



THE ASSESSMENT OF MATURITY OF NEW PROPOSAL: IMPLEMENTATION CASE

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Strategy Report on Research Infrastructures

ROADMAP 2026

ESFRI Implementation Group (IG)

The Implementation Group (IG) is the ESFRI instrument to analyse the implementation aspects of existing and new Research Infrastructures to the Roadmap.

The role of the IG is to:

- **assess the implementation case of new proposals for an ESFRI roadmap update;**
- **monitor the implementation of ESFRI Projects (2016 + 2018 + 2021);**
- **contribute to the periodic review of ESFRI Landmarks;**
- **propose conclusions, recommendations and decisions on the status for new proposals, ESFRI Projects and ESFRI Landmarks to the Executive Board and the Plenary Forum;**
- **offer targeted and specific support to ESFRI Projects to move towards implementation and to ESFRI Landmarks;**
- **contribute to the development of the methodology for ESFRI roadmap updates;**
- **collaborate closely with the SWGs on all aspects.**



The assessment of maturity of new proposal: IMPLEMENTATION CASE

The IG evaluates the IMPLEMENTATION CASE along five dimensions:

- Stakeholder Commitment
- Preparatory Work and Planning
- Governance, Management & Human Resources
- Finances
- Risks

When evaluating the IMPLEMENTATION CASE, the IG takes the dimensions of the SCIENTIFIC CASE into account.



The assessment of maturity of new proposal: IMPLEMENTATION CASE

- ESFRI Minimal Key Requirements are applied on all five dimensions along the RI life cycle.
- These MKRs serve as the basis for the scoring in the assessment.
- Meeting MKRs is necessary, but not sufficient to be automatically listed in the Roadmap.
- The MKRs for the IMPLEMENTATION CASE are described in detail in the Roadmap 2026 Public Guide - ANNEX III



MKRs – Stakeholder Commitment

New Projects must demonstrate adequate maturity level, provide proof of:

- Political support, i.e. **Expression of political Support (EoS)** by the lead country and a **satisfactory** number of prospective members

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, new proposals: EoS by the LEAD country and at least by two additional MS or AC signed by the national ministries responsible for RIs

- Satisfactory **inter-institutional and multi-lateral agreement**, e.g. MoU signed by all core partners - being research institutions - formally involved in the consortium
- Clear strategy how to **gather necessary commitment** at institutional and govern.

level

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MKRs – Preparatory work and Planning

Apart from the first three criteria, new projects must have:

- Successfully completed a **design/feasibility study**
- Developed a clear **business case**
- A clear strategy how to tackle **technological and construction issues**
- A **detailed plan for preparation and implementation** agreed among the partners, including relevant investment decisions
- **Overall plan for operations and decommission defined** (life cycle!)



MKRs – Governance, Management and HR

- Satisfactory project organisation and management for preparation and implementation phase, including skills, staffing plans, responsibilities and reporting lines approved
- Measurable and satisfactory Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) identified
- Governance for operation with clearly defined responsibilities and reporting lines outlined, including Supervisory and other Advisory Boards
- Human Resources policy for implementation and operation to gather necessary competences, hiring, equal opportunities, secondments, education and training outlined



MKRs – Finances (I)

- Financial commitment **by a satisfactory number of prospective members*** covering the preparation and implementation phases

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: provide proof of financial commitment, i.e. Expression of financial Commitment (EoC) to financially contribute to the Preparation and Implementation Phases by an authority from the LEAD country and at least by another additional MS or AC – in case of an EIROforum Member the financial commitment should be explained in the Council resolution.

* “by lead country or EIROforum member, and possible other entities” (RM 2021)



MKRs – Finances (II)

- **Outline of cost book: top-level breakdown of cost elements with overall order of magnitude estimates (including for Central Hub, National Nodes and main upgrades)**
- **Estimates and confidence levels available for each element**
- **Funding opportunities identified for whole lifecycle**
- **In-kind contribution policy outlined**



MKRs - Risks

- Clear identification of major risks involved and appropriate mitigation strategies described, **including energy, innovation and sovereignty aspects**



Scoring (I)

Scoring values are attributed to each of the five dimensions following the MKRs described for new proposals:

- **Very high**, i.e. the key requirements are **outstandingly met**.
- **High**, i.e. the key requirements are **comprehensively met**.
- **Medium**, i.e. the key requirements are partly met, but the proposal/Project/Landmark shows **weaknesses with regard to specific requirements**. Enhancing the RI's future success requires (significant) changes to (specific parts of) the proposal/plans.
- **Low**, i.e. the key requirements are **insufficiently met** and the evidence for future success of the RI is not convincing.



Scoring (II)

In order to be considered as a Project, a proposal must meet the key requirements for *Preparation Phase* and score at least `high` for both the scientific case and the implementation case.

The status of each RI on the Roadmap is a strategic decision of the Plenary Forum that takes into account the outcomes of the evaluations.





Thank you
for your attention

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