

## CERIC Satellite Event at the NESY Winterschool 2017

Altaussee (Austria) – March 6, 2017

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, a satellite workshop along the well-known NESY Winterschool will present complementary methods for materials science and large research infrastructures throughout Europe.

In particular, the meeting will present the Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium (CERIC) and its structure, with a focus on excellent science and the methodologies available. Furthermore, it will highlight CERIC opportunities for researchers, as well as the possibilities of the Consortium to act as a versatile and strong partner.

Materials science and nanotechnology are two of the main research fields to take up future challenges of Europe, such as alternative energy sources and energy storage, or biomedical and pharmaceutical materials. The scientific problems coming up in these fields have become more and more complex in the recent years and require an ever-increasing number of instrumental and analytical techniques and disciplines. Such complexity requires the availability of expertise, as well as open access to a wide range of probing techniques and many different complementary instruments. CERIC-ERIC was developed to face this challenge and to make a wide variety of instruments available through open access.

CERIC stands for Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium and is a distributed research infrastructure unifying several national institutions under one roof<sup>1</sup> [1]. This multinational facility was set up as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)<sup>2</sup> [2]. It brings together research facilities from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania and Slovenia. Statutory seat is in Trieste, Italy. All partners offer a set of complementary, cutting-edge instrumentation from national institutes for free and open access to excellent researchers all over the world (Fig 1).



Figure 1. Locations and partners of CERIC-ERIC

CERIC-ERIC comprises synchrotron radiation, neutron radiation, microscopic techniques, ion-beam analysis methods and NMR. All instruments are available for open access through one single entry point. The selection of proposals and experiment time is done in a peer-review process and based on scientific excellence only. Following the nature of CERIC as a multi-probe facility, the open access operation allows to ask not only one instrument per proposal, but to get experiment time granted for several complementary instruments with one proposal.

Being an ERIC means that CERIC is not only a consortium but also a full legal entity. For this reason, CERIC can act as partner in H2020 as well as ESIF proposals.

<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Decision, *Official Journal of the EU*, L184/49, **2014**

<sup>2</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 of June 25<sup>th</sup> **2009**