

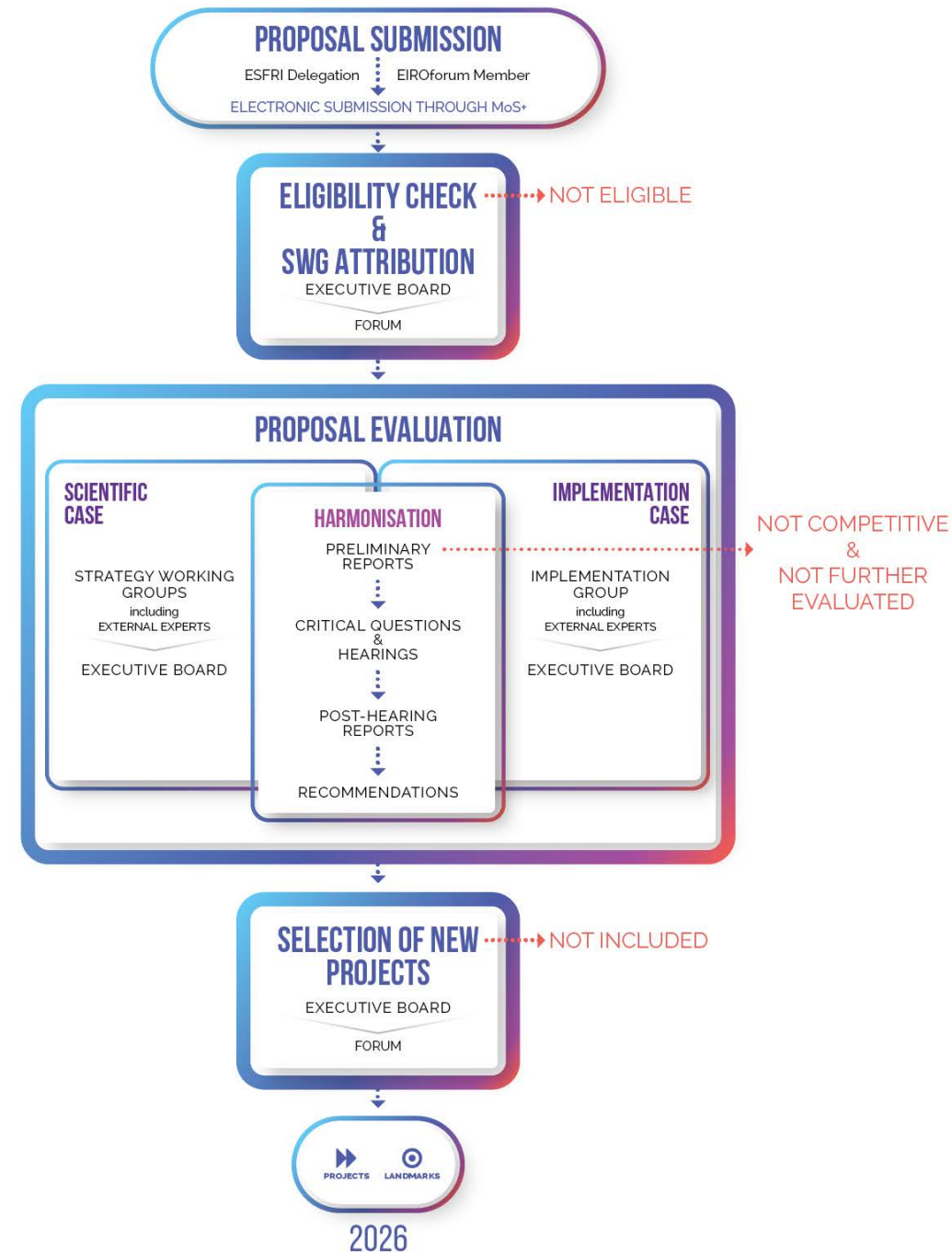
Roadmap 2026 - overview

Content

- Evaluation of new proposals
- Monitoring ESFRI projects 2018 and 2021
- Monitoring ESFRI Projects 2016 vs Landmark status
- ESFRI RIs Portfolio update

General timeline

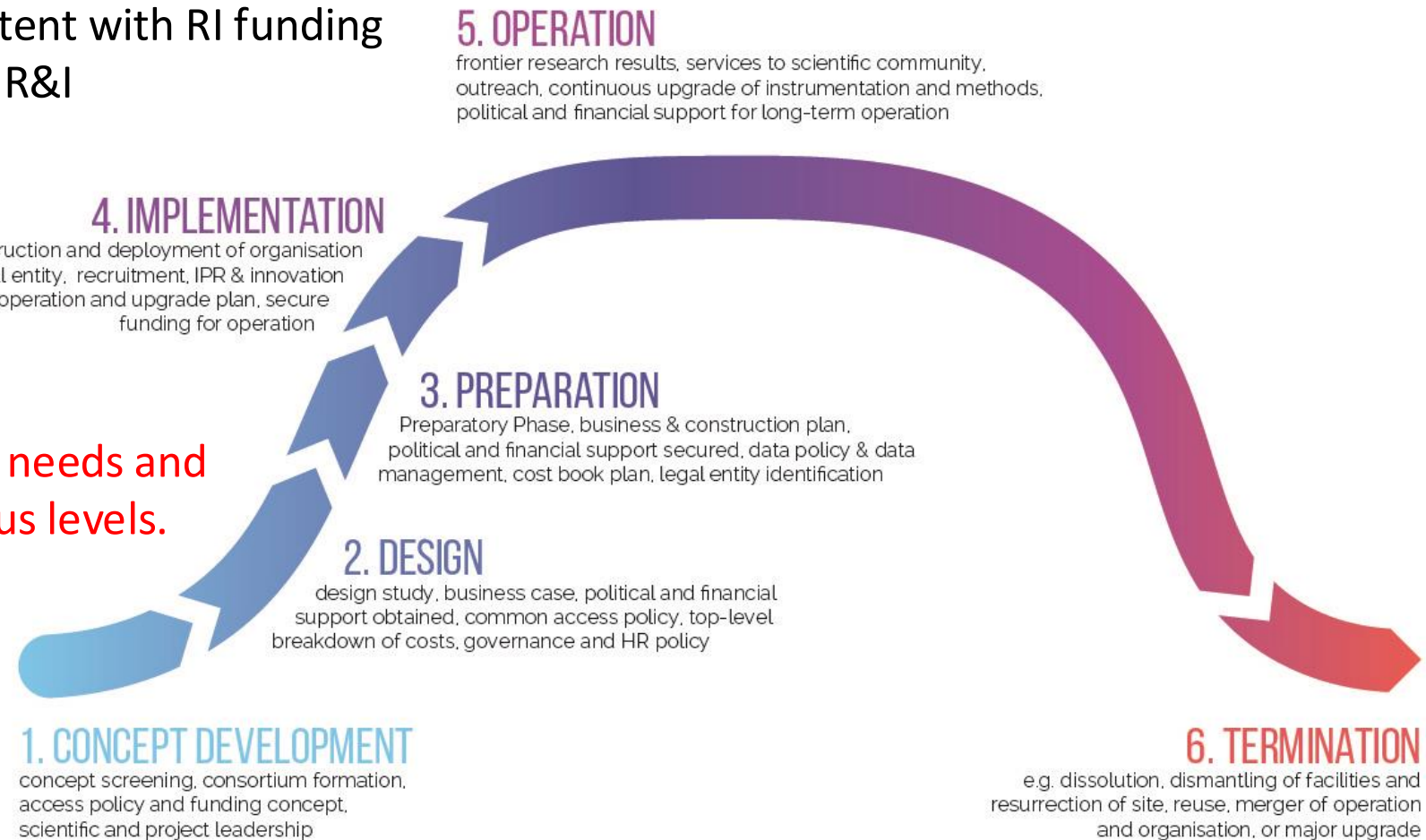
- Deadline for Submission new proposals 8 April 2025
- Roadmap published by December 2026 (at latest)



ESFRI Roadmap 2026 – Lifecycle approach of a RI

Lifecycle approach is coherent and consistent with RI funding under the EU Framework Programme for R&I and the GSO concerning GRI.

Lifecycle is a reference to understand the needs and targets of RIs at a given time and at various levels.



Roadmap 2026 – What to expect

- **More weight on the positioning in the RIs Landscape (use the Landscape Analysis 2024!!)**
 - added value of the new RI vs merging/integrating with existing RI
- **Focus in the financial sustainability of the European RI ecosystem**
 - robust financial commitment by, at least, two MS, AC or EuroForum members
- **New proposals must be focused and very mature** (feasibility of implementing within 10 years)
- **MKRs being updated**
 - alignment with the Monitoring of Landmarks
 - info on costs (including national nodes)
 - more on new digital instruments and Open Science
- **New dimension in the Science Case: “Environmental considerations”**
 - evaluate the planning and deployment of an environmental strategy and the adoption of action plans regarding environmental sustainability.



ESFRI Landscape Analysis 2024

The ESFRI RIs Landscape Analysis 2024 reflects a dynamic and responsive approach to the needs of the European research ecosystem.

- It is the first Landscape Analysis report to be decoupled from the Roadmap, providing the framework and the rationale for the ESFRI Roadmap 2026;
- It includes the first version of the ESFRI RIs Portfolio, developed as an online tool to ensure up-to-date and readily usable information about all ESFRI RIs;
- For the first time, the analysis was also based on input directly from key stakeholders.

<https://landscape2024.esfri.eu/>



Roadmap 2026 – Take-home messages

- **More weight on the positioning in the RIs Landscape** Has your project strong added value??
- **Is your proposal an intrinsic RI of Pan-European character?**
- **Eligibility Criteria** (all three must be met!!) <https://www.eiroforum.org/about-eiroforum/members/>
 - **Proof of robust financial commitment** by, at least, two MS, AC or EiroForum members by 7 November
 - **Proof of political Support** by Lead country + at least 2 MS/AC or Eiroforum members by 28th November
 - Proof of an inter-institutional and multi-lateral agreement (MOUs)
- **New proposals must be focused and very mature** (feasibility of implementing within 10 years and lifetime for at least 30 years). We are expecting mature projects for RI, not brilliant ideas (only).
- **Consider the right time scale for your proposal** Is your project devised with at least 30 years in mind?
- **Be realistic with your proposal** (is it aligned with available resources at National and EU levels??)
- **Contact your National Delegate at ESFRI, they should validate every step**



ESFRI RIs Portfolio 2024

<https://ri-portfolio.esfri.eu/>

ESFRI RIs PORTFOLIO

2024 First Edition | see all >



BROWSE THE
CATALOGUE



VIEW THE
TABLE



EXPLORE THE
MAP



ESFRI Research Infrastructures are facilities, resources or services of a unique nature, identified by European research communities to conduct and to support top-level research activities in their domains. ESFRI selects proposals of RIs in strategic areas of research and with an adequate level of maturity to become ESFRI Projects, and identifies successfully implemented RIs to become ESFRI Landmarks.

Each ESFRI Project and ESFRI Landmark is described by a dedicated card.



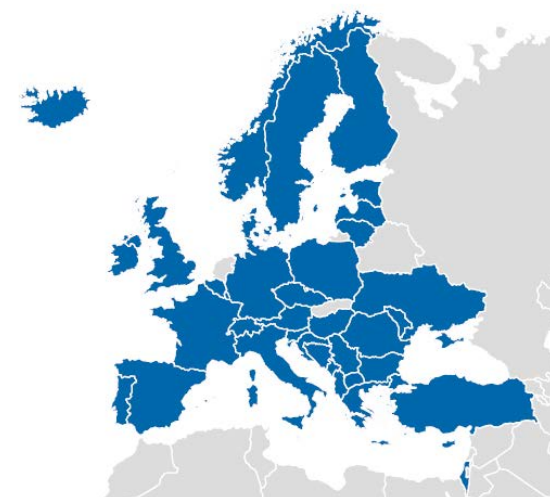
ESFRI PROJECTS



ESFRI LANDMARKS

DOWNLOAD CSV

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES MAP



InfoDay
2024, Brussels



RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES TABLE

NAME	FULL NAME	TYPE	RIS TYPE
PRACE	Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe	DISTRIBUTED	landmark
EBRAINS	European Brain ReseArch InfrastructureS	DISTRIBUTED	project
SLICES	SLICES Scientific Large-scale Infrastructure for Computing/Communication Experimental Studies	DISTRIBUTED	project
SoBigData RI	SoBigData RI: European Integrated Infrastructure for Social Mining and Big Data Analytics	DISTRIBUTED	project
EU-SOLARIS	European Solar Research Infrastructure for Concentrated Solar Power	DISTRIBUTED	landmark
IFMIF-DONES	International Fusion Materials Irradiation Facility – DEMO Oriented NEutron Source	SINGLE-SITED	project
ECCSEL ERIC	European Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Laboratory Infrastructure	DISTRIBUTED	landmark
JHR	Jules Horowitz Reactor	SINGLE-SITED	landmark
MARINERG-i	Marine Renewable Energy Research Infrastructure	DISTRIBUTED	project
ACTRIS	Aerosol, Clouds and Trace Gases Research Infrastructure	DISTRIBUTED	landmark
AMUNDUS RI	International Centre for Advanced Studies on Data Science	DISTRIBUTED	project

ESFRI

Strategy Report on Research Infrastructures
ROADMAP 2026

SCIENTIFIC CASE

Six reference scientific domains represented by the following SWGs:

ENE SWG - ENERGY

ENV SWG - ENVIRONMENT

H&F SWG – Health & Food

PSE SWG – PHYSICAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING

SSH SWG – SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DIGIT SWG – DATA, COMPUTING AND DIGITAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

The SWGs evaluate the **SCIENTIFIC CASE** along **six** dimensions:

- scientific excellence
- pan-European relevance
- socio-economic impact
- user strategy and access policy
- e-needs & data
- environmental considerations

When evaluating the **SCIENTIFIC CASE**, the SWGs take the dimensions of the **IMPLEMENTATION CASE** into account.

IMPLEMENTATION CASE

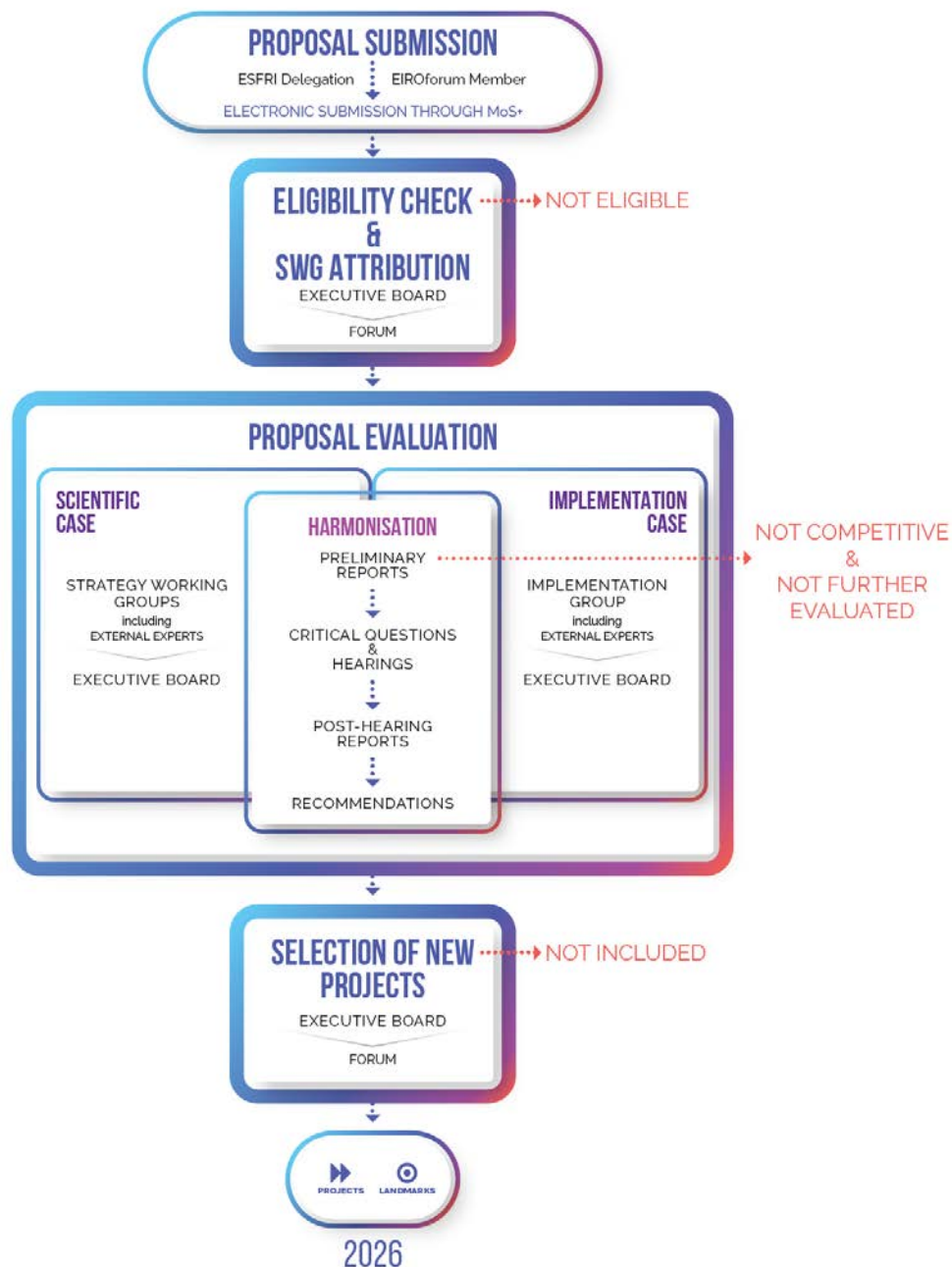
The Implementation Group (IG) evaluates the **IMPLEMENTATION CASE** along five dimensions:

- stakeholder commitment
- preparatory work and planning
- governance, management & human resources
- finances
- Risks

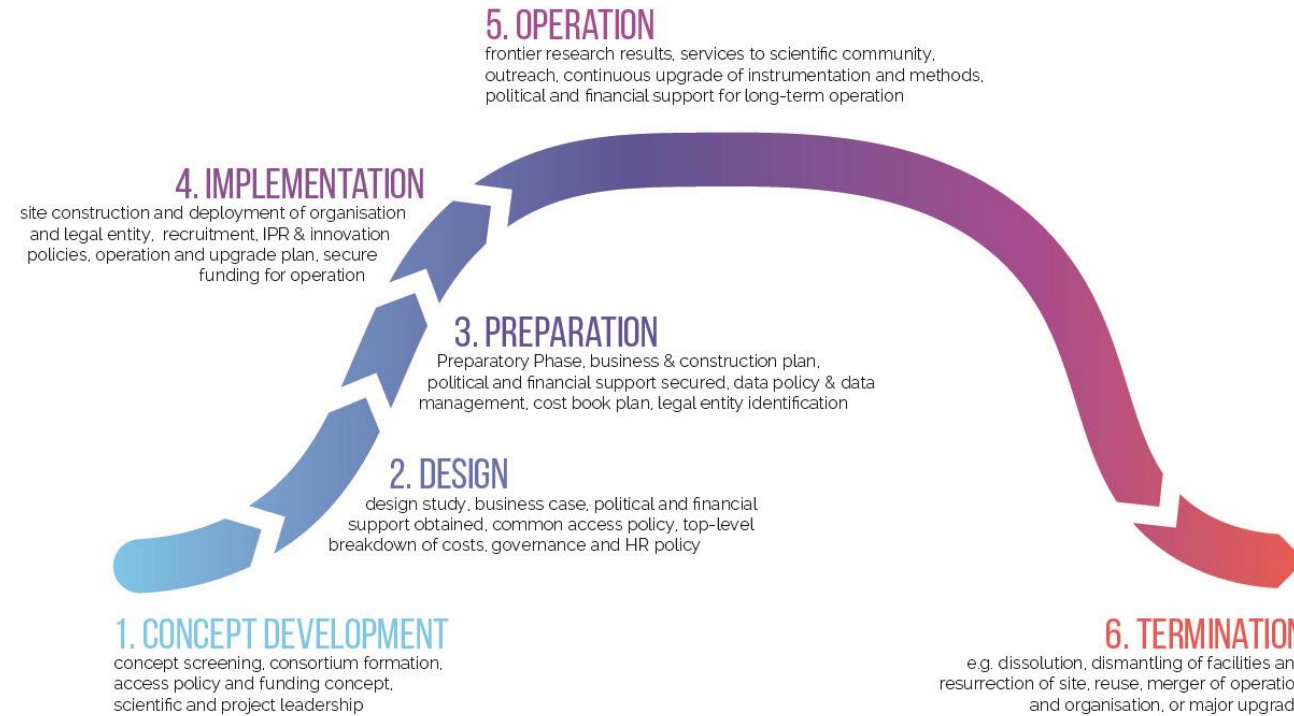
When evaluating the **IMPLEMENTATION CASE**, the IG takes the dimensions of the **SCIENTIFIC CASE** into account.



Submission and evaluation of new proposals



LIFECYCLE APPROACH



ANNEX II: LIST OF MINIMAL KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR SCIENTIFIC CASE

The following table contains the **minimal key requirements** to a phase in the life cycle of RI on the six dimensions of the scientific case:

	PHASE				
	DESIGN	PREPARATION*	IMPLEMENTATION**	OPERATION	TERMINATION
SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – long term science programme defined – scientific community well-established (providing quantification) – scientific leadership described – cutting edge science and technology outlined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Scientific vision and mission outlined including scientific new frontiers and/or <u>multidisciplinarity</u> – Cutting edge science and technology described, with science concept tested and found feasible – Scientific community well-established – Services for the scientific community described – Scientific leadership recruited – Availability of scientific human resources proven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – vision, mission and identity fully defined – scientific new frontiers established and/or <u>multidisciplinarity</u> – scientific leadership consolidated – cutting edge science and technology fully defined – established catalogue of services – scientific community well-established (providing quantification) – detailed plan for scientific and technical implementation validated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – keep scientific leadership and impact visible at European and international level – measures put in place for the termination phase – operational services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – objectives and measurements taken to facilitate the dismantlement process at the end of the life – scientific or technology tools to be developed for the dismantlement or transfer process
PAN-EUROPEAN RELEVANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – pan-European approach for scientific area outlined – targeted user community is pan-European – complementary or synergistic potential with national/international facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – positioning in the European RI landscape fully described – case for European added value defined – research capacity and current/potential geographical distribution defined – links to relevant RI and other large pan-European and international programmes identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – clear position in the European RI landscape – case studies or other evidence of emerging European-added value achieved – research capacity and geographical distribution consolidated – joint strategies, common services with relevant RIs and other large pan-European programmes being implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – cooperation/synergies with other RIs in operation – geographical distribution consolidated/expanding (if relevant to keep scientific leadership and impact visible at European and International level) 	–



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – relevance to societal challenges identified and potential economic impact predicted including innovation aspects at regional and European level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – case for impact made, supporting innovation, other types of benefits such as services for society, cultural aspects and attraction of business, industry and public services, including digital transition etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – socio-economic impact cases emerging – capacity building demonstrated – planning contribution on societal challenges – innovation oriented activities agreed – ability to develop an open and sustainable innovation culture demonstrated at national, regional, and European level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – social and/or economic impact fully described, clear targets defined and how this is measured in a continuous way identified – set of SEI relevant KPIs developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> –
USER STRATEGY & ACCESS POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – vision about user community – access model described – common approaches for national/thematic nodes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – identified user categories – expected user community quantitatively investigated, e.g. by surveys and description of it in terms of origin and size – Identified services based on a clear identification of user demands and needs – single entry point for users as well as common approaches in access policy for national/thematic nodes outlined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – user community in terms of origin and size consolidated – mechanism of exchange/engagement with users – accommodation of user needs/feedbacks – catalogue of initial services for users – user strategy consolidated (including training aspects) – transparency and common access policy in the national nodes –excellent driven access taken into account / transparent process, European and international research programmes, etc. – organisational structure and procedure for regulating access – including single entry point for users - decided and approved 	<p>solid and common for all the national nodes access management system including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – solid and sustainable mechanism of exchange with users, (e.g. operational single entry point for access, assistance to users; established catalogue of services for users, mechanism for user feedback) – IPR policies fully established – dissemination programmes in place in order to increase and enlarge the user´ scientific community – training and educational system for future users and personnels also in cooperation with other RIs (centralized for distributed RIs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – deployed IPR beyond decommissioning



E-NEEDS & DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – vision and description of e-infrastructure requirements, including access policy and security measures ready – interfacing with communication networks or distributed calculation or HPC/HTC – vision for Open Science approach – vision for engagement with the EOSC ecosystem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conceptual design of e-infrastructure & data infrastructure ready – contributions of e-infrastructure & data management resources at all levels (institutional, regional, national, European, international) described – access policy, security measures and data management policy outlined – demonstration of compliance with FAIR principles – compliance with Open Science approach – compliance with the EOSC ecosystem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – technical design of e-infrastructure ready and approved – draft operational planning for e-infrastructure service delivery including possible AI and data management aspects – agreements with parties delivering core e-infrastructure services (Central Hub) drafted – access policy and data management policy approved, including plan for sustainability of FAIRified data (for example implementing FAIR principles) – implementing interoperability framework of data & services – data and IT services security policy defined and approved – implementing Open Science principles (scope to be defined) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – data management policy implemented and deployed – deployed sustainability and curation practices for data and digital objects – operational e-infrastructure service delivery including AI & data management aspects – operational application of FAIR principles (scope to be defined) & compliance with the local, national and European wide EOSC ecosystem – operational Open Science (scope to be defined) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – deployed sustainability and curation of data & data services beyond decommissioning
Environmental considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – environmental strategy outlined at headline level (reference: applicable elements used in the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS nomenclature) 	<p>significant environmental issues identified and addressed in environmental strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – environmental strategy and draft action plan ready for deployment (including identification of responsibilities and resources needed) ((greenhouses gases,)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – environmental strategy and action plan under implementation and tracked with KPIs. – (when appropriate and applicable, energy liabilities and material considerations regarding infrastructure decommissioning defined). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – infrastructure decommissioning under execution according to high environmental standards.

Texts in blue only apply to single-site RI.

Texts in green only apply to distributed RI.

* Proposals that meet the minimal key requirements for the 'preparation' phase may be considered as Projects.

** Projects that meet the minimal key requirements for the 'implementation' phase may be considered as Landmarks.



ANNEX III: List of minimal key requirements for the implementation CASE

The following table contains the **minimal key requirements** to a phase in the life cycle of RI on the five dimensions of the evaluation of the implementation case:

	PHASE				
	DESIGN	PREPARATION*	IMPLEMENTATION	OPERATION	TERMINATION
STAKEHOLDER COMMITMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – institutional Letters of Intent (LoI) signed – formal agreement amongst partners for design study agreed upon (e.g. Consortium Agreement or MoU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – political support provided by a satisfactory number of prospective members – satisfactory inter-institutional and multi-lateral agreement, e.g. a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by all core partners - being research institutions - formally involved in the consortium – clear strategy about how to gather necessary commitments at institutional and governmental level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – RI included in all relevant national RI roadmaps or similar political documents – commitment of a) MS and AC and b) core institutes and partners secured through signed legally binding document (e.g. statutes) – role of Central office (Central Hub and national nodes) agreed in legally binding document (e.g. statutes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – sustainable budget planning, including the indicative budget for national nodes with multiannual approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – institutional and political commitment on major upgrade/decommission/merger obtained
PREPARATORY WORK & PLANNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – concept screening successfully completed and described in a conceptual design – overall project plan for design study with major milestones and deliverables approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - design/feasibility study successfully completed - clear business case developed - clear strategy about how to tackle technological and construction issues - detailed plan for preparation and implementation agreed, including relevant investment decisions - overall plan for operation and decommission defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – preparatory phase successfully completed – sound and reviewed business plan agreed – all investment decisions for implementation have been effectively taken and those for operation are clearly planned – communication programmes are in place – decision on site taken – building licence obtained – procurement strategy clearly identified and procurement task force in place – tenders and commitments to fund construction approved – decision on hosting of central hub taken – services to users at national level and services from Central Hub to National Nodes delivered – detailed plan for organisational implementation validated – overall plan for operation and decommission fully described 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – core construction effectively completed or underway and any upgrade plans approved – procedures for appropriate termination established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – detailed and validated plan for decommission, major upgrade or merger approved



<p>GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT & HUMAN RESOURCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – project organisation defined – scientific leadership, project manager and required staff identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – satisfactory project organisation and management for preparation and implementation with clearly defined skills and staffing plans, responsibilities and reporting lines approved – measurable and satisfactory Key Performance Indicators identified – governance for operation with clearly defined responsibilities and reporting lines outlined, including Supervisory and other Advisory Boards – Human resources policy for implementation and operation to gather necessary competences, hiring, equal opportunities (including gender balance and diversity), secondments, education and training outlined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – legal entity established – organisation for implementation in place – robust Key Performance Indicators for operation, management, administration and facilitation agreed – key managers and staff for implementation recruited and necessary skills trained – viable organisation for operation with adequate staffing and independent monitoring approved – human resources policy to gather necessary competences for operation, hiring, equal opportunities (including gender balance and diversity), secondments, education and training approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – governance and management structure established – all human resources policies and instruments established, incl. training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – organisation of decommission/merger/upgrade approved – organisation and social plan for decommission approved
<p>FINANCES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – funding concept and potential partners (e.g. nature of partnership, in-kind versus cash) contributions outlined – budget for design study approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – outline of cost book: top-level breakdown of cost elements with overall order of magnitude estimates (including for Central Hub, National Nodes and main upgrades) – financial commitment by a satisfactory number of prospective members covering the preparation and implementation phases – estimates and confidence levels available for each element – funding opportunities identified for the whole lifecycle – in-kind contribution policy outlined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – formal commitment for funding of implementation obtained – cost book with costs based on supplier discussions or quotes and accounting principles approved – financial reporting set up – Work Packages and in-kind contributions fully detailed and centrally budgeted – validated projection on operation costs for at least five years and agreement on how to cover them – costs for decommission identified and methodology to secure it – funding for Central Hub and National nodes and firm projection on operation costs for at least five years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – long-term financial plan and budget also for environmental strategy actions (including outlined estimations for national nodes and an estimation of decommissioning costs if relevant)) – auditing of accounting and budget systems in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – budget and liability for decommission/merger/major upgrade approved and covered, including green field solution



RISKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – conceptual ideas about scientific, technological, political and financial risks, including energy, innovation, research security and sovereignty aspects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – clear identification of major risks involved and appropriate mitigation strategies described, including energy, innovation, research security and sovereignty aspects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – detailed risk inventory established and appropriate mitigation measures for implementation in place, including energy, innovation, research security and sovereignty aspects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – appropriate risk management and mitigation strategies/policies established, including energy, innovation, research security and sovereignty aspects – risks involved in decommission/upgrade/merger described and mitigation strategies in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mitigation, remediation, compensation strategies in place
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** Projects that meet the minimal key requirements for the 'implementation' phase may be considered as Landmarks.



ESFRI Planning – New proposals

STEPS	TIMELINE
INFODAY	8 October 2024
OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS	8 October 2024
SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS	8 April 2025
CRITICAL QUESTIONS & INVITATION TO HEARINGS	December 2025
HEARINGS	February 2026
ESFRI FORUM DECISION	June-September 2026
ESFRI ROADMAP LAUNCH	December 2026



PLANNING - 2016

MONITORING OF PROJECTS 2016

STEPS	TIMELINE
INFODAY	8 TH OCT 2024
QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED	JUNE 2025
QUESTIONNAIRE SUBMISSION	DECEMBER 2025
HEARING INVITATION (CRITICAL QUESTIONS)	APRIL 2026
HEARINGS	MAY 2026
ESFRI DECISION	SEPTEMBER 2026
ESFRI RM LAUNCH	DECEMBER 2026

