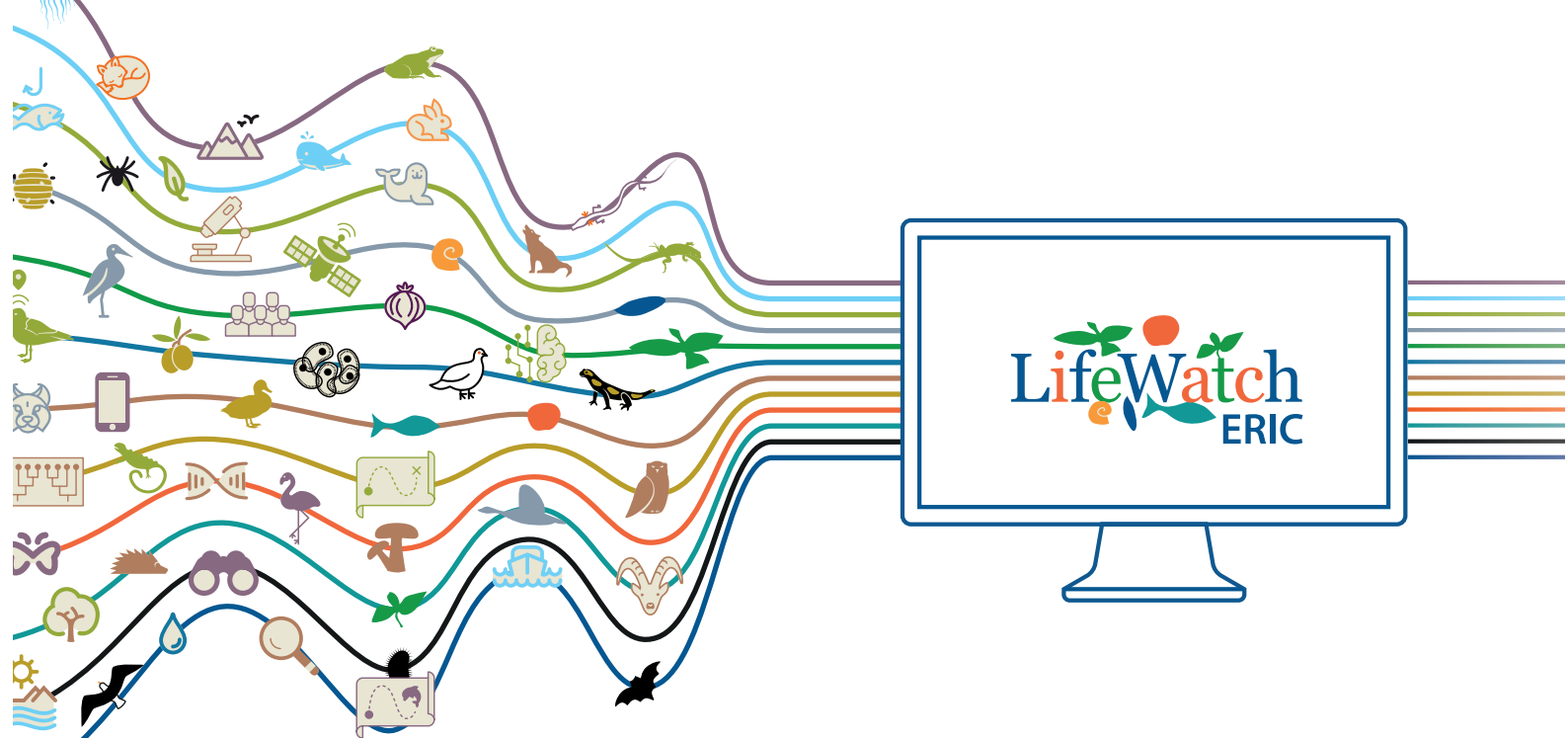




LIFEWATCH ERIC

FACT SHEET FOR GOVERNMENTS AND POLICY MAKERS

The e-Science Infrastructure for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Research

LifeWatch ERIC is composed of **3 Common Facilities**, hosted in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. Each of the **8 Member States** hosts a **Distributed Centre** which contributes with expertise and resources to LifeWatch ERIC, enabling its operations at national, European, and global levels, as a single Research Infrastructure.

What is ERIC?

The European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a specific legal form that facilitates the establishment and operation of Research Infrastructures with European interest. ERIC has a legal capacity recognised in all EU countries; it provides the necessary flexibility to adapt to specific requirements of each infrastructure, it ensures a faster process than creating an international organisation, and ultimately grants exemptions from VAT and excise duty.

To find out more about the structure, roles of each component and governance of LifeWatch ERIC, please visit:

www.lifewatch.eu/organisation-governance



Vision

To become the Research Infrastructure that offers **one-click access** to the world's biodiversity content, services, and scientific communities.



Mission

To **accelerate scientific discovery** by providing a state-of-the-art European Research Infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystems.



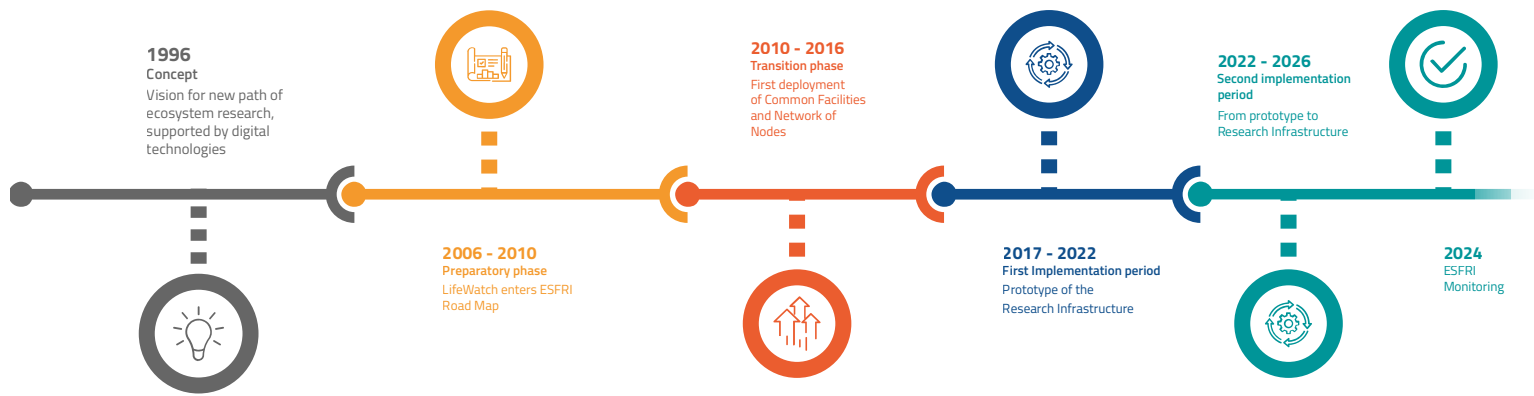
Core business

The **core business** of LifeWatch ERIC is the construction of virtual "workbenches" with e-services that allow its user communities to analyse patterns and trends in biodiversity in space and time, its (natural or man-made) drivers and the impacts on ecosystems.



Value Proposition

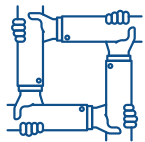
LifeWatch ERIC provides researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders with **access to biodiversity and ecosystem data, services and other research products** by using and contributing to its advanced infrastructure to derive evidence-based knowledge for scientific and policy purposes.



FROM VISION TO ACTION

In 1996, a group of pioneering European scientists and ICT experts envisioned a new path forward for biodiversity and ecosystem research. They recognised that digital technologies could do more than store data: they could empower researchers to simulate, analyse, and understand the complex living systems of our planet. This vision evolved into LifeWatch ERIC, Europe's e-Science

Infrastructure for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research. Today, LifeWatch ERIC embodies that ambition: to connect scientists, data, and services under a single digital ecosystem that makes knowledge actionable: from **genes** to **ecosystems**, and from **local habitats** to **global biosphere** trends.



CULTURE OF COLLABORATION

LifeWatch ERIC success is built on **respect, integrity, inclusivity**, and the mobilisation of **knowledge**. LifeWatch ERIC fosters a collaborative culture that brings together researchers, technologists, and policymakers across Europe and beyond.





STRATEGIC DIRECTION: INTEGRATION, COLLABORATION & IMPACT

Guided by its **Strategic Working Plan 2022–2026**, LifeWatch ERIC is:

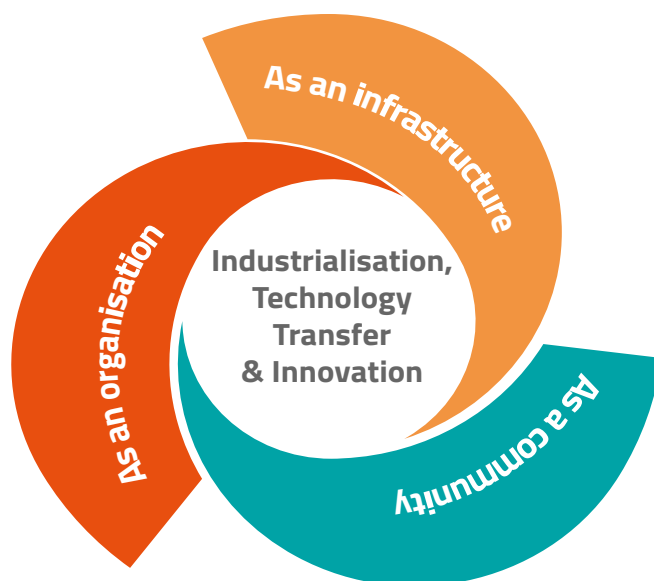
- **Integrating its distributed infrastructure** across Europe,
- **Streamlining access** across Common Facilities and National Distributed Centres,
- **Mobilising its national nodes and scientific communities**,
- **Fostering partnerships** with both public and private sectors, and the engagement of civil society,
- Supporting **co-design and co-development** of e-services with end-users, enabling reproducible analytics for data-driven discoveries across biological and ecological scales,
- Contributing to **European and international biodiversity agendas**.

LifeWatch ERIC as an Organisation: the steps to be taken at the administrative, financial and organisational levels to optimise its structure and functioning as an Organisation.

LifeWatch ERIC as an Infrastructure: the process of turning the prototype of the Infrastructure, Technical Readiness Level of 6 (TRL6), into the next-generation Infrastructure (TRL9).

LifeWatch ERIC as a Community: the engagement of scientific communities, stakeholders, ERICs, RIs and global actors in the co-design and co-development of the Infrastructure through communication, networking, training and education.

Industrialisation, Technology Transfer and Innovation: enablement of the industrialisation of the LifeWatch ERIC prototype, to disseminate the results to the market place and wider society, and scale up its socioeconomic impact.



LIFEWATCH ERIC IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)

LifeWatch ERIC plays a pivotal role in strengthening the ERA through:

- Active participation in **25 EU project consortia**, among which in **ENVRI Community** and **EOSC Clusters**,
- Integration with **global aggregators** (e.g. GBIF, OBIS) and **open data partners** (e.g. PLAZI, Species 2000) through its one-stop-over service of LifeWatch ERIC
- Search,
- Development of the **Biodiversity Knowledge Hub**, a single point of access for taxonomy and biodiversity information,
- Creation of a **Science Knowledge Graph** to federate and organise data from multiple sources,
- **Collaboration with other ERICs and research infrastructures** (eLTER, DiSSCo, ELIXIR, etc.).



SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE: A UNIQUE NICHE

LifeWatch ERIC is the only European Research Infrastructure focused exclusively on biodiversity and ecosystems, offering:

- Integration of **FAIR-compliant data**, **analytical workflows**, **simulation tools**, and other **research products**,
- Services for **multidisciplinary and cross-domain research**, from molecular biology to ecosystem services,
- Construction of advanced **Virtual Research Environments** for hypothesis testing and predictive modelling.



PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS



**Biodiversity &
Ecosystem Responses
to Climate Change**



Taxonomy



**Biodiversity
Observatory
Automation**



**Animal Movement &
Biologging**



**Habitat
Mapping**



Biogeography



IMPACT IN ACTION

Invasive Species Management

LifeWatch ERIC tools help forecast invasive species spread and guide policies for containment, changing biodiversity loss and economic damage.

Ecosystem Health Monitoring

Integrated data allow stakeholders to assess and model ecosystem responses to stressors like pollution and climate change—guiding targeted conservation actions.

Climate Resilience Planning

Simulations of ecosystem responses to climate scenarios support adaptive strategies like coastal protection and sustainable agriculture.



VALUE FOR GOVERNMENTS

Strategic Advantage

Contribute to and benefit from cutting-edge infrastructure and tools to address national biodiversity priorities

Policy Relevance

Gain access to evidence-based insights for environmental planning, conservation, and sustainable development.

Global Positioning

Be part of an integrated European effort tackling global ecological challenges.



LifeWatch ERIC



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