

European Consortium for Research Infrastructure dedicated to Analytics in Central Europe

Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Croatia, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia. There are currently nine countries involved in **CERIC**, the Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium dedicated to Analytical and Synthesis research facilities for the nano-bio sciences and nano-technologies in Central Europe.

CERIC is a distributed research facility. It brings together - in a Cooperation Network built to operate at the highest levels of quality – laboratories belonging to the signatory countries, specialised in the development and use of special equipment for the study, characterisation and synthesis of material, for structural analysis of matter, imaging techniques, and biology, as part of nanoscience and nanotechnology.

By stimulating and putting on line initiatives of excellence in the field of Research and Innovation, in particular in the fields mentioned above, CERIC aims to accelerate the European integration process of the countries involved in the science and technology field. With the primary goal of **attracting and fostering networking among the best minds and stimulating the scientific and economic development** of European Space for Research, giving priority to enabling technologies, in line with the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union, which aims to transform new scientific knowledge into innovative products and services.

The CERIC-ERIC consortium has been established on 24th June 2014, by a European Commission Implementing Decision. It is based on the application of a new EU Council Regulation (n.723/2009), specially elaborated for this type of transnational collaboration, i.e. with a high degree of coordination and integration between the activities of different laboratories and with the guarantee of easy access with no bureaucracy for researchers, who ought to be able to use the best technologies made available by the network.

The Italian contribution is based on access to light sources Laboratories of **Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste**, already traditionally available to the scientific community worldwide.

Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste is also the registered headquarters of CERIC-ERIC.

CERIC-ERIC is based on high-quality investments and enhances existing regional and national services focusing on integration and complementarity. Each Country is participating in the Consortium with excellent facilities. Researchers will be able to have access to the services offered by the consortium free of charge and will be selected through a unique evaluation system exclusively based on scientific merit. This approach is possible thanks to the extensive experience, trust and mutual understanding, previously developed by several cooperation relations and thanks to the integrated functioning of the infrastructure involved.