



*"The Czech Republic has become a Member of 14 European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERIC), operating state-of-the-art research infrastructures in Europe. Following this, it is a privilege for me to inform you that the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and the Czech Academy of Sciences have submitted the proposal to the European Commission to found the Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC in the nearest future, and to host its statutory seat in Dolní Břežany in the premises of ELI Beamlines – the Czech pillar of the most powerful laser research infrastructure in the world."*

*Pavel Doleček*

Pavel DOLEČEK, Ph.D.

Deputy Minister for Higher Education, Science and Research  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports

## Step 2 application for the Extreme Light Infrastructure ERIC has been submitted

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports in a close cooperation with the Czech Academy of Sciences submitted the "step 2" application for the **Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI)** to be set up as a **European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)**. The statutory seat will be hosted in **ELI Beamlines** in Dolní Břežany near Prague. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy and Lithuania will enter as founding Members, with the United Kingdom joining as a founding Observer.

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## ESFRI White Paper – a new European research infrastructure vision for post-2020

The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) has launched the **ESFRI White Paper: Making Science Happen – A New Ambition for Research Infrastructures in the European Research Area** in post-2020. The ESFRI aims at a consolidated European research infrastructure eco-system that offers cross-disciplinary R&D and innovation services, and enables their users to pursue the greatest scientific challenges and maximise impact on the most pressing of global socioeconomic challenges.

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## European research infrastructures join their forces against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus

As a part of EU measures taken on the SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19 pandemic, the **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)** has put efforts in helping to coordinate actions of both European and national research infrastructures for the development of diagnostics, treatments and vaccines, as well as the analysis of socioeconomic impacts of implemented confinement measures. All the services provided to user communities are communicated via a **dedicated ESFRI website**.

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## European Research Infrastructures in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic



## Czechia as a Member of international research infrastructures responds to the Covid-19 pandemic

As a Member State of international research infrastructures, Czechia has been involved in the efforts made by the research community in response to the SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19 pandemic. Whether these are **international organisations**, such as the **EMBL**, **CERN** or **ESA**, or **European research infrastructure consortia**, be it the **EATRIS ERIC**, **ECRIN-ERIC** or **BBMRI-ERIC**, Czechia fights health-related, social and economic impacts of new coronavirus outbreak as an active Member of the world leading laboratories.

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## Czech large research infrastructures are ready to host the SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19 studies

In immediate reaction to the SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19 pandemic and socioeconomic crisis, large research infrastructures of Czechia have joined the pan-European efforts to offer their capacities, capabilities, resources and services to support the implementation of the **SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19 related studies on preferential open access basis**. Their special offers have been included also in the **website database** managed by the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

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## European stakeholders on research infrastructures in post-2020

On 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, a virtual international conference on the research infrastructures, titled **“European research infrastructures for a smarter future”**, was held under the auspices of the Croatian Presidency of the EU Council. The event facilitated strategic debates of research infrastructure stakeholders and policy-makers on the role and mission of research infrastructures in the post-2020 European Research Area. The conference conclusions will feed in its new narrative, which is currently under preparation.

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## Radislav Sedláček has been elected new Chair of the ESFRI SWG on Health and Food

Delegations to the **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)** elected **Assoc. Prof Radislav Sedláček** new Chair of the **ESFRI Strategy Working Group on Health and Food**. The working group is an ESFRI expert platform, which focuses on roadmapping and landscape analysis of European research infrastructures in the fields of biological and medical sciences, and food. Since 2012, Radislav Sedláček has been Director of the **CCP (Czech Centre for Phenogenomics)** large research infrastructure.

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## European Covid-19 Data Portal facilitates data sharing on the SARS-CoV-2 research

The European Commission, in cooperation with the **EMBL-EBI (European Molecular Biology Laboratory – European Bioinformatics Institute)**, EU Member States and partners, such as the **ELIXIR (European Life-Science Infrastructure for Biological Information)**, launched the **Covid-19 Data Portal** to facilitate data sharing and analysis, and to accelerate the SARS-CoV-2 research. The Covid-19 Data Portal enables researchers to upload, access and analyse Covid-19 reference data and specialist datasets.

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## ESFRI Roadmap 2021 – a new deadline for submission of project proposals

Deadline for submission of new European research infrastructure project proposals to apply for their inclusion in the 2021 update to the **Roadmap of European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)** has been extended to **9<sup>th</sup> September 2020** – in the face of public health crisis caused by the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus strain and Covid-19 disease pandemic, and resulting impact on daily lives of European citizens and ability of research organisations to effectively collaborate across countries.

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