

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 argued narrative evaluation.
- All documentation is available from :
 - www.eriec.eu or www.eriec-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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