

9 APRIL 2026

Science Diplomacy at ELI

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EXTREME LIGHT
INFRASTRUCTURE



Organizational structure

ESFRI Roadmap since 2006

ESFRI

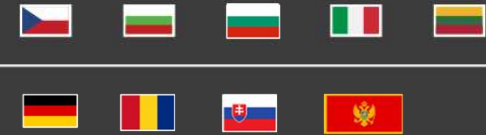
UNITED INITIATIVE

PARALLEL IMPLEMENTATION

JOINT OPERATIONS



13 COUNTRIES
40 RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS



ELI in the beginning



Science in
Diplomacy

Brussels, February 2006

ESFRI WG on High Power Lasers (2004-2006) Bedrich Rus, François Gounand, Luis Roso, Wolfgang Sandner, Gérard Mourou



ESFRI meeting
Lisbon 2007,
Karel Jungwirth,
the spiritual
father of ELI and
HiLASE in CZ



R-J Smits



John Wood, NW,
Carlo Rizzuto

Diplomacy for Science Science for Diplomacy



ESFRI meeting CZ PRES – Conference on Regional aspects of RIs, Prague, March 2009



Peter Honeth, State
Secretary, SE



Vlastimil Růžička,
MEYS



Jan Kohout, MFA

From ELI DC AISBL to ELI ERIC



Signature of the MoU on establishing ELI DC. V. Zamfir (RO), V. Růžička (CZ), L. Lehner (HU). Plenipotentiaries for ELI. MEYS.



Allen Weeks, Director General of ELI Delivery Consortium, Georg Korn, Science and Technology Manager at ELI Beamlines, Prof. Gérard Mourou, Florian Gliksohn, Associate Director of ELI DC, Sandro De Silvestri, Chair of ISTAC of ELI DC, during the Nobel Prize ceremony. (From left to right) 2018. FG Facebook.

Diplomacy for Science



ELI has been established as an ERIC by an Implementing Decision of the EC in April 2021.

Visit of Maryia Gabriel, Commissioner. Allen Weeks ELI ERIC DG.

From ELI DC AISBL to ELI ERIC

Preparatory phase 2007 – 2010 EC supported
Construction phase 2009 – 2020, SF supported
Initial operations phase 2021 – 2024, supported by Members and EC

ELI Beamlines was legally integrated with ELI ERIC from
January 1, 2023



Strategic Agreement with University of Szeged Integrates
ELI ALPS into ELI ERIC from January 1, 2024



ELI Membership and Observership

SD at ELI



The Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) is an **international research infrastructure** with the world's largest and most advanced collection of high-power and high-repetition-rate lasers.

ELI is dedicated to **multi-disciplinary science** and research applications of ultra-intense and ultra-short laser pulses and offers unprecedented capabilities in intense light-matter interactions.

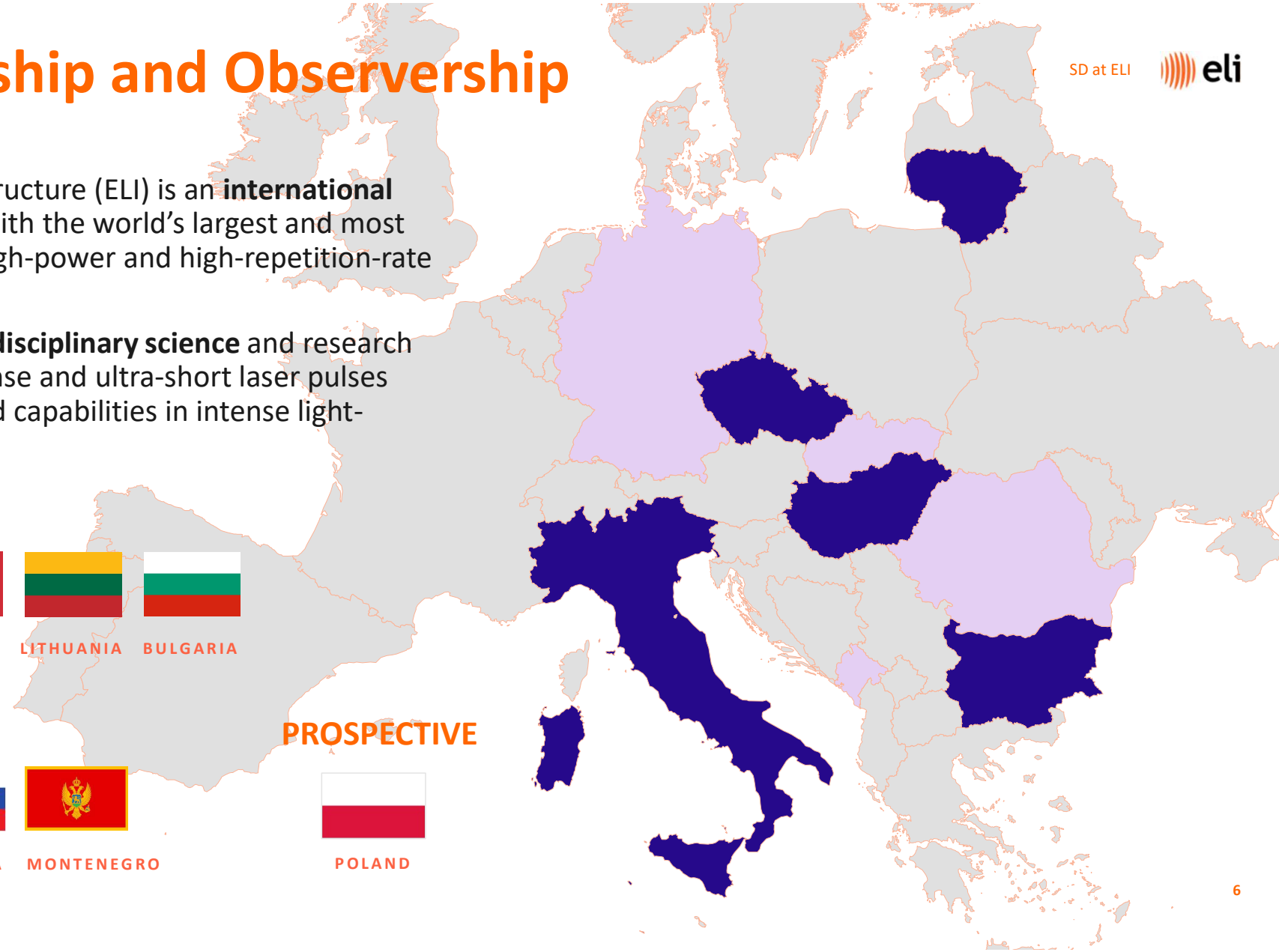
MEMBERS



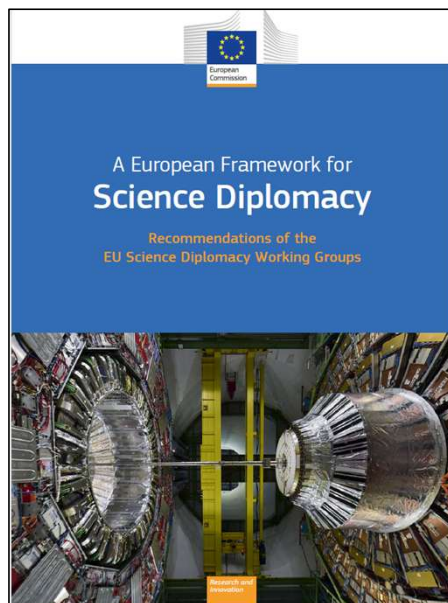
OBSERVERS



PROSPECTIVE



European Framework



FEBRUARY 2025
European Commission: Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, *A European framework for science diplomacy – Recommendations of the EU Science Diplomacy Working Groups*, Gjedssø Bertelsen, R.(editor), Bochereau, L.(editor), Chelioti, E.(editor), Dávid, Á.(editor), Gailiūtė-Janušonė, D.(editor), Hartl, M.(editor), Liberatore, A.(editor), Mauduit, J.-C.(editor), Müller, J. M.(editor) and Van Langenhove, L.(editor), Publications Office of the European Union, 2025, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/9235330>



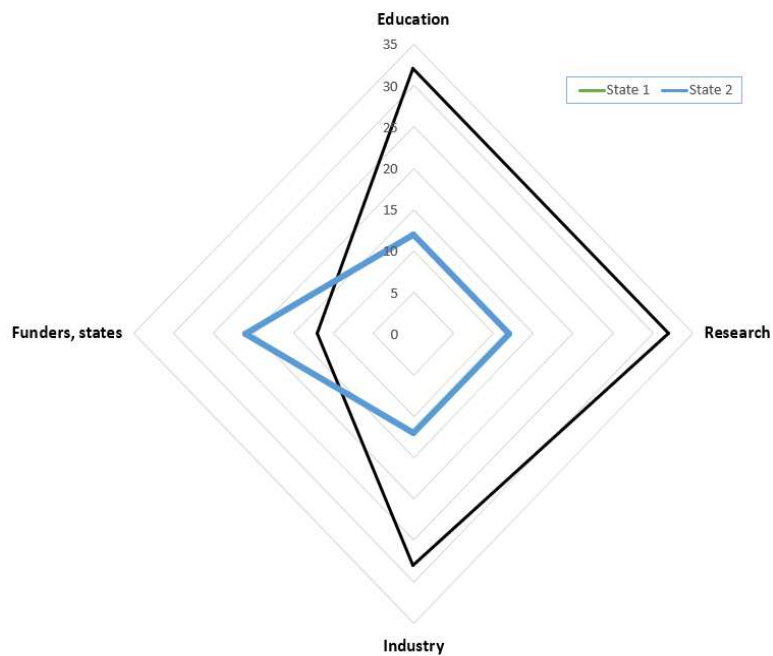
Brussels, 27.2.2026
COM(2026) 97 final
2026/0060 (NLE)

Proposal for a
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION
on a European Union framework for science diplomacy

FEBRUARY 2026

‘diplomacy’ means the profession, activity, or skill of conducting international relations by state and non-state actors through peaceful means such as dialogue and negotiation, including through representatives abroad; **‘science diplomacy’** means the direct or indirect use of science, scientific evidence and scientific cooperation to support diplomatic objectives at different levels, as well as the deployment of diplomacy to support scientific progress.

External Affairs Engagement – Directions and tools



Funders and state administration, Universities, Research organisations, Industry

Strategic tools

Policies, Strategies, and Related Processes

- ELI ERIC New Member Policy
- ELI ERIC Strategy for Enlargement, Sustainability, and International Cooperation
- Strategy for universities (cooperation with universities)
- Related implementation processes

Operational tools

Community building: e.g.

- Partner Days
- Stakeholder Roundtable
- Industry Day
- University Day

Establishing long-term partnerships:

- Negotiations
- Collaboration Agreements
- Long-term scientific programs

Analytical:

- Databases
- Background papers

External Affairs – Examples – Interactions with diplomatic services



Regular meetings with Economic/sci Attachés



ELI ERIC SD Days:
1 March 2025
24 February 2026



Visit of the Dutch Queen
5 June 2025



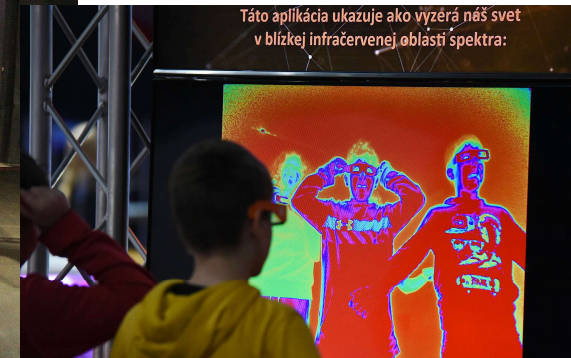
External Affairs – Examples – Engagement with Slovakia



24 September 2021 – visit to the ILC in Bratislava



Day of Light at the Aurelium with ILC



Between 2021 and 2026, ELI ERIC went for a **visit** to the ILC, participated in the CARLA **career hub**, participated in **the Day of Light**, co-organized a **Partner Day**, **hosted two visits by Slovak scientists, students, and a visit by Slovak Ministry officials**. ELI **supported the community building** and interactions between the Ministry and the ILC.

The **CZ ministry sent a letter of support to the Slovak one**. The topic of ELI ERIC Observership was brought about during **the V4 Presidents by the Hungarian one**. A MoU between the governments of CZ and SK includes explicit cooperation under ELI ERIC. **On 18 March 2026, the SLOVAK REPUBLIC JOINED ELI ERIC AS AN OBSERVER.**



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Thank you



EXTREME LIGHT
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