

O-17 Session B, Wednesday, 15.06., 12⁴⁰ - 13⁰⁰**CERIC-ERIC, the new multi-technique research infrastructure for materials research in Central-Eastern Europe**M. Girod^{1*}¹CERIC-ERIC, S.S. 14 – km163.5, 34149 Basovizza (TS), Italy

Keywords: Research Infrastructure, multi-technique research, synchrotron radiation, material science, nano analytics

*e-mail: matthias.girod@ceric-eric.eu

Material 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 this 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.

The CERIC-ERIC research infrastructure 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.[1] This multinational facility was set up as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). [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).

CERIC-ERIC comprises synchrotron radiation,

neutron radiation, microscopic techniques, ion-beam analysis methods and NMR.



Figure 1. Locations and partners of CERIC-ERIC.

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 a full legal entity. For this reason CERIC can act as partner in H2020 as well as ESIF proposals.

This talk will present CERIC, its structure and scientific focus. It will further highlight CERIC's opportunities for researchers as well as the possibilities to act as a versatile and strong partner.

[1] Commission Implementing Decision, *Official Journal of the EU*, L184/49, **2014**

[2] Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 of June 25th **2009**.