ICOS ERIC

Update on the process of setting up the ICOS European Research Infrastructure Consortium
Brief timeline of ICOS

• ICOS Preparatory Phase Project (2008-2013), funded by the European Commission under FP7

• Currently ICOS is in a transition phase with interim governance bodies

• ICOS becomes operational when ICOS European Research Infrastructure or ICOS ERIC is signed by all member countries
Rationale behind the ERIC

• ICOS and other research infrastructures are complex, expensive and operating beyond the limits of a single research group, region, nation, continent.

• A major difficulty in setting up such infrastructures between EU countries is the lack of an adequate legal framework allowing the creation of appropriate partnerships.

• In this context the European Commission proposed a legal framework for a European research infrastructure adapted to the needs of such facilities: the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)
Definition of an ERIC

• Definition by the EC:

*European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a legal instrument that has been set up in order to facilitate the establishment and the operation of large European research infrastructures among several Member States and associated countries.*
Who’s responsible within ICOS

• ICOS Head Office and statutory seat are located in Finland

• ICOS Head office responsible for preparing the ICOS ERIC Statutes and other official ICOS ERIC documents

• Finnish government responsible for submitting official request to the European Commission
History of ICOS ERIC

• ICOS ERIC Statutes and other ICOS ERIC documents were prepared during ICOS Preparatory Phase Project

• June 2013: ICOS Head Office sent these drafts to European Commission for a first informal check

• Dec 2013/Jan 2014: documents modified after feedback received from EC

• March 2014: modified Statutes and other documents officially approved by ISIC → paperwork ready for official request
History of ICOS ERIC

• Finland needed to demonstrate sufficient support from member countries to set up ICOS ERIC before submitting official request

• April 2014: request letter of Finnish Ministry sent to ICOS ERIC partners → ‘Requesting Finland to set up the ICOS ERIC in name of the ICOS member countries’

• Request letters received from 7 countries & more to be expected
  Switzerland (observer)
  Sweden
  Belgium
  France
  Norway (observer)
  Germany
  Italy

• Mid March 2015: Finnish government decided there was enough support from member countries to establish ICOS ERIC
Formal Request

• On 2 April 2015 a formal request for setting up ICOS ERIC was submitted by Finland to the EC together with the Statutes and other documents

• Decision of EC expected by Summer/Autumn 2015

• If positive then ICOS RI becomes official and operational!

  Partytime!
Launch ICOS ERIC

• Signing of the ICOS ERIC by the member countries

→ Launch event in Belgium!