ERIEC

ERIEC: European Research Infrastructure Evaluation Consortium

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Context

• ERICs must periodically be evaluated according to the ERIC statutes.
• ERIC have freedom for the evaluation process (activity report, visiting committee, external evaluation, etc.).
• Today, there is no standardised ex-post evaluation methodology for research infrastructures in Europe, neither at the national level, nor at the European level
• For European RIs, like ERICs, the ex-post evaluation would be better accepted and understood if performed by a pan-European organisation rather than by a single national evaluation agency.
Context

- ECRIN-ERIC asked Hcéres for evaluation in 2018
- Hcéres answer has been YES, but through an European consortium of national evaluation agencies, not a single national entity
- Hcéres called for other national research evaluation agencies to join for performing joint evaluations of ERICs
- A complete workflow was developed and applied for the evaluation of ECRIN-ERIC.
ERIEC Consortium

• Members are: AEI (Spain), QANU (Netherlands), Evalag (Germany), ANVUR (Italy) and Hcéres (France) acting as coordinator.
• Consortium is open to additional members (national research evaluation agencies)
• EU member states are informed of the ERIEC initiative through their ESFRI delegates
• Terms of References and Expert guidelines were prepared and approved by ERIEC General Assembly
• The consortium is responsible for the whole evaluation methodology, and approves all steps (choice of experts for instance)
• The evaluation process is available to any ERIC, on a voluntary request
Evaluation methodology

• 3 step process:
  • Self-assessment report prepared by the ERIC
  • On-site visit by the expert committee
  • Evaluation report preparation by the committee
• The evaluation report preparation includes a contradictory phase with the ERIC, before being finalised and made public
• Overall process will last 6-8 months
• Evaluated ERIC is charged of the evaluation cost on a not-for-profit basis
• For each ERIC evaluation, the ERIEC will designate an evaluation leader (EEL), among its member agencies. The EEL will organise and coordinate the ERIC evaluation
• Hcéres has served as EEL for the ECRIN evaluation.
Evaluators

• Expert committees are be made of around 6 peer-review individuals, proposed by the ERIEC members and appointed by the ERIEC Executive Board

• The following competencies are sought:
  • European research infrastructures landscape,
  • Academic research in the ERIC field of activities,
  • International research policy,
  • Innovation and research valorisation,
  • Administrative and financial management,
  • Service user representation.

• All committee members are required to demonstrate that they have no link of interest of any kind with the ERIC.
Evaluation content (ToR)

• The overall ERIC evaluation will cover **14 standards**, covering all aspects of ERIC performance, grouped in **3 domains**:
  • Positioning and strategy
  • Organisation, governance and management
  • ERIC activities

• All standards will be examined according **3 criteria**:
  • Excellence
  • Impact
  • Sustainability
Evaluation content

• This ERIC self-assessment can be complemented with information related to the human capacity building for higher education, research integrity/ethics and scientific heritage dissemination for public at large

• The self-assessment and the evaluation report will conclude with a SWOT analysis.

• Rather than using a quantitative type evaluation (“check the box”), the report will provide a well argumented narrative evaluation.

• All documentation is available from:
  • [www.eric.eu](http://www.eric.eu) or [www.eric-evaluation.eu](http://www.eric-evaluation.eu)
Implementation

• ECRIN-ERIC evaluation was performed successfully in 2019 and the final evaluation report was delivered to ECRIN on schedule (available from Hcéres and ERIEC website)

• Evaluation was then completed with a quality survey from ECRIN-ERIC and from the Expert Committee
Questions?

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