CERIC-ERIC

- Set-up in June 2014 by the EC

- 8 Member Countries

- A distributed open access Research Infrastructure for advanced materials, biomaterials and nanotechnology

- Offers **free multi-technique, merit based access** to over 50 techniques, though 2 calls per year, and rolling fast track

- Support for mobility (travel & lodging)

- Commercial access for companies (proprietary research)

Free multi-technique, merit based access

How to ensure the best use of the instruments/beamlines time? -> **Open Access as a driver of scientific excellence, innovation and long-term sustainability of a Research Infrastructure**

The European Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures published in 2016 by the European Commission, addresses this issue proposing non-regulatory principles and guidelines for access and related services.

Commission working document on Long - term sustainability of Research Infrastructures: Simplify and harmonise access by encouraging European RI to put in place transparent access policies, in line with the definitions, principles and guidelines of the European Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures.

Access

ACCELERATE project, ACCELERATing Europe's Leading Research Infrastructures, (INFRADEV) partners ELI, ESS, Rathenau Institut, HZG, FRM II, UZHNU, ESP Central

What are the other facilities doing? What modalities of access do they offer? What is the best way to evaluate multi-technique proposals? How to ensure the best use of the instruments or beamlines time? -> **survey**

Semestral calls for short and long term access;
Some have dedicated cals for long term;
Many have fast access for some dedicated beamlines (MX, feasibility)
65%-80% for users, the rest in-house and maintenance, some trying to achieve 100% for users.
-> Evaluation

Proposals evaluation

Evaluation criteria: established by the management of the facility according to its priorities and objectives.

Charter-> the excellence-driven mode should be exclusively dependent on the scientific excellence, originality, quality and technical and ethical feasibility of a proposal evaluated through peer-review conducted by internal or external experts.

Additional criteria: Young scientists, new users, contribution to an active field of science or an experimental technique, outreach to new countries, etc.

Part of the score   Decide between equally ranked proposals

Proposals evaluation

Proposal review panels: Mostly external members, divided in sub-panels (4-9), 60-80 members. Produce an evaluation report, up to the facility to decide.

Scoring:
- numeric rankings (0-5; 1-5; 0-10);
- classification according to scheduling priority (A+, A – B reserve list – C)
- Normalisation

Remote access: Available for all calls, but with some drawbacks. Usually 20%, during pandemics 40%

Additional access channels usually have different procedures, due to the need to produce results in a short time.

Access (beyond semestral calls)

For specific purposes:

- Fast track for MX (since 20 years)
- Fast track for feasibility studies
- Fast track for short measurements (e.g. needed for publications)
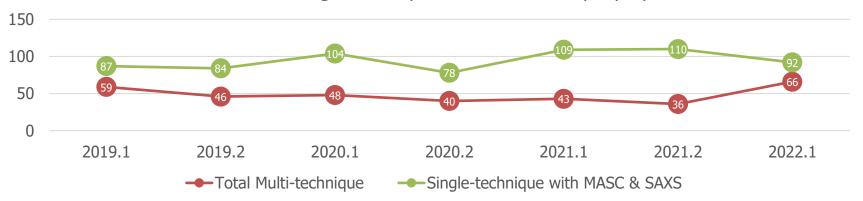
Impact, not only excellence:

- Dedicated access for target countries
- Thematic calls to contribute to the European Research Area and to the EU priorities, such as the Green Deal or COVID-19.

Free multi-technique, merit based access

- Including impact, not only excellence -> proposal to modify the charter;
- No experience in multi-technique proposals in other facilities that we could build upon
- Multi-technique is appreciated by users, although more complicated to manage for facilities:

Distribution of Single-technique and Multi-technique proposals

Period	Total Multi-technique	Single-technique with MASC & SAXS
2019.1	59	87
2019.2	46	84
2020.1	48	104
2020.2	40	78
2021.1	43	109
2021.2	36	110
2022.1	66	92