



Sustainable Blue
Economy Partnership

Information Webinar

Rolling TA Call to RIs, 2nd cut-off

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

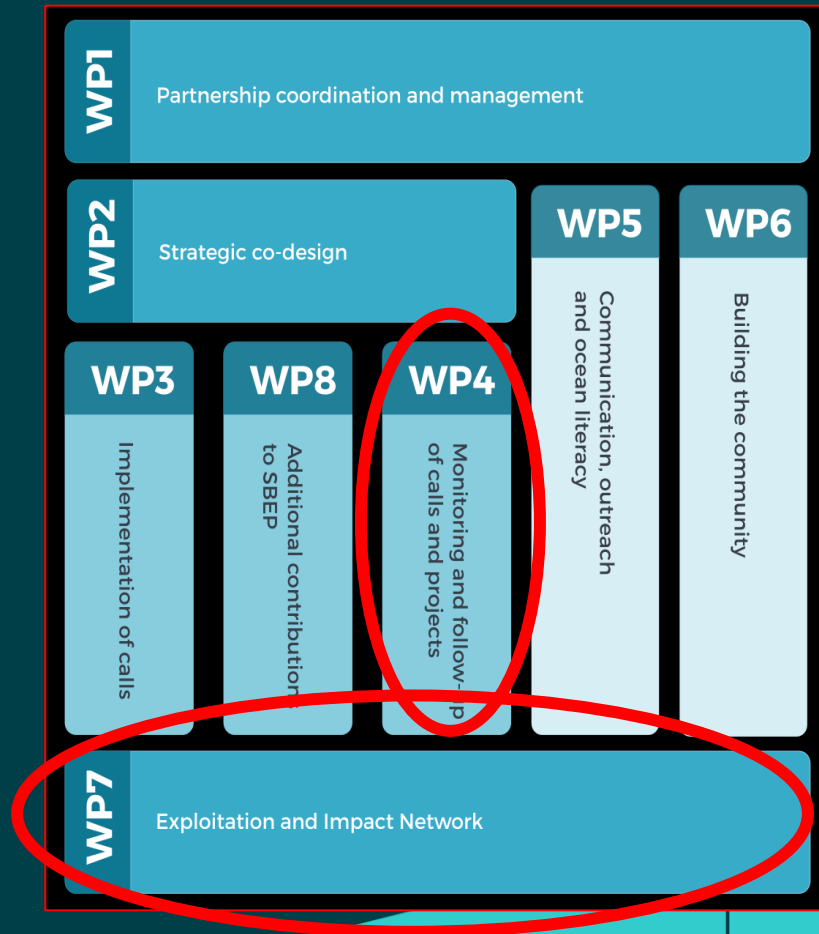
Abraham Trujillo Quintela (AEI-FECYT)
SBEP WP4 co-lead “Monitoring and Follow-up of projects”

28th July 2026



Monitoring and follow-up of SBEP funded projects

- SBEP has a similar structure to most European projects (WPs)
- 8 connected WPs with leading partners and tasks distribution
- AEI (ES) and RVO (NL) co-lead WP4, focus on monitoring and evaluation of all SBEP funded projects...and networking activities for them
- WP4 – WP7, strong connection: indicators and data from the projects' monitoring will feed the impact analysis of the partnership





SBEP TA projects reporting and monitoring obligations

- TA projects are different from our “cash funding” projects.
- BUT monitoring and reporting is IMPORTANT for all SBEP projects, both for SBEP partners (mostly national funding agencies but also infrastructures providers and others) and for the European Commission (very interested in the TA call).
- **Networking opportunities** between all SBEP funded projects is also one goal of WP4 → ongoing TA projects were invited to SBEP international Symposium in 2026
- SBEP **WP4** has the responsibility towards the EC to present **Deliverables** with monitoring reports **from all projects** and share data and results.
- For TA projects, we will have just ONE reporting moment: end of project (not after using the infrastructure!)



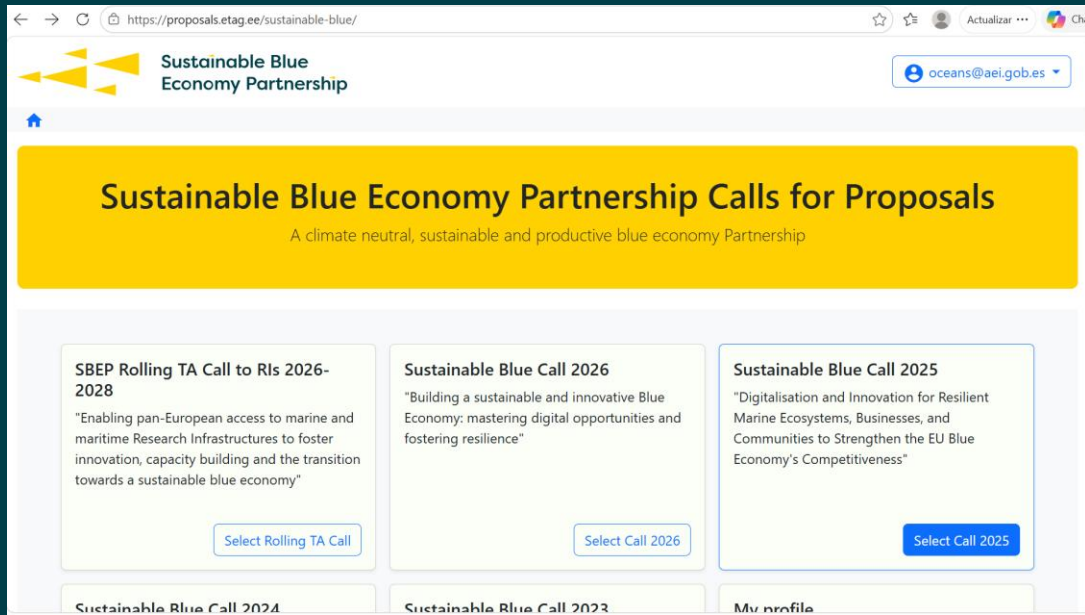
Reporting procedure at end-term

- Final reports from projects will be based on SBEP **templates** (in preparation!)
- The templates contain free text boxes and a series of **Key Performance Indicators** (KPIs) specifically adapted to the nature and specificities of the TA projects (our regular templates for “cash funding” projects are not fit for purpose)
- For TA projects, a specific taskforce between WP4+WP7 will propose tailored KPIs (also based on similar monitoring exercises in some of our countries) to capture relevant information from the projects → **IMPACT!!**



SBEP online monitoring platform

- WP4 includes a task on designing a monitoring platform for all SBEP projects.
- Estonian Research Council (ETAG) has implemented this **monitoring online system**, very similar to the submission platform used for proposals submission (EPSS)
- **IMPORTANT:** Final reports from TA projects will be uploaded to the Online Monitoring Platform by **Project Leaders**





Important final points!

- IMPORTANT: Project Leaders are responsible for reporting and must collect relevant information from project partners
- Any other aspect related with monitoring (unexpected changes of plans/staff, delays, etc.) must be shared with the Follow-up Secretariat (AEI) to **work together towards suitable solutions** and inform accordingly to SBEP coordination and partners.
- Please **reach out** when needed! 😊



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Thank you for your attention!

oceans@aei.gob.es



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Agenda | Information Webinar – SBEP Rolling TA Call to RIs, 2nd Cut-off

28 July 2026 • 11:00 – 12:00 CEST • Online (Microsoft Teams)

TIME (CEST)	SESSION
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11:25 - 11:30	Impact Pathway and Theory of Change - <i>Sylvain Pasquier (ANR / Leader SBEP Impact Network)</i> – recorded How funded TA activities contribute to the SBEP impact pathway.
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Welcome and introduction

Margherita Cappelletto

SBEP Coordinator MUR / TA Management Working Group

Information Webinar | SBEP Rolling Call for Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures | 28th July 2026



Partnership in a Changing World





Introduction to SBEP

- ▶ **R&I investments** to boost the transformation towards a climate-neutral, sustainable, productive and competitive blue economy through **alignment of national programs at pan-European scale, taking into account regional sea-basin needs.**
- ▶ **74 partner institutions from 32 countries, co-funded by the European Commission:**
 - ▶ 450 million euro planned investments over 7 years
 - ▶ 6 co-funded calls for R&I proposals + **Additional Activities**
 - ▶ Coordinated by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), and co-coordinated by the Research Council of Norway (RCN)





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The Rolling TA Call: Structure and Requirements

Flavia Cavaliere

MUR / TA Management Working Group

Information Webinar | SBEP Rolling Call for Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures | 28th July 2026





Overview

- ▶ Introduction: how the SBEP TA scheme works
- ▶ Results and lessons: pilot call and 1st cut-off
- ▶ What changed: from pilot to Rolling Call
- ▶ Scope, objectives and thematic coverage
- ▶ Eligibility and transnationality requirements
- ▶ Evaluation criteria and scoring
- ▶ Timeline and cut-off dates
- ▶ Implementation framework



How the SBEP TA Scheme Works

Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures for the sustainable blue economy



What the access covers

- Use of the infrastructure and its equipment
- Scientific and technical support from host staff

**BE PART OF THE
COMMUNITY!!!!**

Three modes of access

- Physical** — the team travels to the RI
- Remote** — host staff run the work for them
- Virtual** — access to data and computing

WHY

Europe's marine research infrastructures are world-class but unevenly accessible. The TA Scheme opens them to researchers across borders — so capability, not geography or budget, decides who can do the science.

A ROLLING CALL

The call stays open continuously. Proposals are collected and evaluated at successive cut-off dates, so teams apply when their project is ready rather than racing a single annual deadline.

The outcome: a shared European capacity for blue economy research — wider participation, less duplicated investment, and infrastructure that works as one system rather than many.



1st TA Call: Pilot Results (2025)

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MACAROCONNECT

Ecological connectivity across Macaronesian archipelagos (Azores, Madeira, Cabo Verde). Drifters, zooplankton, biodiversity monitoring.

Azores, Cabo Verde

Key lessons: High scientific quality of proposals • Need for more flexibility in timing • Smoother coordination with RI providers • Reduced admin burden for applicants • Broader RI catalogue needed • No more SRIA Intervention Area constraint

MARVEL

Underwater soundscapes and fauna behaviour. Hydrophone monitoring in Vita Channel (IT) and Cabo Verde.

Ligurian Sea, Cabo Verde

MOOSE-GE2026

Deep-water formation, carbon fluxes, biodiversity in NW Mediterranean. Joint cruise with GEORGE InfraTech on RV Gaia Blu.

Gulf of Lion, Ligurian Sea

1st Cut-off (June 2026): No proposals submitted



What Changed: Pilot vs Rolling Call

Aspect	1st TA Call (Pilot)	Rolling Call (2026-2029)
Format	Single annual call	Rolling call open 2026-2029
Submission	One submission window	Continuous submission with periodic cut-offs
Thematic scope	Linked to 5 SRIA Intervention Areas	Open to all marine/maritime research topics
RI Catalogue	Physical + Remote access	Physical + Remote + Virtual access
Evaluation	Integer scoring	Half-point scoring (0.5 increments)
ToC / DMP	Standalone documents required	Integrated into proposal form
Eligibility	Stricter team composition	Streamlined, broader user base
EU alignment	Pilot scheme	Aligned with Horizon Europe, EU Ocean Pact

Key change: thematic scope no longer restricted to SRIA Intervention Areas



Scope and Objectives

Call Objectives

- Implement the SBEP Strategic R&I Agenda (SRIA)
- Enable transnational access to marine Research Infrastructures across Europe from worldwide applicants
- Support excellent research through coordinated use of advanced RI facilities
- Strengthen collaboration between researchers and RI providers across countries
- Maximise the value of national and European RI investments
- Contribute to the European Research Area and EU ocean policy goals

Thematic Coverage

Open to all marine and maritime research topics meeting the objectives of the SBEP SRIA.

Access Modalities

Physical — on-site use of RI facilities (vessels, stations, labs)

Remote — remote operation of RI instruments and equipment

Virtual — access to RI data services and computing resources



Eligibility and Transnationality

Who can apply?

Applicants can be employed by an organisation in **any country of the world**. Eligible organisations are any legal entity:

- Universities and Higher Education Institutions
- Public and Private Research Organisations
- SMEs and Large Enterprises
- NGOs and Public Authorities

Project Partners may be established in any country worldwide.

Private sector: private companies are explicitly eligible. Third-country participation must be demonstrated as essential for the implementation of the action.

Transnationality and Firewall Rules

Transnational Access means the free-of-charge use of research infrastructures for users selected on a competitive basis.

- The Project Leader PI and the majority (> 50%) of the team members must be employed in a country other than the country that owns and operates the infrastructure
- An organisation that is an RI provider cannot be Leader or Partner in a proposal requesting access to the same RI it owns or runs
- Proposals must involve at least two Partners from two different countries
- Access for teams with a majority of Partners outside an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated country is limited to 20% of the total units of access

Feasibility must be confirmed by the RI provider before submission.



Evaluation Criteria

Excellence

Scientific and technical quality of the proposed access project; originality and quality of the R&I; extent to which the work goes beyond the state of the art; added value of the requested RI.

Impact

Potential for impact beyond the academic world; stakeholder and industry involvement; contribution to human capacity building; credibility of the impact pathway (Theory of Change).

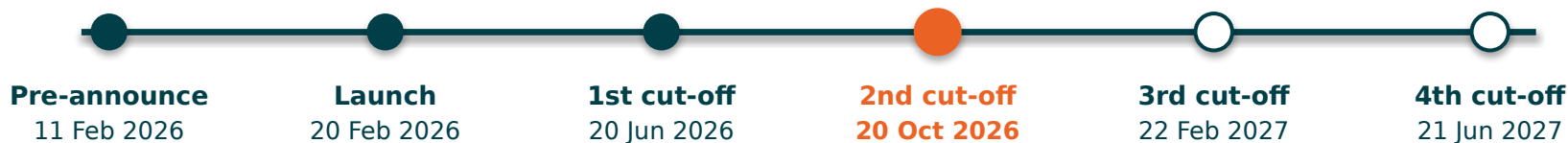
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Technical and ethical feasibility of the access plan; quality and capacity of the team; coherence of the work plan; confirmed feasibility with the RI provider.

Scoring: 0-5 scale in 0.5 increments | Threshold: 3/5 per criterion and 10/15 overall | International Evaluation Panel — at least 3 independent experts per proposal



Timeline and Cut-off Dates



Rolling cycle overview — cut-offs every

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Implementation Framework

1

Submit

Create EPSS account, draft proposal, confirm feasibility with RI provider, submit before cut-off

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Evaluate

Independent expert evaluation. Feasibility confirmed by RI. Results communicated ~4 months after cut-off

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Implement

Sign User-Provider Agreement. Access activities begin. Light monitoring by WP4 (single final report)

4

Report

Brief technical summary. KPIs aligned with Theory of Change. Communication outputs to WP5

Project duration: up to 18 months | Reporting: single final report |

EPSS Platform: <https://proposals.etag.ee/sbep-ris/>



Next Steps and Contacts

- Explore the RI Catalogue and identify potential infrastructures
- Contact RI providers for feasibility discussion
- Secure funding — the project is self-funded; only RI access is covered
- Register on the EPSS platform and start drafting
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- Spread the call to your contacts and networks

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2nd cut-off: 20 October 2026



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Rolling TA Call: Research Infrastructures Catalogue

Laura Beranzoli

INGV/ Task 8.4 Leader

Information Webinar | SBEP Rolling Call for Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures





Research Infrastructures in SBEP

Athough the Research Infrastructures (RIs) were not sufficiently spotted in SBEP initially, they have been soon acknowledged as an important and essential component, on pair with the other topics of the SRIA.



Research Infrastructures in SBEP

SBEP Beneficiaries managing own RIs have eagerly replied to the solicitation of opening their assets although under unfavourable conditions.



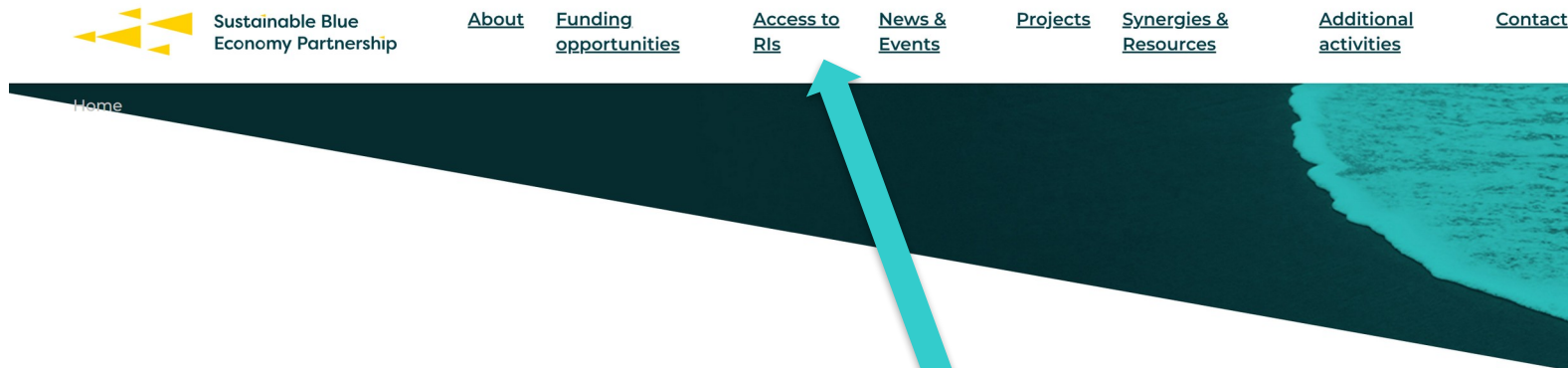
Research Infrastructures in SBEP

The engagement of the RIs of the SBEP activities boosts the position of the Partnership in the frame of the **Ocean Pact Priorities** clearly addressing some of its priorities:

- **boosting sustainable competitiveness of the blue economy,**
- **supporting coastal, island communities and outermost regions,**
- **advancing ocean research, knowledge, skills and innovation**



www.bluepartnership.eu



▶ The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership represents an unprecedented effort of 74 Partner institutions from 32 countries and the European Commission to pool research and innovation investments and align national programmes at pan-European scale. As a Horizon Europe co-funded partnership, its strategy takes into consideration the R&I agendas of the sea basins (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic

www.bluepartnership.eu



Transnational Access Call to Research Infrastructures

The call for access to Research Infrastructures a applicants from across the European blue economy community to submit proposals to use Research Infrastructures made available by Partnership p

The call supports the implementation of the Pa Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRI) addressing key intervention areas, encouraging cooperation, and promoting Open Data and Op also aims to strengthen innovation, better align investments with EU priorities, and improve eff through the shared use of research infrastruc

[Learn here about the projects selected in the p](#)

A screenshot of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership website, specifically the 'Calls' section. The header includes the logo and navigation links: 'About', 'Funding opportunities', and 'Access to RIs'. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership Rolling Transnational Access Call to Research Infrastructures 2026-2028'. Below this, it states 'Rolling access to shared Research Infrastructures at pan-European scale to reinforce capacities and support the transformation of the blue economy.' The 'FIRST CUT-OFF DATE: 20 JUNE 2026 - 11:00 CEST' is prominently displayed. At the bottom, there is a 'Learn more' link with a right-pointing arrow.

A screenshot of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership website, specifically the 'RI catalogue' section. The header includes the logo and navigation links: 'About', 'Funding opportunities', 'Access to RIs', 'News & Events', 'Projects', 'Synergies & Resources', 'Additional activities', and 'Contact'. The main content area is titled 'RI catalogue' and displays a grid of six categories, each with a boat icon and a number: 9 ANALYTICAL LABS AND TEST BENCHES, 15 FIXED PLATFORMS, AUXILIARY DEVICES AND EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS, 1 HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING CENTRES, 6 MOBILE PLATFORMS (AUVs, GLIDERS, AIRCRAFT), 2 PORTABLE EQUIPMENT, and 16 RESEARCH VESSELS.



Looking for the RI/facility for you....



Sustainable Blue
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[About](#)

[Funding
opportunities](#)

[Access to
RIs](#)

[News &
Events](#)

[Projects](#)

[Synergies &
Resources](#)

[Addi
activ](#)

◀ Explore RIs

Research infrastructure type - Any -

Sea basin - Any -

Country - Any -

www.bluepartnership.eu/transnational-access-call-research-infrastructures



Final Recommendations

Check with the RI Provider

- the access modalities: **Physical, Remote, Virtual**
- the feasibility of the implementation of your proposal

www.bluepartnership.eu/transnational-access-call-research-infrastructures



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The European Research Infrastructure perspective and policy

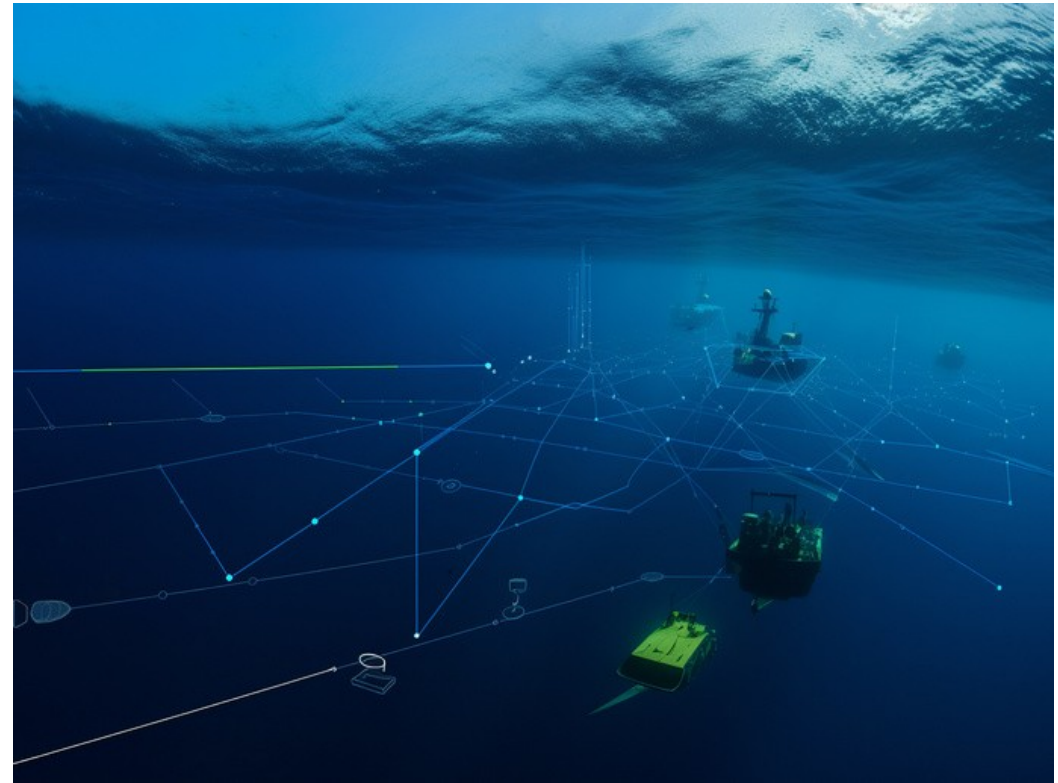
Role of European Research Infrastructures in enabling transnational access and
collaboration

Information Webinar on the SBEP Rolling TA Call to
Research Infrastructures
28 July 2026

Mihaela Constantin
Policy Officer Research
Infrastructures
DG Research and Innovation

Why research infrastructures matter for the sustainable blue economy

- Ocean research, marine ecosystems, climate observations and economic activities extend across national borders and sea basins. At the same time, the capacities needed to study and sustainably use the ocean, such as research vessels, observing systems, specialised laboratories, are often highly costly and specialised.
- European research infrastructures bring these capacities together. They allow us to observe the ocean over the long term, understand complex marine systems, validate new technologies and connect researchers and innovators.
- European research infrastructures provide the shared and long-term capacities that individual projects, organisations or single countries would have difficulties developing on their own.



European research infrastructure opens new possibilities to observe the marine world © yarohork/stock.adobe.com
GROOM II project

European Policy context

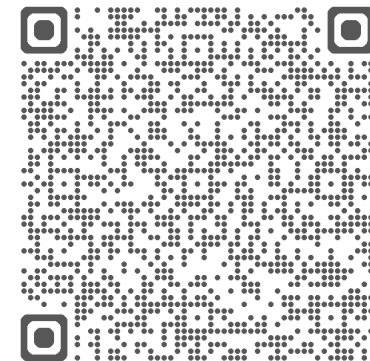
The new European Research Area

Creating a single, borderless market for research, innovation and technology across the EU.



ERA policy agenda 2025-2027

ERA structural policies



1. Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
2. **Strengthening sustainability, accessibility and resilience of research infrastructures in the ERA**

Long-term activities:

- a long-term **EU strategy for research infrastructures** (European strategy on research and technology infrastructures)
- an **ESFRI roadmap 2026** and key elements for the 2028 landscape analysis;
- monitoring of ESFRI landmarks;
- stakeholder engagement (event/activity reports).



Policy developments

European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

ESFRI

ESFRI - core activities



Landscape analysis - Since 2016, it provides an overview of the European RI ecosystem.



ESFRI Roadmap - a strategic document that identifies and prioritizes major research infrastructures of pan-European importance.



ESFRI monitoring - guaranteeing the excellence of the Landmark label.

ESFRI Landscape Analysis 2024

Schematic landscape of ESFRI research infrastructures for water-related research

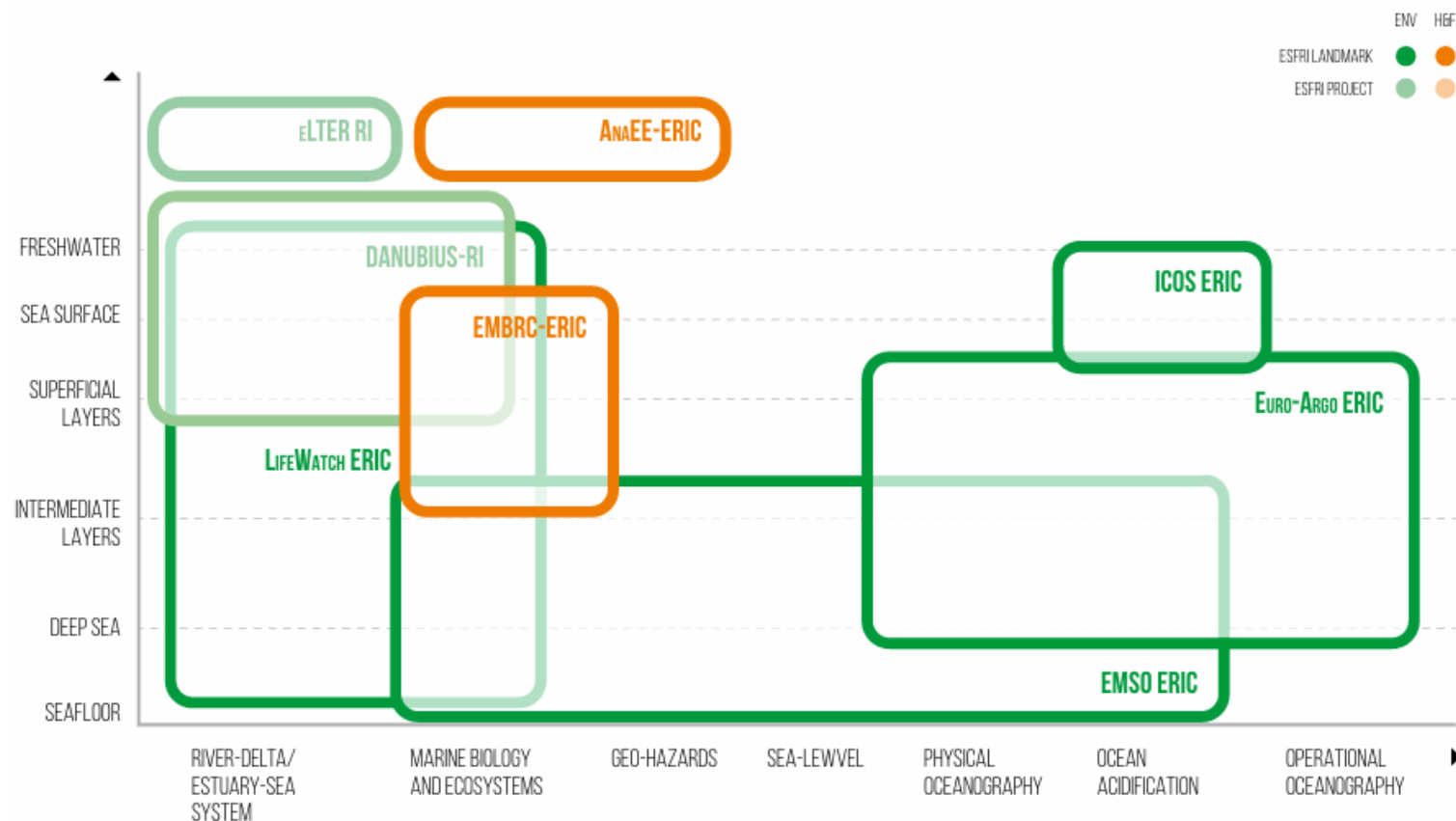


FIGURE 2.

Simplified diagram of the observation capabilities of ESFRI Landmarks and Projects respect to the hydrosphere components (Y axis) and to the environmental processes therein (X axis).

Policy developments

European Research Infrastructure Consortium

European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

What is an ERIC?

An easy-to-use legal instrument designed to **facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research infrastructures of European interest**

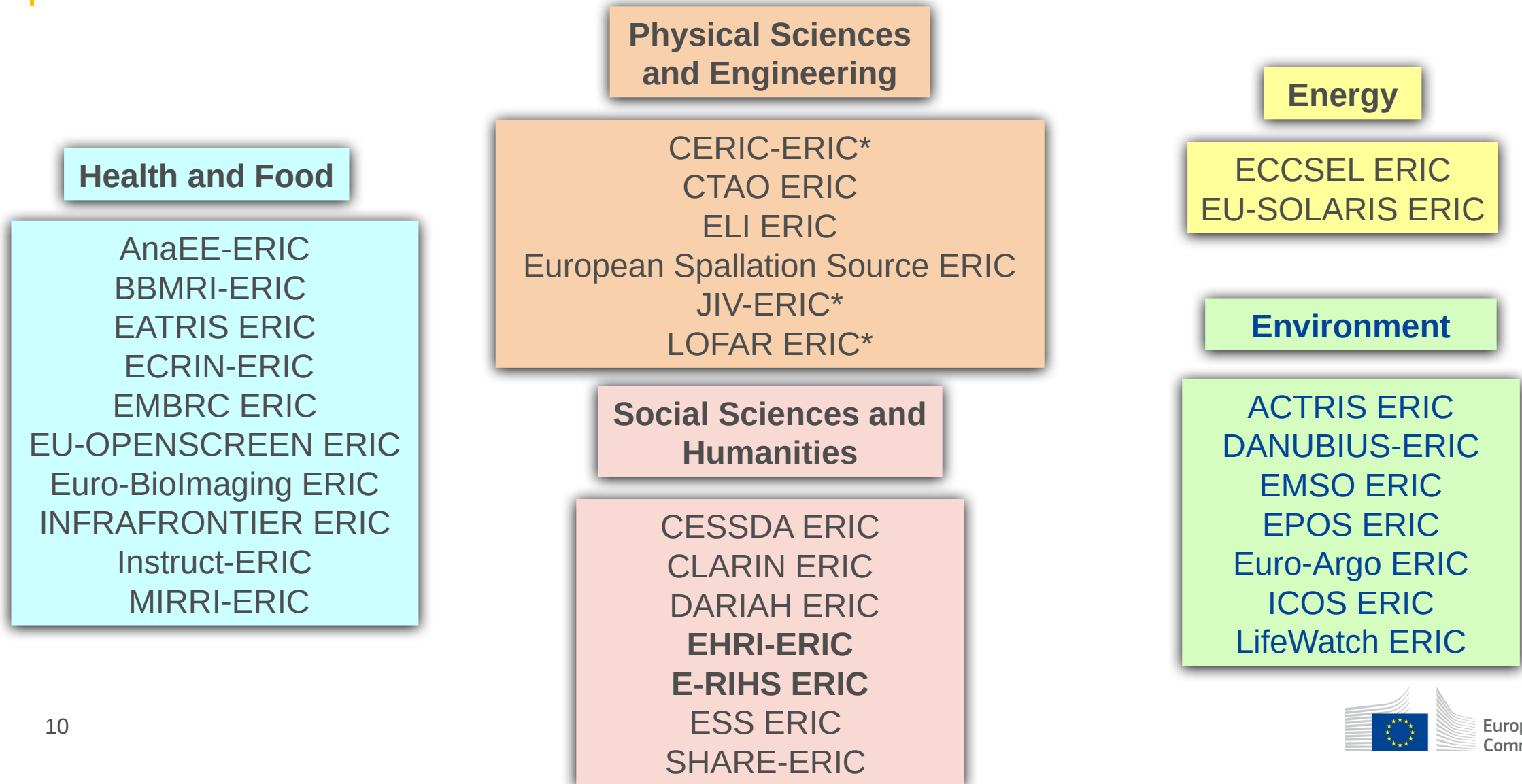
allows the establishment and operation of new or existing Research Infrastructures on a non-economic basis

ERIC features

- A legal personality recognized in all EU Member States
- Flexibility to adapt to the specific requirements of each infrastructure
- A faster process than creating an international organization
- Exemptions from VAT and excise duty



The current ERIC landscape



Horizon Europe Research Infrastructures Work Programme

➤ **INFRADEV:** Developing, consolidating and optimising European RIs landscape, maintaining global leadership.

Support to the **life cycle** of ESFRIs/ERICs, policy-making, int'l coop, skills

➤ **INFRASERV :** RI services to support health research, accelerate the green and digital transformation, and advance frontier knowledge.

Access (both challenge-driven 'areas' and curiosity-driven 'large domains')

➤ **INFRATECH:** Next generation of scientific instruments, tools and methods and advanced digital solutions.

Technology development including co-design with industry, digitalisation

➤ **INFRAEOSC:** Enabling an operational, open and FAIR EOSC ecosystem.

European Open Science Cloud '**EOSC**'

Complementary capacities across the European marine research infrastructure landscape



The geographical distribution of the Countries involved in the ERICs and other relevant Research Infrastructures

Source: Dañobeitia et al. (2023)

In Europe, the following research infrastructures provide complementary observation, experimentation, data and expertise across the ocean and river-sea continuum:

- **EMSO ERIC** - Long-term, fixed-point observation of the seafloor and water column, from the surface to the deep ocean;
- **Euro-Argo ERIC** - Autonomous profiling-float observations of the ocean, including core, biogeochemical and deep-ocean measurements;
- **LifeWatch ERIC** - Digital infrastructure, data and analytical services for biodiversity and ecosystem research;
- **EMBRC ERIC** - Access to marine biodiversity, ecosystems, biological resources and experimental research services;
- **ICOS ERIC** - Standardised observations of greenhouse-gas concentrations and carbon exchanges across the atmosphere, land and ocean;
- **DANUBIUS ERIC** - Integrated research infrastructure for river-sea systems and interactions across the freshwater-marine continuum.

Thank you



#ResearchInfrastructures

#EURsearchArea

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