



*"Owing to the success of Extreme Light Infrastructure and the foundation of ELI ERIC by the European Commission, the Czech Republic becomes for the first time ever the host country of statutory seat of an ERIC consortium. Integration of ELI Beamlines within ELI ERIC reaffirms the world-class quality of Czech research infrastructures. Participation of Czechia in the step 2 applications to establish the ACTRIS ERIC, AnaEE ERIC and INFRAFRONTIER ERIC consortia, to be newly set-up in coming months, proves the ever-increasing level of internationalisation of the Czech research infrastructure landscape."*

*Pavel Doleček*

Pavel DOLEČEK, Ph.D.

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

## European Commission established the ELI ERIC consortium

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, the Czech Republic became the host country of statutory seat of the **Extreme Light Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium** (ELI ERIC), established by the European Commission. The ELI ERIC consortium will operate the **ELI Beamlines** and **ELI ALPS** Facilities under the governance of Czechia, Hungary, Italy and Lithuania as Founding Members, and Germany and Bulgaria as Founding Observers. A number of European and non-European countries shall join in a later stage.

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## ELI ERIC has officially started the operations

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021, the General Assembly of the **Extreme Light Infrastructure – European Research Infrastructure Consortium** (ELI ERIC) met for the first time, and appointed Allen Weeks as the Director General of ELI ERIC, and Caterina Petrillo as the Chair of ELI ERIC General Assembly. The establishment of ELI ERIC opens the door for researchers and industries to gain access to the world's largest collection of super-powerful and ultra-fast lasers, enabling cutting-edge research and breakthrough innovations.

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## CCP developed a unique mouse model to test a double antibody protecting against COVID-19

An international team of scientists from the Czech Republic, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States has developed a double antibody protecting against all three dominant SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus mutations – the British, South African and Brazilian – and confirmed their findings in a preclinical study realised in the laboratories of the **Czech Centre for Phenogenomics – Institute of Molecular Genetics of the Czech Academy of Sciences**, and the **Institute of Parasitology – Biological Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences**. The results were published in the **Nature** journal.

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## Czechia participates in the development of new technologies for European supercomputers

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports grants over CZK 53 million to the **IT4Innovations National Supercomputing Centre** and the **Central European Institute of Technology in Brno** to take part in the **EuroHPC Joint Technology Initiative** projects. The European Commission will support the Czech project participants with the same amount through the **EuroHPC Joint Undertaking**. Projects will help develop knowledge and technology in the field of High Performance Computing (HPC) in Europe.

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## Eleven new research infrastructure projects to be included in the ESFRI 2021 Roadmap Update

After two years of hard work, following a thorough evaluation and selection procedure, the **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)** announced **new 11 project proposals**, which have been scored high for their scientific case and maturity for implementation, and will be included as new projects in the ESFRI 2021 Roadmap Update. This new edition of the ESFRI Roadmap will be launched in December 2021 on the occasion of the “ESFRI Days”, to be held under the auspices of the Slovenian Presidency in the Council of the EU.

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## New RIs for Roadmap 2021 announced

Strategy Report on Research Infrastructures  
**ROADMAP 2021**



## Jana Kolar elected as the next ESFRI Chair

The **European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)** has **elected Jana Kolar, Slovenian delegate to ESFRI, as the ESFRI Forum's next Chair**. Jana Kolar's term of office will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 with a two years duration and a possibility of renewing once for another one year. After an in-depth analysis of her application and a comprehensive interview by the selection committee, the ESFRI Forum unanimously elected Jana Kolar as the next ESFRI Chair.

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## The Canadian ICRI 2021 was held virtually at the beginning of June

On 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, **ICRI 2021** (*International Conference on Research Infrastructures*) was organised under the auspices of the Canada Foundation for Innovation in a close cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. Hundreds of research infrastructure stakeholders from all around the world had the opportunity to address emerging issues of the research infrastructure policy-making and contribute to high-level debates in the respective field.

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**ICRI CANADA  
2021**



June 1-3, 2021 | Du 1 au 3 juin 2021

## Brno to become the host of the ICRI 2022 conference

Czechia has become the host country of the **ICRI 2022**, a worldwide research infrastructure event. ICRI 2022 will visit Brno on the occasion of the upcoming Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU in the second half of 2022, and will provide with a platform for high-level debates of research infrastructure policy-makers, operators and users, and research stakeholders from Europe, America, Asia, Africa and Australia to address the most pressing research infrastructure topics.

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## The Ministry will support Czech student, scientist and engineer internships at ESO

Also in 2021, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports will support Czech students, researchers and engineers in the areas of astronomy, astrophysics and a wide range of engineering fields to work as an intern at **ESO** (*European Southern Observatory*), an international organisation, operating state-of-the-art astronomical observatories in Chile. The allowance is EUR 2 500–3 000 per month, the duration of the training programmes is 6–12 months, and the starting date of internships is September 2021.

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