



Status of Budget Execution 2023 & Estimation of Budget 2024

11 November, 2023



Abbreviation	Description
BNN	Board of National Nodes
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
GA	General Assembly
PSA	Plataforma Solar de Almería
STC	Scientific and Technical Committee

Introduction

EU-SOLARISERIC has officially started its operations with the Constitutive Meeting held in Madrid, on 12 January, 2023. So, the activity in this first year has been somehow peculiar and far from it is expected for a regular year in an ERIC's lifetime, as it has been focused on the acquisition of the first externally funded projects and the setting-up of missing documents.

In this document we present the summary of expenditures carried out for the operation of EU-SOLARIS ERIC during its first year of life.

The figures are arranged into four categories: Operations, Core activities, Personnel and External Projects. An estimation of the in-kind contribution of the host is also shown for the record.

Though there will be a more professional 'Budget Management Report' and an Audit Report (as established in the Statutes) to be prepared and delivered by an external company, this report has been prepared in order to show a picture of the degree of budget execution to the General Assembly at its upcoming meeting on 28th November.

Besides the information about year 2023, a chapter describing the proposed budget for year 2024 is also included. This is particularly relevant, as three new EU-funded projects will have their kick-off meetings and the volume of activity will increase, including also a number of 'Core activities'.

It must be said that many of the figures used in this report are estimations as of today. In all cases we have used a conservative approach for the estimation.

1. Report on execution of year 2023 budget

1.1. Overall income and expenditures budget

This budget is built on a conservative basis so for the income, only the Members' annual contributions have been considered, even though the ERIC has been successful in applying to a number of call for proposals to acquire its first externally funded projects during year 2023.

According to the Annex II of the Statutes published at the Official Journal of the European Union (C446/1, 24/11/2022), **the total income from the Members' Annual Fees will total 80,000 €.**

This amount has been duly invoiced to the representative laboratories of each country as soon as the ERIC has been formally established and the funds have been received without any problems.

1.2. Chapters of the expenditure budget

The expenditure budget has four main chapters: operations, core activities, personnel and external projects.

1. Operations

This chapter includes all necessary cost items for the routine operation of the ERIC's Hub, located at Plataforma Solar de Almería's (PSA) premises.

In Table 1, the estimated cost per item of in-kind contribution is shown.

In particular, a 100% of the estimated costs for the categories 'Office space and utilities' and 'IT support (HW & SW)' are assumed by the host.

The item 'Business consultancy services' includes the costs of the mandatory audit to be carried out every year (art. 39 of the Statutes) and the cost of professional services to deal with fiscal and human resources issues.

Cost Item	Estimated Cost	In-kind contribution by the Host
Office space and utilities	15.000 €	15.000 €
IT support (HW & SW)	5.000 €	5.000 €
	TOTAL	20.000 €

Table 1. Breakdown of in-kind contributions to the Operations budget

The costs actually incurred are listed below:

CONCEPT			AMOUNT
Business consultancy services			2.069,10
	HRRR mgt.	217,80	t.b.c.
	Taxes mgt.	1.452,00	
	Setting-up	399,30	
Google services			52,00
Web hosting & domain			193,60
Translation of adscription agreement			552,50
TOTAL			2.867,20

Table 2. Breakdown of Operations budget

As a summary, the total 'Operations' cost has been of 2.867,20 € for the ERIC's budget and around 20,000 € for the Host, as in-kind contribution.

There are travel costs related to the routine operation of the ERIC. The following table shows the estimated costs of the trips carried out within year 2023:

Travel for management of EU-SOLARIS		3.910,00
EU-Research Infrastructures event (Tenerife)	1.110,00	
General Assembly meeting (Berlin)	2.000,00	t.b.c.
Final SFERA-III event (Madrid)	800,00	t.b.c.

Table 3. Travel costs for ERIC's management

The actual cost of the trips to Berlin (GA meeting) and Madrid (final SFERA-III meeting) are still unknown.

2. Core Activities

This chapter concerns the baseline of joint R&D activities to be carried out with only the current Members' annual fee income.

As explained at the '*Workplan 2023*' document, it consists of a competitive call among the Member countries to fund one project for the development of new standards and testing protocols. Other boundary conditions are:

- The partnerships will include partners from at least two Member countries.
- The ERIC will interact only with the partner coordinating the project. No cost statement will be requested at the end of the project, just an invoice from the coordinating entity.

-A maximum amount of 45 000 € is considered for the funded project.

-The evaluation of the proposals is to be carried out as follows:

a) Scientific merit: By the STC

b) Final decision by the General Assembly and then the fund disbursement will be carried out by the Managing Director

The first call for internal projects was issued in June 2023 with only one proposal meeting the requirements at the deadline. It is expected that the project funding is approved at the GA meeting on 28 November, so the first down payment of 50% of budget will happen in the current year.

CONCEPT	AMOUNT
2023 Project (50% Down payment)	22.500,00
TOTAL	22.500,00

Table 4. Breakdown of Core Activities expenditures

So, as a summary, the 'Core Activities' chapter will spend a budget of 22,500 € in year 2023.

3. Personnel

As shown in Table 5 below, CIEMAT will contribute the services of the Managing Director in-kind, worth 68,400 € approximately, according to data provided by CIEMAT.

On the other hand, a call to hire a Project Manager has been published. This PM is to provide support on the day-by-day activities of the ERIC's externally funded projects.

As the process to identify the right person and to have him/her in office has taken longer than expected, only the costs for December are to be considered.

Personnel cost	Cost	Cost charged to EU-SOLARIS	In-kind contribution by the Host
Managing director	68,400 €	-	68,400 €
Project Manager	4.678 €	4.678 €	-

Table 5. Breakdown of Personnel budget

As a summary, the costs for the Personnel chapter has been of 4,678 € in year 2023, exceptionally. This refers to the salary of December related to the first employee of the ERIC, a Project Manager. It is meaningful and timely to start on that date as one of the EC-projects, CACTUS, will have its kick-off on 1st December.

4. External projects

EU-SOLARIS ERIC participates in three new EU-funded projects: RISEnergy, EULAC ENERGYTRAN and CACTUS. They all will start operations soon and CACTUS, in particular, will have its starting date on 1st December 2023. This means that the kick-off meeting is likely to happen within this year, though the exact date and venue have not been announced yet.

A business trip is foreseen for this purpose.

PROJECT		AMOUNT
CACTUS		2.000,00
Travel	2.000,00	
TOTAL		2.000,00

Table 6. Breakdown of External Projects budget

5. Summary

The Table 7 below shows the degree of execution of the ERIC's budget for year 2023, according to chapters described above.

INCOME		80.000,00
EXPENDITURES		35.955,30
EC-projects	2.000,00	
Internal projects	22.500,00	
Admin. Services	2.867,20	
Staff	4.678,10	
Admin. Travel	3.910,00	
Carry Over to 2025		44.044,70

Table 7. Summary of budget expenses for year 2023

2. Report on estimated budget for year 2024

2.1 Overall income and expenditures budget

This budget is built on a conservative basis.

First, according to the Annex II of the Statutes published at the Official Journal of the European Union (C446/1, 24/11/2022), **the total income from the Members' Annual Fees will total 80,000 €**. This amount will be duly invoiced to the representative laboratories of each country in the first months of the year.

In addition, the advance payments for the three newly-acquired projects are included, as follows:

CONCEPT	AMOUNT
Carry over year 2023	44.044,70
Member fees 2024	80.000,00
CACTUS (80% Downpayment)	128.000,00
ENERGYTRAN (80% Downpayment)	160.000,00
RISEnergy (53% Downpayment)	69.562,50
TOTAL INCOME	481.607,20

Table 8. Breakdown of expected income

2.2 Chapters of the expenditure budget

The expenditure budget has three main chapters: operations, core activities and personnel.

1. Operations

This chapter includes all necessary cost items for the routine operation of the ERIC's Hub, located at Plataforma Solar de Almería's (PSA) premises.

The item 'Business consultancy services' includes the costs of the mandatory audit to be carried out every year (art. 39 of the Statutes) and the cost of professional services to deal with fiscal and human resources issues.

The estimated costs are listed below:

TOPIC		EXPENDITURE	
Business consultancy services			3.775,20
	HHRR	871,20	
	Taxes	2.904,00	
Google services			124,80
Web hosting & domain			193,60
Audit services	t.b.c.		3.500,00
HSE Plan	t.b.c.		1.000,00
		TOTAL	8.593,60

Table 9. Breakdown of Operations budget

The 'Health, Safety and Environment' plan is mandatory for any business entity, so the ERIC will have to contract this service to an external company.

As a summary, the total 'Operations' cost is expected to be of 8.593,60 € for the ERIC's budget and around 20,000 € for the Host, as in-kind contribution, same as for year 2023.

There are travel costs related to the routine operation of the ERIC. These are the estimated travel costs for year 2024:

Travel for management of EU-SOLARIS		13.000,00	
EVENT		ESTIMATED COST	
SolarPACES 2024		3.000,00	t.b.c.
EU-Research Infrastructures event (Belgium)		2.000,00	t.b.c.
General Assembly meeting (Cyprus)		3.000,00	t.b.c.
ICRI 2024 (Australia)		5.000,00	t.b.c.

Table 10. Travel costs for ERIC's management

2. Core Activities

This chapter concerns the baseline of joint R&D activities to be carried out with only the current Members' annual fee income.

The 'Internal Project' consists of a competitive call among the Member countries to fund one project for the development of new standards and testing protocols.

A first call for internal projects was issued in June 2023 and the selected project is expected to be running in year 2024, which means that the second down payment of 30% of the budget will have to be disbursed.

On the other hand, there will be a new call in year 2024, a new project is to be selected and then a first down payment of 50% is to be carried out, as it is shown in Table 11 below.

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT	
2023 Project (30% Midterm payment)	13.500,00	
2024 Project (50% Downpayment)	22.500,00	
Doctoral Colloquium France	2.000,00	t.b.c.
Summer School	3.000,00	t.b.c.
TOTAL	41.000,00	

Table 11. Breakdown of Core Activities expenditures

The Managing Director will propose to the GA the assumption of the costs related to the usual 'Doctoral Colloquium' and, likely, the 'Summer School' too. So the estimated costs are also included in the table as possibilities, but pending of approval by the GA.

So, as a summary, the 'Core Activities' chapter will spend a budget of 41,000 € in year 2024.

3. Personnel

As in year 2023, CIEMAT will contribute the services of the Managing Director in-kind, worth 68,400 € approximately, according to data provided by CIEMAT.

On the other hand, besides the Project Manager already hired in year 2023, a new staff person is to be recruited during year 2024.

TOPIC		EXPENDITURE	
Staff salaries			106.137,22
	Project Manager-1	56.137,22	
	Staff #2	t.b.c.	50.000,00

Table 12. Breakdown of Personnel budget

As a summary, the costs for the Personnel chapter will be of 106.137,22 € in year 2024, as a maximum.

4. External projects

EU-SOLARIS ERIC participates in three new EU-funded projects: RISEnergy, EULAC ENERGYTRAN and CACTUS. They all will start operations early in year 2024 and CACTUS, in particular, will have its starting date on 1st December 2023.

The expected expenditures are shown in *Table 13* below.

PROJECT	EXPENDITURE	
CACTUS		19.000,00
Travel	4.000,00	
Consumables	15.000,00	
ENERGYTRAN		35.000,00
15 one-month stays	30.000,00	
Travel	5.000,00	
RISEnergy		2.000,00
Travel	2.000,00	
	TOTAL	56.000,00

Table 13. Breakdown of External Projects budget

5. Summary

The Table 14 below shows the amounts of the ERIC’s budget for year 2024, according to chapters described above.

INCOME		481.607,20
EXPENDITURES		224.730,82
EC-projects	56.000,00	
Internal projects	41.000,00	
Admin. Services	8.593,60	
Staff	106.137,22	
Admin. Travel	13.000,00	
Carry Over to 2025		256.876,38

Table 14. Summary of budget expenses for year 2024