



The ERICs in the Health & Food 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.



AnaEE-ERIC is a landmark European Research Infrastructure connecting cutting-edge facilities dedicated to global change ecology — the study of how ecosystems function and respond to environmental change. We bring together experimental sites, analytical tools, and modelling capabilities to tackle pressing environmental challenges.

www.anaee.eu



INFRAFRONTIER investigates the relationship between gene function and human diseases. It promotes access to cutting-edge services and resources worldwide, and advocates for animal welfare in biomedical research.

www.infracfrontier.eu



BBMRI-ERIC is the European Research Infrastructure for biobanking and biomolecular resources in health and life sciences. It comprises 25 Member and Observer Countries plus IARC/WHO and around 500 biobanks. Our services for, and provided by, the biobanking community (clinicians, researchers, biobankers, industry, patients, citizens) facilitate responsible access to high-quality samples, linked data and medical information through expertise in research, ethics, quality, datafication, imaging, AI and biobanking development.

www.bbmri-eric.eu



Instruct-ERIC is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure funding access to high-end technologies and methods in structural biology. Instruct-ERIC is comprised of 17 Member Countries and organisations. Through its specialist research centres in Europe, Instruct-ERIC offers funded research visits, training, internships and R&D awards. By promoting integrative methods, Instruct-ERIC enables excellent science and technological development for the benefit of all life scientists.

www.instruct-eric.org



EATRIS is the European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine. We bring together facilities and expertise to translate scientific discoveries into patient benefit, specialized in cell & gene therapies, AI-enabled clinical decision-making, and medicines development & repurposing. Comprising 15 member countries, we provide pre-clinical and early clinical development services for academia and industry, as well as specialized advisory for research funders.

www.eatris.eu



MIRRI-ERIC, the Microbial Resource Research Infrastructure, is a pan-European distributed research infrastructure that offers coordinated access to high-quality microbial resources, data, and services, supporting their preservation, systematic investigation, provision, and valorisation while enabling research and innovation in biosciences and the bioindustry.

www.mirri-eric.eu



ECRIN facilitates multinational clinical research in Europe, by providing expert advice, services and tools for the set-up and management of investigator or SME led clinical studies. It connects national networks of clinical trial units across Europe, with the vision of generating high-quality scientific evidence to optimise medical practice.

www.ecrin.org



The European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) is Europe's only research infrastructure for marine biology and ecology. Through our pan-European network of marine stations and research organisations, we help researchers from both academia and industry advance scientific knowledge and innovation, and promote the sustainable use of marine biological resources.

www.embrc.eu



The European Infrastructure of Open Screening Platforms for Chemical Biology develops novel small chemical compounds that elicit specific biological responses on organisms, cells or cellular components.

www.eu-openscreen.eu



Euro-BioImaging is a research infrastructure that offers open access to imaging technologies, training and data services in biological and biomedical imaging. Euro-BioImaging enables researchers and innovators of all backgrounds and experience levels to access expertise, accelerate discovery, and turn scientific excellence into societal impact in health, life science and beyond.

www.eurobioimaging.eu



HEALTH & FOOD CLUSTER

Facilities, platforms and networks that generate critical data and capabilities for biomedical, clinical, nutritional and food-systems research, addressing public health priorities and the sustainability and safety of food systems.

