

ICOS



INTEGRATED
CARBON
OBSERVATION
SYSTEM

ICOS ERIC

Update on the proces of setting up the
ICOS European Research
Infrastructure Consortium

Brief timeline of ICOS

- ICOS Preparatory Phase Project (2008-2013), funded by the European Commission under FP7
- Currently ICOS is in a transition phase with interim governance bodies
- ICOS becomes operational when ICOS European Research Infrastructure or ICOS ERIC is signed by all member countries

Rationale behind the ERIC

- ICOS and other research infrastructures are complex, expensive and operating beyond the limits of a single research group, region, nation, continent.
- A major difficulty in setting up such infrastructures between EU countries is the **lack of an adequate legal framework** allowing the creation of appropriate partnerships.
- In this context the European Commission proposed a **legal framework for a European research infrastructure** adapted to the needs of such facilities: the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

Definition of an ERIC

- Definition by the EC:

*European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a legal instrument that has been set up in order to facilitate the **establishment and the operation of large European research infrastructures** among several Member States and associated countries.*

Who's responsible within ICOS

- ICOS Head Office and statutory seat are located in Finland
- ICOS Head office responsible for preparing the ICOS ERIC Statutes and other official ICOS ERIC documents
- Finnish government responsible for submitting official request to the European Commission

History of ICOS ERIC

- ICOS ERIC Statutes and other ICOS ERIC documents were prepared during ICOS Preparatory Phase Project
- June 2013: ICOS Head Office sent these drafts to European Commission for a first informal check
- Dec 2013/Jan 2014: documents modified after feedback received from EC
- March 2014: modified Statutes and other documents officially approved by ISIC → paperwork ready for official request

History of ICOS ERIC

- Finland needed to demonstrate sufficient support from member countries to set up ICOS ERIC before submitting official request
- April 2014: request letter of Finnish Ministry sent to ICOS ERIC partners
→ 'Requesting Finland to set up the ICOS ERIC in name of the ICOS member countries'
- Request letters received from 7 countries & more to be expected
 - Switzerland (observer)
 - Sweden
 - Belgium
 - France
 - Norway (observer)
 - Germany
 - Italy
- Mid March 2015: Finnish government decided there was enough support from member countries to establish ICOS ERIC

Formal Request

- On **2 April 2015** a formal request for setting up ICOS ERIC was submitted by Finland to the EC together with the Statutes and other documents
- Decision of EC expected by Summer/Autumn 2015
- If positive then ICOS RI becomes official and operational!

Partytime!

Launch ICOS ERIC

- Signing of the ICOS ERIC by the member countries

→ Launch event in Belgium!