner numbering provided by the Participant Portal.**

Contents

1. EXCELLENCE	2
1.1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.2 OBJECTIVES AND AMBITION	3
1.3 RELATION TO THE WORK PROGRAMME	4
1.4 OVERALL CONCEPT UNDERPINNING THE PROJECT AND PROGRESS BEYOND STATE-OF-THE-ART	6
1.4.1 Description of the pilots & how CARAT will move beyond the state-of-the-art	8
1.5 CARAT SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT TRAINING	14
1.6 CARAT YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS TRAINING PROGRAMME	15
1.7 CARAT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION METHODOLOGY	16
1.7.1 Co-design and co-implementation of solutions with academic partners and companies	16
1.7.2 Project coordination	16
1.8 CONNECTION TO RECENT RELATED NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES	17
1.9 "DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM" PRINCIPLE	18
1.10 ETHICS CONSIDERATIONS RELATED TO THE PROJECT	18
1.11 OPEN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT	18
1.12 GENDER ASPECTS	18
2. IMPACT	19
2.1 PROJECT'S PATHWAYS TOWARDS IMPACT	19
2.1.1 Exceeding the EC's impact expectations	19
2.1.2 Expected uptake of best practices by other national and European RIs	20
2.1.3 Requirements and potential non-technological barriers	20
2.2 MEASURES TO MAXIMISE IMPACT - DISSEMINATION, EXPLOITATION AND COMMUNICATION	21
2.2.1 Communication & dissemination	21
2.2.2 Exploitation of the pilot project results	23
2.2.3 Open Access and Open Data	24
2.2.4 Intellectual property management considerations	25
2.2.5 Project exit plan	25
2.3 SUMMARY	26
3. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION	28
3.1 WORK PLAN AND RESOURCES	28
3.1.1 Overall structure of the work plan	28
3.1.2 Resources to be committed	46
3.2 CAPACITY OF PARTICIPANTS AND CONSORTIUM AS A WHOLE	49

Part B - Page 1 of 49

NEXT STEP • SEPTEMBER 2026

Common environmental sustainability criteria for research organisations

ESA Headquarters • Workshop initiated by EMBL



SPARKHub Organisation -Level Environmental Sustainability Criteria

This workshop will bring together EIROforum partners, research -performing organisations (RPOs), research funders (RFOs), and sustainability experts to co -develop a shared framework of organisational environmental sustainability criteria for research organi sations. The framework will be hosted on **SPARKHub** , an open-access platform designed to support and harmonise sustainable research practices across Europe.

From commitments to implementation

Momentum

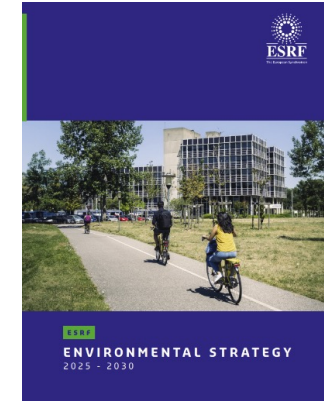
All members continue to progress since 2020. ESA, CERN, EMBL, ESO, ESRF, ESS have formal strategies, plans or reporting

Targets

All members have carbon targets covering at least Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions

Broader delivery

ESA and ESO have broadened to ESG; CERN plans a full 2025–26 sustainability report. Ongoing significant investment spans solar PV, district heating, heat pumps, env. friendly cooling systems, PPAs and certifications





Thank you

Working Group on Environmental Sustainability