



# CASE STUDY - ELI

Workshop on Impact Assessment, Evaluation  
and Monitoring of Research Infrastructures

**16 December 2020**  
Florian Gliksohn (ELI-DC)

ACCELERATE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020  
Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 731112





# ELI in Brief

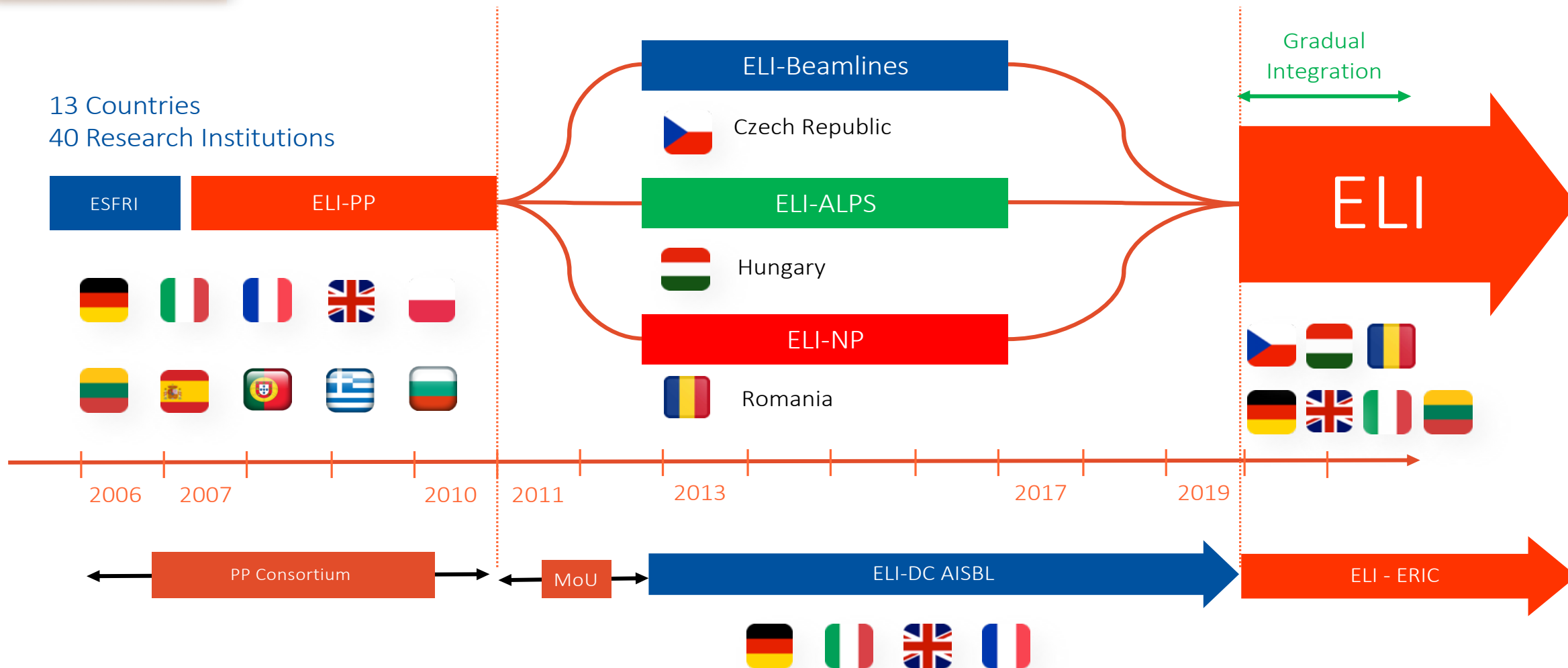


- ELI is the world's most advanced **laser research infrastructure**
- First **international research infrastructure** built completely in **Central and Eastern Europe**
- Funded in synergy between **ERDF, National and Framework** funds and delivered through a community effort
- **ELI ERIC to be established in the coming weeks**
- Gradual **transition from construction projects to integrated operations** until 2022



# ELI in Brief

13 Countries  
40 Research Institutions





# Purpose of the Assessment

## Context:

The establishment of ELI ERIC brings a new perspective on ELI as a single international organization and not as three separate investment projects.

## General purpose:

- In the context of the establishment of ELI ERIC, use of the '*General protocol for RI societal impact assessment*' to identify and understand core elements of what could be ELI ERIC's future impact strategy.
- The report is meant to serve as a reference basis to the future ELI ERIC General Assembly to define strategies related to impact (the ELI ERIC Statutes call for regular assessments of the impact of ELI ERIC's activities in the hosting regions, in Europe and internationally).



# Approach and Effort

## Approach:

- Use of the ELI ERIC statutory document as reference, assuming it reflects the expectations and therefore the perspective of the Founding Members on the where the organisation should focus its impact in priority.
- “Translate” into essential impact areas and understand what strategies and activities should be considered to maximise impact.
- Impact considered both as a change or the result and as a process. The impact pathways are therefore approached as narratives that present how statutory objectives relate to inputs, activities and results.

## Effort:

- Circa 1 PM to put the report together by a member of the Management Team
- Contributions from other team members difficult to quantify

Review of types of impacts referred to in the Statutes (competitiveness, added-value to community, platform for development of know-how, strengthening of RTDI capacity, economic effects on ERA, synergies, attraction and retention of qualified staff, etc.)

### **3 impact areas:**

- *Scientific impact* consisting in the enabling of scientific excellence for novel research opportunities
- *Impact on the industry*, with ELI becoming a platform for industrial partners
- *Impact on the scientific community*, with ELI acting as an initiator, driver and coordinator

**Definition of impact pathways** for each of them, including identification of requirements, actions and policies, and expected results (in terms of indicators).



- Emphasis on the analysis of the context in which the evaluation is being conducted is essential (in our case, change in the stakeholders calls for a renewed perspective on impact)
- Use of narratives well suited for the purpose of this analysis as focus is on underlying mechanisms driving impact (impact as a process)
- Narratives allow to focus on the *maximisation* of impact (how to optimise), not only on the assessment itself
- **Next step:** definition of ELI ERIC statutory policies (including innovation policy), having impact in mind.