

ACCELERATIng
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**Deliverable Report: D 4.4: Establishment of the CERIC Regional Outpost
in the Ukraine**

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1. Rationale and Background

State of the art Research Infrastructures provide the various scientific communities with unique possibilities to extend the frontiers of knowledge and ensure Europe's leading role in international science. The sustainability of these research infrastructures is a key aspect to keep Europe's researchers on the forefront of science on world level. The European Commission identified in its call for action on sustainable European RIs¹ the attraction and the training of future users of research infrastructures as one of the most important factors of sustainability of research infrastructures.

In this framework CERIC-ERIC developed a strategy for outreach activities in order to expand its user base. In addition to the established outreach activities, e.g. on regional, national and international workshops for scientists, CERIC would implement outposts in a region of interest. These outposts involve a local scientific institution or university that is familiar with CERIC-ERIC, its offer and procedures and is willing to support the outreach activities of CERIC. In exchange, CERIC shall provide specific training to the research personnel of the institution, in particular to young researchers. The rationale behind these outposts is that, especially in countries outside the European Union, it is often difficult to identify the target communities and to find the right communication channels. The local institution, through its local partnerships and collaborations is in an excellent position to reach the target, that is the community of potential new users.

The Ukraine is a priority partner within the Eastern Partnership (EaP), a specific initiative of the EU Neighborhood Policy² and, since September 2017 officially associated country of the H2020 framework program. Furthermore Ukraine has, naturally strong scientific and economic ties to other post-soviet countries from EaP e.g. Belarus, Georgia and Moldova. With 5 successful proposals in 7 semesters of CERIC operation, the Uzhhorod National University in particular the department of solid state electronics under the leadership of Prof. Vasyl Rizak, has a lot of experience with the CERIC open access program. Moreover the Uzhhorod National University looks back onto a long and successful scientific collaboration with the Czech Partner Facility of CERIC, the Surface Physics Laboratory at the Charles University in Prague. For this reason the Uzhhorod National University was included in the ACCELERATE project as first CERIC regional outpost.

2. Establishment of the outpost

The establishment of the outpost in Ukraine was planned in two parts. The first step consisted in getting the personnel of the Department of Solid State Electronics acquainted with the structure and operations of CERIC-ERIC. The second part was dedicated to the scientific training of the Uzhhorod personnel. It included an in-depth explanation of the

¹ European Commissions- Sustainable European RIs: A call for Action:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/ri_policy_swd-infrastructures_2017.pdf

² European Commission - Report on the implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy Review 2017:
https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/2_en_act_part1_v9_3.pdf

scientific techniques offered by CERIC. The both trainings combined provided the personnel of the Uzhhorod National University with the knowledge necessary to present CERIC-ERIC and its offer to the scientific communities of the countries along the eastern Border of Europe.

2.1 Training in open access, project management and industrial liaison

The part of the training that included open access, European funding and industrial liaison took place on March 14th, 2017 in Uzhhorod. Matthias Girod Policy officer of CERIC-ERIC and Daniel Mazur, Industrial Liaison/Project Officer of the Charles University of Prague prepared a seminar for the researchers of the Uzhhorod University. Dr. Girod gave a general overview about CERIC, the open access procedure and an introduction to the H2020 framework, while Dr. Mazur gave an introduction about industrial liaison and technology transfer.



Matthias Girod (left) and Prof. Vasyl Rizak (right) during the training at the Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine

2.2 Training in Scientific Techniques offered by the CERIC consortium.

The second part of the training to establish the CERIC outpost in Uzhhorod aimed in getting the researchers of Uzhhorod acquainted with the full capabilities of the scientific techniques offered by CERIC. To achieve this, CERIC organised a satellite workshop at the well-known NESY winter school for synchrotron and neutron radiation in Altausee/Austria. While the school itself was focused on the synchrotron and neutron methods, the CERIC satellite event presented complementary methods including Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), Electron Microscopy (EM) and Ion Beam Analysis (IBA). Dr. Corneliu Ghica from the National Institute for Material Physics in Bucharest/Romania, Dr. Iva Bogdanovic from the Ruđer Bošković Institute in Zagreb and Dr. Primož Šket from the National Institute of Chemistry in Ljubljana presented the complementary methods, experiences and identify critical barriers and challenges for scientific users and how to overcome those barriers. In the framework of the establishment of this outpost five researchers from the Uzhhorod National University were invited to attend the CERIC workshop and the following school. Although the CERIC workshop was organized for researchers from Ukraine, it was open for all participants of the school and many participants mainly from Austria used the opportunity to learn more about CERIC and the presented analytical techniques.



Speakers and participants of the CERIC workshop in Altausee/Austria

2.3 First outreach event organised by the Uzhhorod National University at the 19th Conference of the Czech and Slovak Physical Society in Prešov/Slovakia

As a first action of the newly created out post in Ukraine, the Uzhhorod National University organised a CERIC session at the 19th Conference of the Czech and Slovak Physical Societies on September 6th in Prešov/Slovakia. On this conference, held every two years, the Czech and Slovak scientific communities gather to present and share research results, find new collaborations and discuss about future developments in physics and the related fields. The aim of the CERIC special session was to raise awareness among the Czech and Slovak physicists and the communities of the neighbouring countries, about the research opportunities that it offers. The session was organised to present the whole concept of CERIC to the researchers as well as highlight the CERIC research projects and the user experiences. The CERIC was represented by Matthias Girod and Daniel Mazur from the Czech partner facility, the Charles University in Prague and Ivan Khalakhan a researcher working on a CERIC project. Prof. Vasyl Rizak and post-doctoral researcher Adalbert Barta from the Uzhhorod National University presented their research and shared first hand experiences as CERIC users with the Czech and Slovak scientists. With this program, the CERIC session was a great opportunity to discuss potential collaboration activities between CERIC and the University of Prešov, with the aim of contributing to the development of Slovak scientific research through the single-entry access point to excellent research facilities that CERIC is offering both to scientists and commercial users.



Matthias Girod is presenting CERIC



The CERIC/ Uzhhorod team (l.t.r.) in Prešov:
Adalbert Barta, Daniel Mazur, Matthias Girod,
Nataliya Popovic, Vasyl Rizak, Vitaliy Bilanyck, Ivan
Khalakan, Salma Baghdadi.

3. Conclusions

The two training sessions organized by CERIC-ERIC in the framework of the ACCELERATE project provided personnel from the Uzhhorod National University in Ukraine with deep insight into the functioning of European Research Infrastructures and open access operations. Furthermore, they gained knowledge in the EU framework program for research and innovation H2020 and different models for liaison with industry.

From the scientific side researchers from the Uzhhorod National University had the chance to learn about different important techniques in material analytics.

Both events prepared the researchers from Uzhhorod to function as an Ambassador for CERIC in Ukraine and neighbouring communities and in the same time, tighten the bonds between Ukraine and the EU by raising awareness of the possibilities of European research infrastructures and funding opportunities.