How to join LifeWatch ERIC

the e-Science Biodiversity & Ecosystem European Research Infrastructure

LifeWatch ERIC

> Establishes and operates the infrastructure and information systems necessary to mobilise and integrate data and algorithms for biodiversity and ecosystem research, including enhancing understanding, linkages and synergies with other societal challenges such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to provide analytical capabilities;

> Provides access to data collected by science at a global level and offers ICT services, tools, storage capacity and computational power, to transform information into new knowledge;

> Connects and brings together physical observatories, research centres and scientific communities into a single web space accessible to all; in doing so

> Offers researchers and stakeholders wherever they are, regardless of their access to funding and facilities, the resources to enact their own innovative scientific approach; and

> Empowers citizens to engage with science and contribute to their own well-being and survival.

What are Research Infrastructures?

Research Infrastructures are facilities, resources and services that are used by research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields. They include: major scientific equipment (or sets of instruments), knowledge-based resources such as collections, archives and scientific data, e-Infrastructures, such as data and computing systems and communication networks, and any other tools that are essential to achieve excellence in research and innovation.

What is an ERIC and what are its advantages?

The European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a specific legal form that facilitates the establishment and operation of Research Infrastructures with European interest. Advantages:

> A legal capacity recognised in all EU countries;

> Flexibility to adapt to specific requirements of each infrastructure;

> A faster process than creating an international organisation;

> Exemptions from VAT and excise duty.

What is LifeWatch ERIC?

LifeWatch ERIC is the e-Science and Technology European Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research that:

LifeWatch ERIC invests in three essential components: open access data, reproducible analytics and mobilised communities.

How is LifeWatch ERIC organised?

The core structural components are the three **Common Facilities**, serving the entire ERIC and responsible for the implementation, coordination and management of all activities:

> **Statutory Seat** and **ICT e-Infrastructure Technical Office** (SSO, ICT-Core), Seville, Spain;

> **Service Centre** (SC), Lecce, Italy;

> **Virtual Lab and Innovation Centre** (VLIC), Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Distributed Centres are facilities that are hosted by Member States, and coordinate national contributions to the consortium.

Who can become a LifeWatch ERIC Member?

> Member States of the European Union;

> Associated Countries;

> Other Third Countries;

> Intergovernmental Organisations.

Who are LifeWatch ERIC Members?

At present, LifeWatch ERIC consists of eight European Member States: **Belgium**, **Bulgaria**, **Greece**, **Italy**, **the Netherlands**, **Portugal**, **Slovenia**, **Spain**.

What are the benefits of joining LifeWatch ERIC?

> Be part of a highly specialised European Research Infrastructure Consortium;

> Aggregate and organise national scientific communities working on biodiversity and ecosystems, maximising their visibility and impact;

> Use the LifeWatch ERIC brand to promote national outcomes and initiatives;

> Be included in European and national roadmaps and Smart Specialisation Strategies;

> Have access to dedicated European, national and regional programmes and funding schemes;

> Have access to technology, innovation and knowledge through collaboration on the development and operation of the e-Infrastructure.

What are the rights of LifeWatch ERIC Members?

Members have the right to:

> Participate and vote in the General Assembly (contributing to the definition of strategic objectives and implementation plans);

> Access information and services provided by LifeWatch ERIC;

> Benefit from any other rights mentioned in the **Statutes** or included in the Implementing Rules.

Observers have the right to:

> Attend the General Assembly without any voting

> Let their research communities participate in LifeWatch ERIC events, such as workshops, conferences, training courses at preferential rates, space permitting;

> Let their research communities have access to support from LifeWatch ERIC in developing relevant systems, processes and services.

What are the responsibilities of LifeWatch ERIC Members?

LifeWatch ERIC full **Members** must:

> Support and facilitate the objectives, tasks and governance of LifeWatch ERIC;

> Identify a representing entity and maintain a National LifeWatch Support Committee to promote adoption of relevant standards in national resources and tools creation projects;

> Promote the uptake of services among scientific communities and researchers of different biodiversity-related areas of knowledge, including ecosystem science and bioinformatics, and gather providers' and users' input and feedback;

> Commit financially towards a common budget: In Cash Contribution (15%) and In Kind Contribution (85%) (see **Annex 2**);

> Support any other activity agreed within the framework of LifeWatch ERIC resulting from the **Statutes** or Implementing Rules;

> Maintain their membership until the end of the five-year period in force at the moment of their accession.

Observers do not have any financial commitment.

What is the procedure for joining LifeWatch ERIC?

To apply for membership a letter must be written to the Chair of the General Assembly. This letter should be supported by an Annex in which the applying Member State, Associated Country, Other Third Country or Intergovernmental Organisation must state clearly what they can offer to LifeWatch ERIC and what they expect from it, based on each of its three essential components (open access data, reproducible analytics and mobilised communities).

Do you need more information?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch at **statutoryseat@lifewatch.eu**

LifeWatch ERIC

www.lifewatch.eu