



# The ERICs in the Social Sciences and Humanities 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.



## SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES CLUSTER

Research infrastructures that support empirical, theoretical and methodological work on human societies, cultures and behaviour, providing tools and data to understand social dynamics, cultural heritage and societal challenges.



CESSDA, the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives, provides large-scale, integrated, and sustainable data services to promote high-quality and trusted social science research. By doing so it enables social scientists and other disciplines to contribute to the production of effective solutions to the major challenges facing society today and tomorrow.

[www.cessda.eu](http://www.cessda.eu)



CLARIN, the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure, makes digital language resources available to scholars, researchers, students and citizen-scientists from all disciplines, especially in the humanities and social sciences through single, sign-on access.

[www.clarin.eu](http://www.clarin.eu)



DARIAH ERIC supports researchers working in the diverse community of practice known as the Arts and Humanities to build, analyse and interpret digital or hybrid resources. For this purpose, DARIAH maintains and evolves a distributed infrastructure. This ecosystem empowers research communities by providing the necessary technical services, shared knowledge, and collaborative methods required to create, connect and share knowledge about culture and society.

[www.dariah.eu](http://www.dariah.eu)



EHRI-ERIC overcomes the geographical fragmentation of Holocaust related sources and expertise and sets standards for excellence in transnational Holocaust research, documentation, education and remembrance. EHRI maintains a digital and human infrastructure that provides access to archival resources and services to a diverse community.

[www.ehri-project.eu](http://www.ehri-project.eu)



E-RIHS applies an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to answer the specific needs of cultural and natural heritage assets and improve their understanding and preservation. It delivers integrated access to expertise, data and technologies for protecting heritage.

[www.e-rihs.eu](http://www.e-rihs.eu)



The European Social Survey (ESS) provides high-quality open access data measuring public attitudes, beliefs and behaviour in 39 countries. Every two years since 2002/03, around 50,000 interviews are conducted across Europe with nationally representative samples on a wide range of topics

[www.europeansocialsurvey.org](http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org)



SHARE is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status, and social & family networks of more than 160,000 individuals aged 50 and over from 28 countries.

[www.share-eric.eu](http://www.share-eric.eu)