The ERICs as instruments to integrate and interconnect national and multidisciplinary resources

Integrating in distributed ERICs

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ERIC Forum has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grand agreement N. 823798

EGERIC report on distributed RIs

- The mode of collaboration and the model of governance in distributed ERICs are an underdeveloped element in the ERIC Regulation. Zooming in on these gaps may help to better understand how the ERIC System at large could/should be improved/reinforced.
- Closer collaboration and measures for consolidation, managed at the level of clusters and/or ERIC Forum, will benefit the individual RIs as well as the ERIC System and ultimately the ERA.
- Potential for stronger coordination and consolidation
    1. Common Registry of data for operational monitoring and assessment
    2. Financial sustainability of distributed contributions to ERICs
    3. Pooling of key strategic RI cluster functions
    4. Strategic synergy

ERICs in the ESFRI Landscape

The ERIC Clusters based on the ESFRI Roadmap:

- Energy
- Environment
- Health & Food
- Physical Sciences & Engineering
- Social & Cultural Innovation
- (DIGIT)

Energy	ECCSEL-ERIC
Environment	EMSO ERIC EPOS-ERIC EURO-ARGO ERIC ICOS-ERIC LifeWatch ERIC
Health & Food	BBMRI-ERIC EATRIS-ERIC ECRIN-ERIC EMBRC-ERIC EU-OPENSCREEN ERIC Euro-BioImaging ERIC Instruct-ERIC
Physical Sciences & Engineering	CERIC-ERIC European Spallation Source ERIC ELI-ERIC JIV-ERIC
Social & Cultural Innovation	CESSDA-ERIC CLARIN-ERIC DARIAH-ERIC European Social Survey-ERIC SHARE-ERIC

ERICs in the EOSC RI cluster projects

ERICs and ERICs-to-be are part of the five ESFRI cluster projects in the EOSC (European Open Science Cloud) panorama:

- ENVRI-Fair
- EOSC-LIFE
- ESCAPE
- PaNOSC
- SSHOC

ENVRI-FAIR
For Environmental Research

ACTRIS, ANAEE, EMSO ERIC, Euro-Argo ERIC, EPOS-ERIC, LifeWatch ERIC, ICOS-ERIC.

EOSC-LIFE
For Life Sciences

BBMRI-ERIC, ECRIN-ERIC, EATRIS-ERIC, EMBRC-ERIC, EU-OPENSCREEN ERIC, Euro-BioImaging ERIC, EMPHASIS, Infrafrontier, Instruct-ERIC, MIRRI.

ESCAPE
For Astronomy and Particle Physics

JIV-ERIC, CTAO.

PaNOSC
For multidisciplinary scientific analysis

CERIC-ERIC, European Spallation Source ERIC, ELI Delivery Consortium.

SSHOC
For Social Sciences and Humanities

CESSDA-ERIC, European Social Survey-ERIC, SHARE-ERIC, CLARIN-ERIC, DARIAH-ERIC, E-RIHS.

Features of distributed ERICs

- Federated service offer that is distributed over countries and often also across the local nodes within a national consortium. (See figures on page 16 of EGERIC report.)
- Governance of national nodes and responsibility for their effort and contributions is often shared between national consortium partners and hosting universities.
- Sometimes complicated balance in collaboration and competition for funding between ERIC and nodes.

Common Registry of data for operational monitoring and assessment

A central registry for info at a range of levels, including financial planning and reporting, annual plans, staffing, HR, success stories and ownership could help solve several issues.

- Shared between MS, ESFRI, ERIC Forum, open to all stakeholders, so better common insight on dynamics and roles in the ERIC system.
- Integration of info on finances, progress, (in-kind) contributions to ERICs, so better basis for planning synergies among EU and regional-national funding priorities and programmes.
- Better opportunities for rallying capabilities towards meeting grand societal challenges and goals.
- Increased awareness of interaction and division of roles between ERICs, MS, national teams, individual nodes.

Financial sustainability of distributed contributions to ERICs

Current funding models for ERIC nodes imply risks:

- The model that is enabling in-kind contributions is based on competition: risk of discontinuity.
- Various levels of operational node maturity co-exist, due to multiple funding models, which does not optimally service the ERIC's mission.
- The quality management of in-kind contributions is hampered by the sharing of responsibilities among entities with varying roles or legal status.

Lacking: stable funding perspectives for ERIC nodes that would allow a decent planning horizon for development and innovation, and for a sustainable role of the nodes in the central service offer.

Reinforcement of managerial and operational synergies

Opportunities:

Pooling of managerial and operational resources (e.g. staff) among disciplinary or managerially similar ERICs' nodes for economies of scale and outreach. Role for clusters, in national context and/or via ERIC Forum.

- Communications & Dissemination
- Training
- Innovation, Tech Transfer and Industry Liaison
- Results monitoring and reporting, KPI assessments

Required:

- Sustainable support for national consortia and clusters
- Harmonisation of frameworks used by MS and ESFRI

Reinforcement of strategic synergies among clusters

Opportunities:

- Multidisciplinary collaboration called for in mission-driven research can benefit from collaboration at cluster-level.
- Contributions from European research initiatives to global challenges call for coordination with involvement of clusters.
- Open Science agenda and focus on federation of services can benefit from domain-specific approach.
- Local services registered in EOSC can be contextualized through cluster-level services.

Lacking:

- Recognition for the coordination activities of the clusters.

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