



Assessment of Managing Director's Performance 2023

28 November, 2023



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Table 1. List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
BNN	Board of National Nodes
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
GA	General Assembly
MD	Managing Director
STC	Scientific and Technical Committee

1. Introduction

The goal of this document is to explain how the EU-SOLARIS ERIC's Managing Director (MD) has dealt with the list of objectives set by the General Assembly (GA) (E-mail vote # 1, 2023) for the fiscal year 2023 in order to assess his performance, as established at the Art. 8 of the MD's Terms of Reference.

The list of objectives has been split into four sections:

- Institutional framework
- Economic issues
- Operations
- Dissemination

The tables below show, per section, a brief description of the objective, its number of reference at the **Workplan 2023**, a tentative deadline and a qualifier of the current status of achievement.

1.1. Consolidation of institutional framework

As the ERIC has formally started in January 2023, there will be advisory bodies to be set up yet and important documents to be developed and formally approved.

Institutional Framework			
Objective	Reference at Workplan 2023	Deadline	Status 28 /11/ 2023
Delivery of Strategic Plan	#4	31 May	Draft presented
Delivery of ERIC's policies	#5	31 May	Draft presented

Delivery of Strategic Plan

As established in article 25.6 of the Statutes:

'The General Assembly shall, at its second meeting, adopt the Strategic Plan, which shall be prepared by the Managing Director in consultation with the Scientific & Technical Committee and the Board of National Nodes. The Strategic Plan shall define the overall scientific strategy for EU-SOLARIS ERIC. The General Assembly shall adopt updates to the Strategic Plan every two years.

At the Second GA Meeting, held on 15 June, 2023, the following resolution was adopted:

#16. It is agreed the creation of a Working Group to advance in the conclusion of pending key documents

As an outcome of the efforts of such Working Group, an advanced draft of the Strategic Plan has been presented at the 3rd GA meeting. The final version should be finished asap with the contributions of all partners.

Development of the ERIC's policies on IPR, HHRR, Access, etc....

As established in articles 7 to 13 of the Statutes all these policies are to be drawn up by the Managing Director and approved by the General Assembly, having consulted the Scientific & Technical Committee (STC) and the Board of National Nodes (BNN).

This action item is also concerned with the GA resolution #16 and so, advanced drafts of the policies documents are presented at the 3rd GA meeting. The final versions should be finished asap with the contributions of all partners.

It is worth mentioning that, given its relevance for the ERIC's operations, the 'Access' policy has been edited in a separate document, while the others are compiled in the same one.

1.2. Economic issues

Once the ERIC is duly registered at the Spanish Ministry of Finance and obtained a VAT number, it can operate routinely. For the first time, the audit report and the budget and financial report will be delivered for approval by the GA in the first quarter of year 2024.

The objectives on this topic set at the First GA meeting were as follows:

Economic issues			
Objective	Reference at Workplan 2023	Deadline	Status 28 /11/ 2023
VAT number and opening of a bank account	#6	Asap	Done
Invoicing the year 2023' Member fees	#9	Asap	Done
Draft of budget 2024	#8	15 November	Done

Obtaining a VAT number and opening of a bank account

The VAT number was given by the Tax Authority on last March.

Right after that, we were able to request the opening of a bank account, which was operative in April. With the prior acceptance of the GA (E-mail voting #2, 2023) it was formally requested to include another GA Member as joint holder of this account. This is active since May, this year.

Invoicing to Members their 2023 financial contribution

All invoices were issued in May and the payments have been duly received with no incidences.

Draft of Budget 2024

A document with the draft of the budget for year 2024 will be presented at the meeting of the GA on this 28 November.

1.3. ERIC Operations

The baseline activity of the ERIC will be the internally-funded program of R&D projects, as described at the 'Business Plan' document, so it was set an objective to launch the internal call 2023. In addition, it was foreseen to update the facilities and services catalogue.

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ERIC Operations			
Objective	Reference at Workplan 2023	Deadline	Status 28 /11/ 2023
Launch call for internal projects	#10	30 April	Done
Revision of the catalogue of facilities and services	#13	15 June	Done. Needs re-thinking

Internal projects

The goal of this internally-funded activity is to boost joint activities of the Members in the field of development of new tools and standards applicable to CSP/STE R&D infrastructures and technologies. Though the concept still needs of further discussion, the initial approach is to fund one project per year after the right peer review of the scientific merit of the proposals.

The first call was issued in June 2023 with just one proposal received. The evaluation process was carried out by the STC on last October and we are now ready to formally launch the awarded project with the upfront payment of a 50% of the accepted budget.

Revision of the catalogue of facilities and services

An update of the catalogue shown at the web site has been carried out.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to revamp such catalogue in order to make it more intuitive and also to include information on new partner labs which joined during year 2023, particularly the partners at the Spanish node.

1.4. Outreach activities

The planned outreach activities are listed below. The web site is operational since beginning of year 2023, though it needs continuous improvement and optimization.

Dissemination and Public Relations			
Objective	Reference at Workplan 2023	Deadline	Status 28 /11/ 2023
Participation in at least 2 conferences with the objective to open new markets	-	End of year	Partially.
Participation in at least 2 key social media events (i.e webinars)	-	End of year	
Promote dissemination actions on social media networks (i.e achieve 300 contacts in LinkedIn or other strategic social media)	-	End of year	Done

The participation in conferences in both ways, physical or remote, to present EU-SOLARIS ERIC, is summarized in the table below

PRESENTATIONS OF EU-SOLARIS ERIC CARRIED OUT AT SCIENCE AND POLICY EVENTS

#	EVENT	DATE	VENUE	SPEAKER
1	SFERA-III Workshop on RI funding	7 March, 2023	Brussels (Belgium)	Nestor Fylaktos (Cyl)
2	EERA The Future of Energy Materials	14 March, 2023	On-line event	Eugenia Zugasti (CENER)
3	EuroTherm Seminar	25 May, 2023	Lleida (Spain)	Julian Blanco (CIEMAT)
4	IV Noche Iberoamericana de los Investigadores	29-30 September, 2023	Madrid (Spain)	Diego Martinez (remote)
5	Side Event OECD: Round table: EU-LAC Cooperation for the Energy Transition	3 October, 2023	CENAT (Costa Rica)	Diego Martinez (remote)
6	Progressing in green transition: advancing the clean energy agenda (EU-CY-SP event)	1 December, 2023	Nicosia (Cyprus)	Diego Martinez (remote)
7	SFERA-III Final Event	13 December, 2023	Madrid (Spain)	Diego Martínez

On the other hand, the table below summarizes the appearances in mass media and the participation in events related with policy on research infrastructures.

ATTENDANCE TO RI EVENTS

- 25-26 September, 2023** Global Dimension and Sustainability of Research Infrastructures (Tenerife, Spain)
- 27 September, 2023** ESFRI 2nd Stakeholders Meetup (Tenerife, Spain)
- 12 December, 2023** SFERA-III 5th General Assembly and 10th Management Board Meetings (Madrid, Spain)

APPEARANCES IN MASS MEDIA

- 14 January, 2023** Appearance in local newspaper of Almería
- May 2023** Appearance on National Spanish TV Documentary 'Europa 2023'
- July 2023** Appearance on the Newsletter of the International Energy Agency Solar Heating and Cooling Programme

Last but not least, we have made a sustained effort over time to create our own brand in LinkedIn and to achieve the target number of contacts.

The number of contacts as of 14 November, 2023 is 319.