

# Memorandum of Understanding

## For the Establishment of a

### European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) of Analytical Research Infrastructures

#### *Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium "C-ERIC"*

#### The Signatory Countries

HAVE CONSIDERED the Council Regulation (EC) No. 723/2009 of 25 June 2009 which offers the possibility to create new entities (ERICs) coordinating local research infrastructures of excellence, with the objective to attract the best users worldwide and offer to them unique instrumentation and advanced services,

RECOGNISE that a number of potentially complementary analytical research infrastructures represent an excellent foundation for the Central European Region to launch an ERIC and maximise the corresponding possible additional EU support, for the following reasons:

- The existence and construction of top-level instrumentation and facilities such as the Elettra synchrotron in Basovizza for materials preparation and characterisation, structural investigations, imaging and biology, nanoscience and nanotechnology
- The very positive potential effects on research through a stronger partnership for coordination and international outreach involving the relevant infrastructures in the Signatory Countries

- The possibility to offer an integrated and wider set of services to researchers by pooling complementary capacities and thus further strengthen their regional and European significance
- The beneficial impact on the economic development of the entire region and the prevention of brain drain
- The favorable effects on education at different levels in all Signatory Countries

On this basis, the Signatory Countries express the intent, without making a legal commitment, to develop the concept further with a view to create an ERIC including regional partner centers in each of the Signatory Countries to further strengthen the regions' position in research in Europe, and to intensify scientific co-operation across national boundaries.

The potential Signatory Countries have set up a working group<sup>1</sup> including one or two representatives from each of them, with the mandate to:

- Identify and analyse the range of possible joint activities within an ERIC, its development potential as well as the options related to the legal, administrative and financial issues concerning the creation of the ERIC
- Define the strategy and prepare administrative documentation required to submit a proposal to the European Commission and have the ERIC set-up not later than December 31, 2012 in time for the first relevant call for proposals in the next EU framework programme for research, development and innovation
- Suggest possible names and main locations for the joint activities

This working group will draft the required documents to set up an ERIC and report to the Signatory Countries for the appropriate follow-up needed at institutional and governmental level including the possible necessary fiscal and legal measures accompanying the proposal.

The agreements and procedures for the creation of the ERIC will recognise the previous investments, cash and in kind, already made in the concerned infrastructures and laboratories of each Signatory Country and will build on a concept of participation in kind. The ERIC will remain open to the possible inclusion of additional partners in all phases of its creation, and afterwards.

This Memorandum of Understanding is done in English only, in as many copies as there are Signatory Countries, each text being equally valid.

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the working group are listed in Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1

### Members of the working group

**Austria:** A. Stoklaska, D. Weselka

**Croatia:** H. Meštrić

**Czech Republic:** J. Hrušák

**Hungary:** D. L. Nagy

**Italy:** G. Margaritondo (*Chairman*), G. Paolucci

**Poland:** M. Stankiewicz

**Romania:** A. Cucu, L. Pintilie

**Serbia:** V. Nedović, D. Djukić

**Slovenia:** S. Možina, J. Plavec

*Secretary: F. Mazzolini*

### Signature

|                       |                       |                 |                                    |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Austria</b>        | Töchterle, Karlheinz  | <i>minister</i> | June 26 <sup>th</sup> , Bregenz    |
| <b>Croatia</b>        | Fuchs, Radovan        | <i>minister</i> | July 13 <sup>th</sup> , Zagreb     |
| <b>Czech Republic</b> | Hrušák, Jan           | <i>dir.gen.</i> | June 26 <sup>th</sup> , Bregenz    |
| <b>Hungary</b>        |                       |                 |                                    |
| <b>Italy</b>          | Gelmini, Mariastella  | <i>minister</i> | September 21 <sup>st</sup> , Rome  |
| <b>Poland</b>         | Kudrycka, Barbara     | <i>minister</i> | June 25 <sup>th</sup> , Bregenz    |
| <b>Romania</b>        | Funeriu, Daniel Petru | <i>minister</i> | June 26 <sup>th</sup> , Bregenz    |
| <b>Serbia</b>         | Obradović, Žarko      | <i>minister</i> | August 16 <sup>th</sup> , Belgrade |
| <b>Slovenia</b>       | Kolar, Jana           | <i>dir.gen.</i> | June 26 <sup>th</sup> , Bregenz    |