



The ERICs in the Energy Cluster

a document prepared by the ERIC Forum 2 project

WHAT IS AN ERIC

An ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) is a legal form under EU law created to set up and operate research infrastructures of European relevance. ERICs are primarily non-profit organisations, although they may carry out limited economic activities directly related to their mission. They can own assets, employ staff, enter into contracts, and serve as a coordinated provider of research facilities and services for the European research community. Its members include EU Member States, associated countries, non-EU countries, and intergovernmental organisations. They can be single-sited, concentrated at one location, or distributed, with a central hub coordinating multiple national or regional nodes across different countries.

HOW ERICs ADD VALUE TO YOUR RESEARCH PROJECTS

1

Access to advanced research facilities and services you might not have at your home institution, including state-of-the-art equipment, digital archives, imaging, materials, or specialised labs.

2

Support for complex, interdisciplinary, or large-scale projects, from early-stage research to applied testing, prototyping, and validation across multiple techniques and disciplines.

3

Opportunities for international collaboration and resource sharing, enabling cross-border, multidisciplinary work and integration into broader European research networks.

4

Open and FAIR-access mechanisms, often through calls for proposals, giving researchers from any institution a chance to use top-tier infrastructure.

5

Boost the credibility and visibility of your research by linking your work to recognised European infrastructure, which can strengthen funding applications, publications, and collaborative efforts.

HOW AN ERIC TAKES PART IN RESEARCH PROJECTS



ERICs can act as a project partner/beneficiary in grant proposals or funded projects.



A distributed ERIC can also participate via one of its member institutions or national nodes rather than the central entity itself, or with both (having a central hub as a beneficiary and national nodes/facilities as Affiliated Entities).



ERIC can coordinate or manage project/ Work packages/ tasks, including coordination of multi-site, multi-country research efforts (especially relevant if the ERIC is distributed). Many have multiple EC projects experience.



For projects needing trans-national access or shared infrastructure use, ERICs are often explicitly encouraged or required as beneficiaries (or via their nodes) in calls under major European funding schemes.



ENERGY CLUSTER

Research infrastructures that address the scientific and technological challenges of energy systems, including renewable generation, storage, distribution, and efficient use to support the transition to sustainable and secure energy.



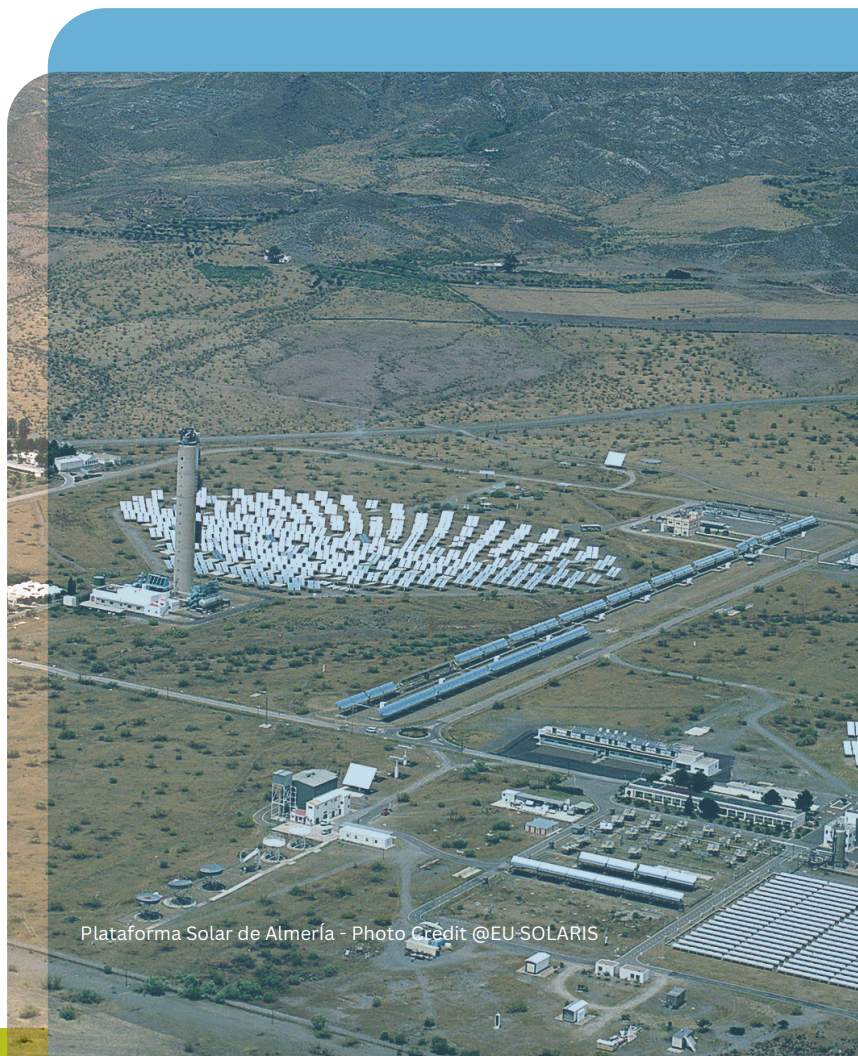
ECCSEL ERIC is a permanent, distributed, and integrated European research infrastructure, providing a single-point open-access gateway to more than 155 world-class research facilities across Europe. These facilities span the full CCUS and CDR value chain as well it includes subsurface low carbon energy storage (such as hydrogen, heat, and compressed air), CO₂ storage as a feedstock, and geothermal energy. ECCSEL supports research and innovation activities from TRL 1 to TRL 7, serving academia, research organisations, industry, and public authorities alike.

www.eccsel.eu



EU-SOLARIS ERIC aims to become the leading European research infrastructure for the development of Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) technologies and their applications, providing optimal conditions for both scientific and industrial communities to carry out CST research

www.eu-solaris.eu



Plataforma Solar de Almería - Photo Credit @EU-SOLARIS