



EPOS ERIC plans for sustainability

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**Planning for Sustainability of
Research Infrastructures**

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To ensure **sustainable and universal use and re-use** of multidisciplinary solid Earth science data and products fostering state-of-the-art research and innovation

Keywords:

- Distributed
- Federated
- Integration
- Sustainable
- Long-term access



EARTHQUAKES

VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

TSUNAMIS

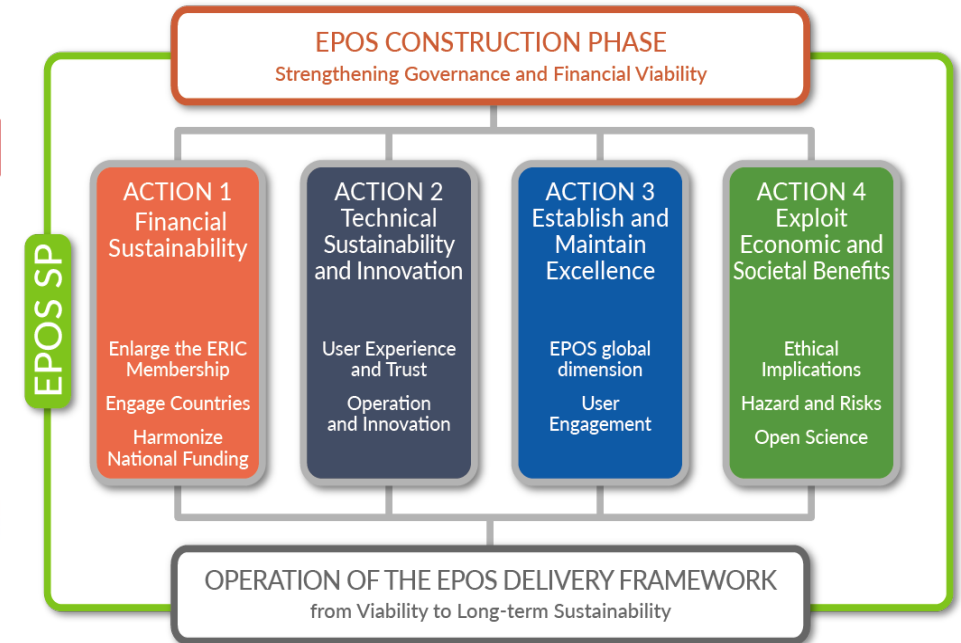
TECTONICS

GEODETTIC DATA

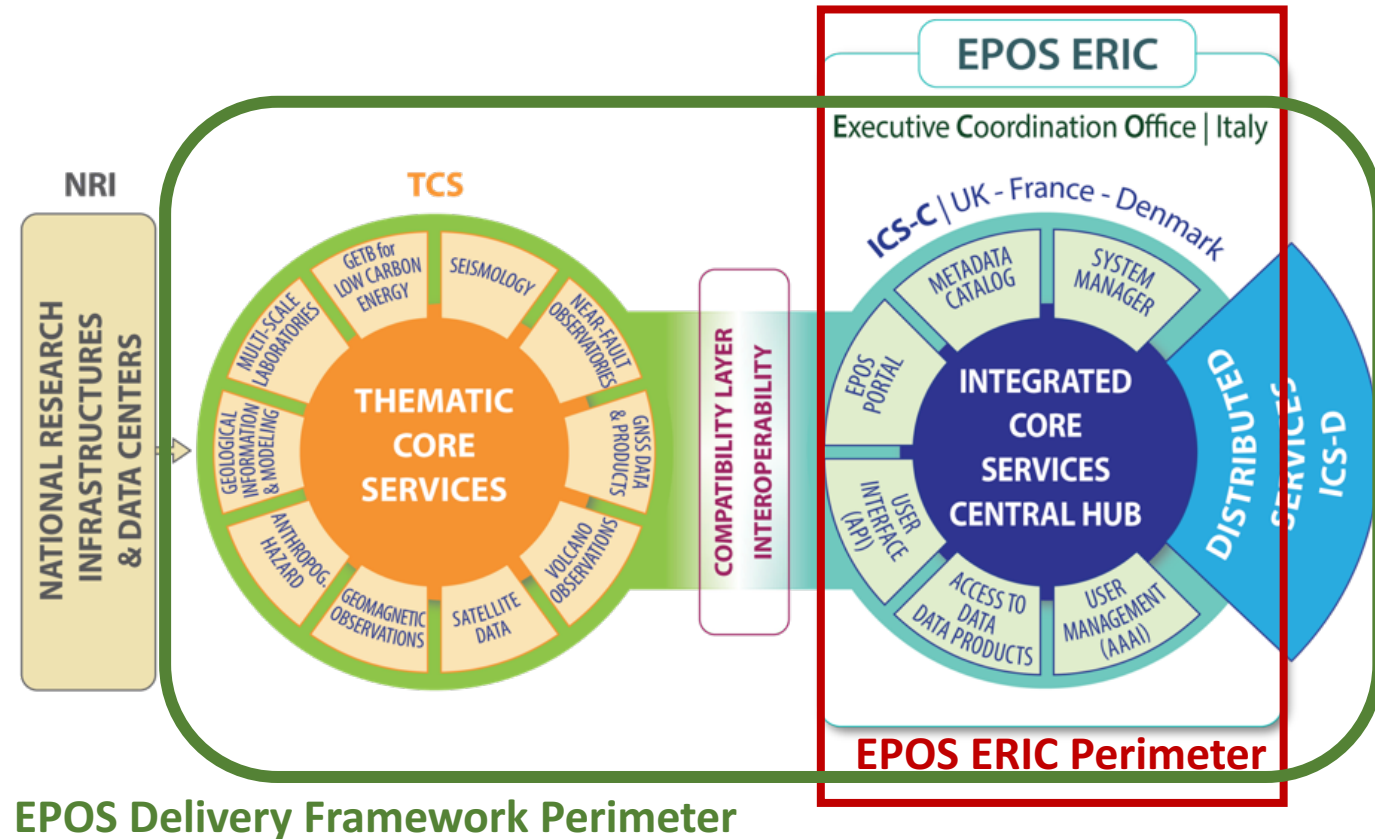
LABORATORIES

To establish a **sustainable** and **long-term access** to solid Earth science data and services **integrating** diverse European Research Infrastructures under a common **federated** framework

- After a successful Preparatory and Implementation phase, EPOS is currently in the **transition** from the Implementation Phase to the Operational Phase.
- This is called Pilot Operational Phase (**EPOS POP**)
- This requires simultaneous actions dealing with:
 - ❖ **Construction**,
 - ❖ **Implementation**,
 - ❖ **Operation** of the RI.
- Sustainability planning is addressed through the **2020-2022 Strategic Plan**, which defines objectives workflow and timeline, and **annual Financial Plans** to allocate resources to key activities
- **Long-term sustainability** is addressed also through the **EPOS SP** EC project (2020-2022).
- Current challenge is to strengthen **Financial Viability** and address **long-term sustainability**

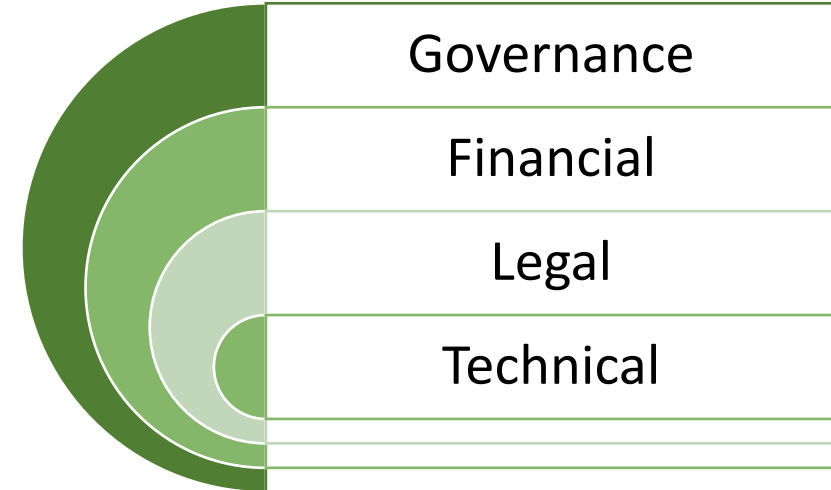


- The components of the ERIC that lie within the **internal perimeter** (ECO, ICS-C) represent key assets of the RI.
- This implies that:
 - assets must belong to the ERIC **Governance** Framework
 - costs of assets have to be included in the **Financial** Books (Host Premium, IKC)
 - **technical** functionalities and robustness are ensured
 - assets are connected to the ERIC by coherent **Legal** (Partnership) Agreements
- Assets located outside the internal perimeter and within the **external perimeter** are linked by Legal Collaboration Agreements to share resources and to ensure suitable technical operation.
- They require their own Governance coherent with the ERIC governance structure.



- Is long-term sustainability a target, a mirage or the horizon?
 - If it is a target we should therefore have business and financial plans to address it
 - If it is a mirage, it means it is a false target, a myth or abstraction
 - If it is the horizon, it tells us the direction to proceed but we will never touch it.
- As EPOS will enter in the full operational phase in 2023, a new planning is necessary:
 - **Business Plan** to attract investments with updated objectives, (income statement, cash flow projection, host and in-kind contributions) and **financial viability**,
 - **Science Plan** to assess the impact and convince investors
 - Annual **Financial** and **Activity** plans to operate the delivery framework

The Sustainability Dimensions



Current Sustainability Challenges

- The short-term goal is strengthening Financial Viability
- Tackling sustainability challenge requires:
 - Strengthening cash flow projections
 - More and larger Membership fees by ERIC Members
 - Host Contributions **in cash** by ERIC Members or Representing Entities according to a **specific Mandate** from ERIC Member
 - Increasing IKC to assets lying within the internal ERIC perimeter and included in the Financial statements (costs certification, variability of declared overheads, costs statements for existing infrastructures)
 - Increasing national funds to service providers (national nodes) and TCS components
 - Harmonizing national strategies with the EPOS pan-European integration plan
- Considering the amount of resources provided in-kind by so many research organizations, it is fundamental to adopt a suitable legal and financial framework, distinguishing IKC provision to support elements inside and outside the ERIC perimeter.
- Differences in the approaches to declare indirect costs (overheads) among research organizations affect cost certification, auditing and financial requirements.

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