



ERIC Regulation

- * Adopted in 2009 by Council to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of Research Infrastructures of European interest among several countries and amended in December 2013 to better reflect contributions of associated countries in particular in terms of voting rights
- * An ERIC is not a Union Body and the Commission Implementing Decision is not a funding decision
- * First Report on the application of the ERIC Regulation was adopted by the Commission on 14 July 2014 COM(2014) 460 final and transmitted to Council and European Parliament



ERIC Regulation

- * Article 187 TFEU (ex-171 EC Treaty)
The Community may set up joint undertakings or any other structure necessary for the efficient execution of Community research, technological development and demonstration programmes.
- * An easy-to-use legal instrument providing:
 - The spirit of a truly European venture
 - A legal personality recognized in all MS
 - Flexibility to adapt to the specific requirements of each research infrastructure
 - Some privileges / exemptions allowed at a national level similar as for intergovernmental organizations
 - A lighter process than creating an international organization





Membership of an ERIC

- * Member States - Associated Countries - Third States - Intergovernmental organizations
- * Minimum requirement of one MS with two other MS or AC for establishing or having an ERIC
- * Always majority of MS and/or AC for votes in the General Assembly
- * For an ERIC hosted by MS, amendments of Statutes shall require agreement of majority of MS member of that ERIC
- * A State may be represented by one or more public entities or private entities with a public-service mission



Internal Structure of an ERIC

- * Statutory seat in a Member State or Associated Country; research locations anywhere
- * Mandatory bodies (General Assembly; Director/Board of Directors)
- * Members' liability may be limited to committed contribution, no capital requirement
- * May specify in the Statutes a fixed liability above their respective contributions or unlimited liability
- * In case of limited liability insurance is mandatory





Public Procurement and VAT

- * ERICs may set their own procurement rules based on transparency, non-discrimination and competition.
- * ERICs are exempted from paying VAT and excise duty.
- * This is possible because ERICs are considered as International bodies/organizations for the purposes of the Directives on public procurement, VAT and excise duties.



Law applicable to the internal functioning of an ERIC

- * Union law, in particular the ERIC Regulation
- * the law of the State where the ERIC has its statutory seat
- * The ERIC's statutes and its implementing rules





Application process (Step 1)

- * Governments and International Organizations. For members of a future ERIC:
 - Technical description of the RI
 - Recognition of tax exemption as int.org/body by host
 - Limits and conditions of tax exemptions
 - Provisions of the Statutes
 - If members outside EU: recognition of legal personality and tax exemptions in the countries which want to be member of the ERIC



Application process (Step 1)

- * Commission verifies completeness of application
- * If application complete:
 - With support of independent experts verify whether the Research Infrastructure complies with art. 4 of the Regulation (scientific relevance, effective access, etc.)
 - Examines compliance with the administrative requirements (minimum Member States, statutes contain all necessary elements, etc.)
 - Applicants are informed by the Commission of outcome of the assessment and are invited to modify their application taking into account the feedback received





Application process (Step 2)

- * Formal application in which the members commit to the Statutes and the financial provisions
- * Formal Opinion of the ERIC Committee requested
- * Commission internal procedure to arrive at a Commission Implementing Decision establishing the ERIC
- * Publication of the Implementing Decision and the Statutes in the Official Journal of the European Union
- * ERIC Implementing Decision enters into force on the third day following the publication in the Official Journal of the European Union



The new Infrastructure EU-SOLARIS (1)

As a result of all the work developed during the preparatory phase, all the participating Institutions from different founding Member countries share the following vision:

- * Everything is ready to submit to the EC the request for set up EU-Solaris ERIC.
- * Although at the beginning the main idea was to build up a physical infrastructure, now the idea is to create the Infrastructure with a hub and some nodes and not building up a technical installation, by the moment, due to technological reasons. The decision to build a test bench, a pilot plant or any other installation should be proposed by member countries when they consider it.





The new Infrastructure EU-SOLARIS (2)

The mission and function of EU SOLARIS ERIC shall be:

- 1) To ensure transparency in research and innovation for Concentrating Solar Thermal and Solar Chemistry community.
- 2) To define quality standards and common procedures of best practices for the research.
- 3) To hold available databases and share the information with the scientific community and the industries.
- 4) To provide some services to the research community, academic and industrial.
- 5) To facilitate and simplify users access to the different infrastructure nodes. To facilitate virtual access to certain institutions.



The new Infrastructure EU-SOLARIS (3)

- 6) To advise Member States, the European Commission, and companies.
- 7) To promote simulation of different technologies or systems.
- 9) To collaborate in upgrade of the existing facilities to optimize funds required and between European research centers.
- 10) Promote the use of new technologies (TIC and WEB) in relationship between test facilities and its users.
- 11) To promote and support the EU initiatives on research and H2020 funding.
- 12) To help advance the European society towards a model of clean and sustainable energy.

The Spanish Institution leading the hub will be PSA-CIEMAT.





Board of Governmental Representatives

* Hold Meetings:

- 24th of June 2014 (Madrid)
- 30th of March 2016 (Lisbon)

* Current status of the project:

- MoU under final discussion between the States concerned
- Statutes pending comments of the countries concerned and review of the full documentation for the Commission step 1

* Next steps of EU-SOLARIS ERIC

- Signing of MoU
- Complete documentation preparation for transfer to the Commission's formal request for creation of EU-SOLARIS ERIC



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