



## Statutes of E-RIHS ERIC

### European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science

(C/2025/2239)

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## Statutes of E-RIHS ERIC

### PREAMBLE

The French Republic

The Italian Republic

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Kingdom of Spain

Hungary

The Republic of Cyprus

The Republic of Malta

The Republic of Poland

The Republic of Slovenia

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Romania

Hereinafter referred to as the 'members'

WHEREAS the members are convinced that Heritage Science responds to pressing global challenges impacting on European science and society through better understanding and conservation of heritage.

WHEREAS the members are convinced that Heritage Science contributes to social cohesion and well-being of citizens through studies of our past.

CONSIDERING the impact of the contribution of Heritage Science to cultural industries through research into heritage management and heritage conservation.

CONSIDERING that the practice of Heritage Science leads to innovations that can benefit other scientific fields and industries and that Heritage Science benefits from innovation in other fields.

CONSIDERING the potential of digital technologies to facilitate research and ease collaboration.

RECOGNISING that collaboration is essential to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to facilitate technology transfer, and to avoid a duplication of investments and a fragmentation of research efforts.

ACKNOWLEDGING that Heritage Science equally relates to cultural and natural history collections, architectural heritage and monuments, archaeological, and geological sites.

RECOGNISING that a culture of cross-disciplinarity, exchange and cooperation associating researchers from environmental sciences, arts, humanities, social and digital sciences on an equal level will produce outstanding results.

ACKNOWLEDGING the legacy of numerous European research projects and the role of intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations in the structuration of a European Heritage Science community.

RECOGNISING the utmost importance of engagement and contribution by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM).

CONSIDERING the need to further this cooperation in a permanent structure that could strengthen the integration and the cohesion of Heritage Science communities and the leading position of Europe in this field.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

## CHAPTER 1

### ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

#### *Article 1*

##### **Name and seat**

1. The European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science is set up as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) under Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 (1), named and hereinafter referred to as 'E-RIHS ERIC'.
2. E-RIHS ERIC is a distributed research infrastructure comprised of E-RIHS National Nodes.
3. E-RIHS ERIC has its statutory seat in Florence, Italy.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Tasks and activities**

1. The principal task of E-RIHS ERIC is to establish and operate the research infrastructure and to coordinate its strategic and financial development.
2. In pursuit of its principal task and in accordance with the provision of these Statutes, E-RIHS ERIC undertakes or coordinates the following activities:
  - (a) to enable and coordinate a community of National Nodes, including the establishment and monitoring of quality management procedures for the National Nodes and the partner facilities;
  - (b) to provide a central integrated access point to partner facilities and their resources based on scientific excellence, including continuous development and open access to material and digital scientific resources;
  - (c) to support the advancement of the scientific understanding of Heritage and in this way contribute to its conservation;
  - (d) to promote Heritage Science, and in particular its cross-disciplinary approach to research questions related to the history, interpretation, diagnosis, appreciation, and preservation of Heritage;
  - (e) to promote a culture of cross-disciplinary and transnational collaboration through supporting researchers in developing comprehensive, advanced scientific and technological expertise, including training;
  - (f) to foster innovation at the scientific and exploratory process, services, and management levels in Heritage Science, stressing the technological interoperability and convergence of methods through the definition of best practices.
3. In addition, E-RIHS ERIC may carry out the following activities:
  - (a) to facilitate the mobility of researchers and other kinds of Users;
  - (b) to identify European projects of interest in Heritage Science and related funding opportunities, and to guide interested partners in their applications;

- (c) to establish international partnerships with other European and non-European organisations in Heritage Science and related fields;
- (d) to carry out any other activity necessary to fulfil its aims and objectives.

4. E-RIHS ERIC shall pursue all its activities ethically and transparently and shall avoid potential organisational or personal conflicts of interest.

5. E-RIHS ERIC shall pursue its tasks on a non-economic basis. Without prejudice to State aid applicable rules, E-RIHS ERIC may carry out limited economic activities, provided they are closely related to its principal tasks, and they do not jeopardise the achievement thereof. Any income generated by these economic activities shall be used by E-RIHS ERIC to enhance and strengthen its activities.

### *Article 3*

#### **Duration**

E-RIHS ERIC shall exist for an indefinite period.

### *Article 4*

#### **Winding up**

1. The winding up of E-RIHS ERIC shall be decided upon and initiated by the General Assembly in accordance with Article 18(6) of these Statutes.

2. Without undue delay and in any event within ten days after adoption of the decision to wind up E-RIHS ERIC, E-RIHS ERIC shall notify the European Commission about the decision.

3. Without undue delay after the closure of the winding up procedure, and in any event within 10 days after such closure, E-RIHS ERIC shall notify the Commission thereof.

4. E-RIHS ERIC shall cease to exist on the day on which the European Commission publishes the appropriate notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

### *Article 5*

#### **Liability and insurance**

1. E-RIHS ERIC shall be liable for its debts.

2. Members are not jointly liable for the debts of E-RIHS ERIC. The financial liability of the members for the debts of E-RIHS ERIC shall be limited to their respective annual contribution, as specified in Annex II.

3. E-RIHS ERIC shall take appropriate insurance to cover the risks specific to its operation.

### *Article 6*

#### **Access Policy**

1. E-RIHS ERIC shall provide effective access to the expertise and the competences of a community of Heritage Scientists from partner facilities as well as to an integrated system of platforms that include archival collections of samples and physical data, online digital tools and digital research resources, large-scale and medium-scale fixed facilities and mobile instrumentation for non-invasive measurements and investigation of cultural heritage assets including, but not restricted to, objects and sites.

2. Access shall be granted to Users conducting research on Heritage Science, based on scientific excellence. In special cases, access may also be provided to Users conducting Proprietary Research on Heritage Science as they are detailed in E-RIHS ERIC access policy regulation.

3. E-RIHS ERIC access policy shall be the object of a specific regulation document, taking into account the principles of the European Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures and subject to the approval of the General Assembly.

#### *Article 7*

#### **Scientific Evaluation Policy**

1. The Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall evaluate annually the scientific, technical, and general activities of E-RIHS ERIC and under the E-RIHS ERIC label. This evaluation shall take the form of a report and shall be transmitted to the General Assembly.

2. The Committee of National Nodes shall assist the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board in the conduct of the scientific evaluation by providing all the necessary information about the scientific activities of the National Nodes, considering the access needs of E-RIHS ERIC, the service quality standards and the evaluation procedures established by E-RIHS ERIC.

3. E-RIHS ERIC service quality standards and evaluation procedures shall be the subject of a specific regulation document, to be approved by the General Assembly.

#### *Article 8*

#### **Dissemination Policy**

1. E-RIHS ERIC shall require its Users to ensure open access to the research results and publications and encourage them to make their data available on E-RIHS repository and other repositories provided that they comply with the Findable Accessible Interoperable Reusable principles and within a reasonable period.

2. E-RIHS ERIC shall use most reaching channels for its target audiences, including website, newsletter, social media and other digital professional networks, communications in conferences, exhibitions, articles, reports and documentaries in the print, broadcast, and online media.

3. E-RIHS ERIC shall require its Users to acknowledge the use of E-RIHS ERIC.

#### *Article 9*

#### **Intellectual Property Rights Policy**

1. 'Intellectual property' shall mean property as defined in Article 2 of the Convention establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation, done at Stockholm on 14 July 1967.

2. Data produced or developed under the E-RIHS ERIC label, as well as intellectual property rights attached to it, shall belong to the entity or to the person who has generated it.

3. The use of data resulting from research conducted under the E-RIHS ERIC label shall be granted to E-RIHS ERIC and the scientific community by the owner of the data, in accordance with the conditions defined by the General Assembly in the E-RIHS Data Management Policy.

#### *Article 10*

#### **Employment Policy**

1. E-RIHS ERIC shall be an equal opportunity employer. Conditions for access to employment shall be transparent and non-discriminatory. Appointments shall be made based on a competitive selection process.

2. E-RIHS ERIC shall ensure that its personnel are not biased because of their financial, contractual, organisational, or other interests that relate to their work, and do not obtain any unfair competitive advantage over other parties by virtue of the performance of their work.
3. Employment contracts shall be governed by the law of the country in which personnel are employed.
4. E-RIHS ERIC shall advertise its open positions and vacancies internationally.
5. The Director General shall establish regulations and rules to govern all aspects of employment at the Central Hub that guarantee personnel welfare, compliance with local law, and the needs of the organisation are met. Those rules and regulations shall be adopted by the General Assembly.

*Article 11*

**Procurement policy**

1. E-RIHS ERIC procurement policy shall respect the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and competition.
2. Detailed rules on procurement procedures and criteria shall be set out in the rules of procedure and adopted by the General Assembly.

**CHAPTER 2**

**MEMBERSHIP**

*Article 12*

**Membership and representing entity**

1. The following entities may become members or observers of E-RIHS ERIC:
  - (a) Member States of the European Union;
  - (b) associated countries as defined in Article 2(c) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009;
  - (c) third countries, as defined in Article 2(b) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009, other than associated countries;
  - (d) intergovernmental organisations.
2. The conditions to become a member or an observer are set out in Article 13.
3. The membership of E-RIHS ERIC shall include at least a Member State and two other countries that are either Member States or associated countries.
4. Member States or associated countries shall hold jointly the majority of the voting rights in the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall determine any modification of voting rights that are necessary to ensure that E-RIHS ERIC always complies with that requirement.
5. Any member or observer referred to in paragraph 1(a) to (c) may be represented by one or several public entities or private entities with a public service mission, of its own choosing and appointed in accordance with its own rules and procedures. Intergovernmental organisations referred to in paragraph 1(d) represent themselves.
6. Each member or observer shall inform the General Assembly of any change of its representing entities, of the specific rights and obligations which have been delegated to it or of any other relevant change.
7. The members and observers of E-RIHS ERIC, including permanent observers as specified in Article 13(5), along with their representing entities are listed in Annex I. Annex I shall be kept up to date by the Director General.

*Article 13***Conditions for becoming a member or an observer**

1. Entities referred to in Article 12(1) willing to become members of E-RIHS ERIC shall submit a written application to the Chair of the General Assembly. That application shall describe how the entity will contribute to E-RIHS ERIC objectives and activities described in Article 2, and how it will fulfil obligations referred to in Article 15.
2. The admission of the entities as new members shall be subject to the approval by the General Assembly, according to the voting rules described in Article 18(6) and with due consideration of the advice of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board.
3. Entities referred to in Article 12(1) who are willing to participate in E-RIHS ERIC but are not yet in the position to join as members, may apply for observer status. These entities shall submit a written application to the Chair of the General Assembly. That application shall describe how the applicant will contribute to E-RIHS ERIC objectives and activities described in Article 2, and how it will fulfil obligations referred to in Article 16. These entities shall be admitted as observers for three years. Observers may apply once for extension of observer status for the same duration.
4. The admission or re-admission of observers shall be subject to the approval by the General Assembly, according to the voting rules described in Article 18(6) and following the advice of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board.
5. An observer that foresees a lasting participation but is not in the position to become a member may, in exceptional cases, be granted the status of permanent observer based on the General Assembly approval, in accordance with the voting rules described in Article 18(6).
6. New members or observers, including permanent observers, admitted to E-RIHS ERIC within a period of 18 months after the entry into force of the Commission Implementing Decision setting up E-RIHS ERIC, shall be assimilated to Founding Entities.

*Article 14***Withdrawal and termination of membership or observer status**

1. No member or permanent observer may withdraw from E-RIHS ERIC within the first five years of its establishment. After this point, a member or permanent observer may withdraw at the end of a financial year, having sent a prior request to the General Assembly twelve months in advance of withdrawal.
2. Observers, excluding permanent observers, may withdraw at the end of a financial year, following a request submitted to the General Assembly six months prior to the withdrawal.
3. Members and observers shall fulfil financial and other obligations before their withdrawal can become effective.
4. The General Assembly may terminate membership or observer status if the following conditions are met:
  - (a) the member or observer is in serious breach of one or more of its obligations under these Statutes;
  - (b) the member or observer has failed to rectify such breach within six months after it has received notice of the breach in writing. The member or observer referred to in paragraph 4 shall have the right to explain its position to the General Assembly before the General Assembly makes any decision on the issue.
5. The General Assembly shall define what constitutes a serious breach of an obligation in the rules of procedure.

6. Notwithstanding Article 14(1), Article 14(2) and Article 14(3), members and observers that are associated countries, third countries other than associated countries, or intergovernmental organisations, may withdraw from E-RIHS ERIC following changes in Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 that would materially affect their rights and obligations in relation to E-RIHS ERIC.

Such changes are considered material where they imply increased fees (including annual contributions or decommissioning costs), amend voting shares, impose requirements contrary to the applicable laws according to Article 27 of these Statutes, remove the right to be represented in the General Assembly or other committees, or change their rights related to representation or use of the infrastructure.

The conditions and effects of withdrawal from E-RIHS ERIC, shall be decided in accordance with the present Article. The affected member or observer shall provide notice to the General Assembly within six months of the relevant change to the EU ERIC Regulations, detailing the date such withdrawal shall take effect.

## CHAPTER 3

### RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

#### *Article 15*

##### **Members**

1. The rights of each member shall include:
  - (a) the right to attend the General Assembly with one vote;
  - (b) the right for their partner facilities affiliated to their National Node to use the 'E-RIHS ERIC' label for their activities, including for conferences and events and training;
  - (c) the right for their partner facilities affiliated to their National Node to participate in European and international scientific activities through E-RIHS ERIC;
  - (d) the right for its research community to participate in E-RIHS ERIC activities.
2. Each member shall:
  - (a) establish a National Node of E-RIHS ERIC and promote the integration of its Heritage Science community under its coordination;
  - (b) appoint representatives in accordance with Article 18(2);
  - (c) appoint a National Coordinator in accordance with Article 20(2);
  - (d) contribute financially in cash to E-RIHS ERIC, in accordance with Annex II;
  - (e) provide in-kind contributions, including access to scientific infrastructures in accordance with Article 6;
  - (f) draft a catalogue of services provided within E-RIHS ERIC by the partner facilities affiliated to their National Node to the community and keep it exhaustive and up to date;
  - (g) promote the adoption of relevant standards in its network, in line with the quality policy of E- RIHS ERIC;
  - (h) promote uptake of services among researchers in the member country and gather User feedback and requirements.
3. Intergovernmental organisations may request to be exempted from some obligations laid down in Article 15(2). These exemptions shall be listed and justified in the application described in Article 13 and approved as a part of the admission of an intergovernmental organisation as a member by the General Assembly according to the voting rules described in Article 18(6).

*Article 16***Observers and permanent observers**

1. The rights of observers shall include:
  - (a) the right to attend the General Assembly without a vote;
  - (b) the right for its research community to participate in activities approved by the General Assembly.
2. Each observer shall:
  - (a) appoint representatives in accordance with Article 18(2);
  - (b) contribute financially in cash to E-RIHS ERIC in accordance with Annex II;
  - (c) promote the adoption of relevant standards in its network, in line with the quality policy of E-RIHS ERIC;
  - (d) endeavour to become a member of E-RIHS ERIC.
3. Intergovernmental organisations may request to be exempted from some obligations laid down in Article 16(2). These exemptions shall be listed and justified in the application described in Article 13 and approved as a part of the admission of an intergovernmental organisation as an observer by the General Assembly according to the voting rules described in Article 18(6).
4. Permanent observers shall have the same rights and obligations as members as provided for in Article 15, except the right to vote in the General Assembly.

**CHAPTER 4****GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT***Article 17***Governance structure**

The Governance structure of E-RIHS ERIC shall consist of:

- (a) the General Assembly;
- (b) the Director General, assisted by the Central Hub;
- (c) the Committee of National Nodes;
- (d) the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board.

*Article 18***General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly shall be the governing body of E-RIHS ERIC and shall be composed of representatives of the members and observers.
2. Each member shall have one vote and shall nominate up to two representatives. Observers shall carry no vote and shall nominate up to two representatives. The representatives of both members and observers can be assisted by up to two experts.
3. The General Assembly shall meet at least once a year and shall be responsible for the overall direction and supervision of E-RIHS ERIC.
4. On all items, the General Assembly shall use their best efforts to achieve consensus. Failing consensus, the General Assembly shall decide the issues in accordance with the voting system as defined in paragraphs 5 to 7.

5. The following decision shall require unanimity of the votes cast by the members:
  - (a) to set and change the annual contribution of members and observers;
  - (b) to amend the Statutes of E-RIHS ERIC.
6. The following decisions shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast:
  - (a) to appoint, renew, suspend or dismiss the Director General and Deputies;
  - (b) to appoint, renew, suspend or dismiss the members of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board and any additional advisory bodies, not regulated by these Statutes;
  - (c) to create or disband governance or management bodies not listed in Article 17;
  - (d) to approve the admission of new members and observers, to grant the status of permanent observer, and terminate a membership or an observer status;
  - (e) to approve the annual activity report;
  - (f) to approve the scientific strategy;
  - (g) to wind up E-RIHS ERIC;
  - (h) to approve budgetary and financial decisions including the annual budget, the framework for in-kind contributions, the five-year activity plan and the financial plan, the salary of the Director, and any other matters related to a change of business model or financial policy.
7. Any other matter not defined as requiring two-thirds majority or unanimity shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast.
8. The General Assembly shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair among representatives of members by a simple majority of the votes cast. The Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be elected for a two-year term, renewable once. The meetings of the General Assembly shall be convened by the Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall have no extra voting rights.
9. An extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly may be requested by at least half of the members.
10. A quorum of two-thirds of members shall be required to have a valid General Assembly meeting. If the quorum is not met, a second meeting shall be convened as soon as possible following a new invitation, with the same agenda. In the second meeting, the quorum shall be considered met if half of the members are present.
11. The General Assembly shall adopt rules on remote presence and alternate representatives in the rules of procedure.

#### Article 19

##### **Director General and Central Hub**

1. The General Assembly shall appoint the Director General of E-RIHS ERIC in accordance with Article 18(6) and a recruitment procedure adopted by the General Assembly. The term for the Director General shall be up to five years, renewable once.
2. The Director General shall be the legal representative of E-RIHS ERIC.
3. The Director General shall elaborate the strategic plan of E-RIHS ERIC to be approved by the General Assembly, in collaboration with the Committee of National Nodes.
4. The Director General shall be responsible for the implementation of the decisions assumed by the General Assembly.
5. The Director General shall be responsible for submitting the annual activity report to the General Assembly. The report shall be drafted considering the activities of the Committee of Nodes and the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board.
6. The Director General may request the presence of one or more Deputies to the General Assembly.

7. The Director General shall be responsible for the management of the E-RIHS ERIC Central Hub. The Central Hub shall assist the Director General and the other bodies mentioned in Article 17.

8. The list of activities of the Central Hub shall be based on Article 2 and Article 27 for the applicable legal requirements for the operation of an ERIC. These activities shall be the basis for an efficient and coordinated operation of the distributed infrastructure.

9. The Director General and the Central Hub shall remain impartial in the discharge of their duties.

#### *Article 20*

#### **Committee of National Nodes**

1. The Committee of National Nodes constitutes the scientific body of E-RIHS ERIC and shall be composed of the Coordinators of each National Node.

2. Each country shall appoint one National Coordinator according to their own rules, who will represent all entities involved in the National Node.

3. The Committee of National Nodes shall have the task to:

- (a) ensure consistency, coherence, and stability of the activities of the National Nodes;
- (b) oversee and monitor the implementation and coordination of E-RIHS ERIC policies in the network;
- (c) represent Users' communities efficiently, by aggregating their suggestions, needs, and concerns at the level of E-RIHS ERIC;
- (d) make proposals to improve the infrastructures, procedures, and practices of National Nodes to avoid quality or efficiency discrepancies between the facilities of the members of E-RIHS ERIC;
- (e) contribute to the scientific strategy of E-RIHS ERIC;
- (f) prepare annually the offer of services of E-RIHS ERIC;
- (g) report the nature and the value of national in-kind contributions and communicate them to the Director General;
- (h) report to the General Assembly through the report to the Director General.

4. The Committee of National Nodes shall elaborate its own rules of procedure to be approved by the General Assembly.

5. Intergovernmental organisations that provide access shall participate in the Committee of National Nodes.

#### *Article 21*

#### **Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board**

1. The Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall offer advice on request or on its own initiative to the General Assembly on the overall activities and policies of E-RIHS ERIC.

2. The Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall offer advice on the Scientific Strategy to be adopted by the General Assembly.

3. The Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall evaluate annually the scientific, technical, and general activities of E-RIHS ERIC and activities under the E-RIHS ERIC label according to Article 7(1).

4. The members of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board are appointed by the General Assembly in accordance with Article 18(6) for a term of three years, renewable once. The number of its members shall be decided by the General Assembly.

5. The Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall consist of distinguished experts and stakeholders from the different disciplines applied to Heritage Science. Members of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall avoid potential organisational or personal conflicts of interest.

6. The Chair of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall be elected among its members. The rules of procedure and the composition of the Scientific and Ethics Advisory Board shall be adopted by the General Assembly.

## CHAPTER 5

### FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 22*

#### **Budgetary principles, accounts, and audit**

1. The financial year of E-RIHS ERIC shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of each year.
2. The accounts of E-RIHS ERIC shall be accompanied by a report on budgetary and financial management of the financial year.
3. E-RIHS ERIC shall be subject to the requirements of the law of the country where it has its statutory seat as regards the preparation, filing, auditing, and publication of accounts.

#### *Article 23*

#### **Tax and excise duty exemptions**

1. VAT exemptions based on Articles 143(1)(g) and 151(1)(b) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC and in accordance with Articles 50 and 51 of Council Implementing Regulation (EU) No 282/2011, shall be applied to purchases of goods and services by the E-RIHS ERIC which are for the official and exclusive use by the E-RIHS ERIC, provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of the E-RIHS ERIC in line with its activities. VAT exemptions shall be limited to purchases exceeding the value of EUR 300.
2. Excise duty exemptions based on Article 11 of Council Directive (EU) 2020/262, shall be limited to purchases by E-RIHS ERIC which are for the official and exclusive use by E-RIHS ERIC, provided that such purchase is made solely for the non-economic activities of E-RIHS ERIC in line with its activities and that the purchase exceeds the value of EUR 300.
3. Purchases by staff members shall not be covered by the exemptions.

## CHAPTER 6

### FINAL PROVISIONS

#### *Article 24*

#### **Data Policy**

1. E-RIHS ERIC shall promote Open Source, Open Access, and FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reusability) principles.
2. E-RIHS ERIC shall provide guidance to Users to ensure that research conducted using material made accessible through E-RIHS ERIC shall be undertaken within a framework that recognises the rights of data owners and the privacy of individuals.

3. E-RIHS ERIC shall ensure that Users agree to the terms and conditions governing access, and that suitable security arrangements are in place regarding the storage and handling of data.

4. E-RIHS ERIC shall ensure that the data providers, the authors and the E-RIHS logo are acknowledged in an appropriate manner.

*Article 25*

**Working Language**

The working language of E-RIHS ERIC is English.

*Article 26*

**Reporting to the European Commission and the public**

1. E-RIHS ERIC shall produce an annual activity report, containing in particular the scientific, operational, and financial aspects of its activities. The report shall be approved by the General Assembly and transmitted to the European Commission and relevant public authorities within six months from the end of the corresponding financial year. This report shall be made publicly available.

2. E-RIHS ERIC shall inform the European Commission of any circumstances that threaten to seriously jeopardize the achievement of E-RIHS ERIC tasks or hinder E-RIHS ERIC from fulfilling requirements laid down in Regulation (EC) No 723/2009.

*Article 27*

**Applicable Law**

The internal functioning of E-RIHS ERIC shall be governed:

- (a) by Union law, in particular Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 and the decisions referred to in Articles 6(1)(a) and 11(1) of the Regulation.
- (b) by the law of the state where E-RIHS ERIC has its statutory seat in the case of matters not, or only partly, regulated by acts referred to in (a).
- (c) by these Statutes and their rules of procedure.

*Article 28*

**Disputes**

1. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have jurisdiction over litigation among the members in relation to E-RIHS ERIC, between members and E-RIHS ERIC and over any litigation to which the Union is a party.

2. Union legislation on jurisdiction shall apply to disputes between E-RIHS ERIC and third parties. In cases not covered by the Union legislation, the law of the State where E-RIHS ERIC has its statutory seat shall determine the competent jurisdiction for the resolution of such disputes.

*Article 29***Statutes updates and availability**

1. The Statutes shall be kept up to date and publicly available on E-RIHS ERIC website and at the statutory seat.
2. Any amendment to the Statutes shall be clearly indicated with a note specifying whether the amendment concerns an essential or non-essential element of the Statutes in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009, and the procedure followed for its adoption.

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## ANNEX I

**LIST OF MEMBERS, PERMANENT OBSERVERS, OBSERVERS AND THEIR REPRESENTING ENTITIES**

Members	Representing entity
The French Republic	Ministry of Higher Education and Research
The Italian Republic	National Research Council
The Kingdom of the Netherlands	Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands
The Kingdom of Spain	Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities
The Republic of Cyprus	Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy
Hungary	National Research, Development, and Innovation Office
The Republic of Malta	Ministry for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government
The Republic of Poland	Ministry of Science and Higher Education
The Republic of Slovenia	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
Romania	Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization

Members acknowledge the intention of the intergovernmental organisation of International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) to become permanent observer.

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ANNEX II

**FINANCIAL**

See separate supporting document, defining the financial contributions of members and observers, publicly available on the website of E-RIHS ERIC.

## ANNEX III

**DEFINITIONS**

In these Statutes the following capitalised terms shall have the meaning provided hereafter:

- Access Platform: each of the 4 centrally managed interdisciplinary access platforms with distinct types of access and services provided (E-RIHS ARCHLAB, E-RIHS DIGILAB, E-RIHS FIXLAB, E-RIHS MOLAB) to different stakeholders, including but not limited to the E-RIHS scientific community,
- E-RIHS label: the set of core values pervades through all E-RIHS ERIC activities and are ensured by E-RIHS ERIC quality standards, collectively representing the E-RIHS ERIC label,
- Founding Entities: entities that have applied for the establishment of an ERIC and are recognised as members, permanent observers, or observers in the Commission Decision on the establishment of the ERIC, prior to the constitutional meeting of the General Assembly.
- Heritage Science: the interdisciplinary domain of scientific study of heritage. Heritage Science draws on diverse humanities, sciences, and engineering disciplines. It focuses on enhancing the understanding, care, and sustainable use of heritage so it can enrich people's lives, both today and in the future. Heritage Science is an umbrella term encompassing all forms of scientific enquiry into human works and the combined works of nature and humans, of value to people,
- National Node: The scientific communities of each Country involved with E-RIHS constitute the National Node, with its own National Coordinator,
- Public Research: research with results (especially publications) available publicly,
- Proprietary Research: is defined as that for which Users request confidentiality of proposal, data, and results for a certain period.
- Users: Individuals, teams and institutions from academia, business, industry, and public services, which use the facilities, resources, and services of a research infrastructure to conduct research by engaging in the conception or creation of new knowledge, products, processes, methods, and systems and to foster innovation in their fields.