

European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures

ERIC Forum response

European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) are an essential element of the European Research Area (ERA), providing cutting-edge services and facilities across a broad range of scientific domains, providing a foundation for Europe's research and innovation capacity.

The ERIC Forum - which as of September 2025 brings together 30 of the current 32 ERICs - welcomes the new *European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures* as an important milestone in strengthening Europe's research and innovation ecosystem. The Strategy's vision and call for a holistic ecosystem approach is well-aligned with many of the priorities and requirements of ERICs.

The ERIC Forum also supports the recognition of research infrastructures as strategic assets for scientific excellence and industrial competitiveness, as well as the acknowledgement of some of the existing challenges affecting them.

The ERIC Forum strongly endorses the need to consolidate and strengthen the EU landscape of research infrastructures and address the areas with the most fragmentation. It is important to establish more integrated and sustainable schemes for access to research infrastructures, alongside greater visibility for ERICs and their services. Research infrastructures, in complementarity with technology infrastructures, can continue to deliver significant impact not only in scientific excellence, but also for competitiveness. Enhanced awareness of their strategic value more broadly will be crucial to realizing this full potential. In line with the Strategy, the ERIC Forum fully supports the need to attract and retain the best talent. The ERIC ecosystem reaches across Europe and distributed ERICs and their national nodes already play a vital role in geographical inclusion of research infrastructures. The ERIC Forum welcomes the Commission strategy to position the RIs as global cooperation hubs.

The direction of the European Strategy is positive, and its success will ultimately depend on a well-aligned and sustainable funding framework. The ERIC Forum encourages support of a newly dedicated pillar and funding mechanism for ERA and Research Infrastructures under FP10. This is fundamental to supporting their operations and long-term development. Sustained funding fosters a strong and coherent ecosystem of facilities and services. We strongly encourage the European Commission and Member States to ensure the new funding mechanisms include support for overarching developments and integration of new services in ERICs. Only with such sustained

investment can Europe ensure that its research and technology infrastructures remain global leaders, driving scientific excellence, industrial innovation, and deliver benefits for citizens across Europe.