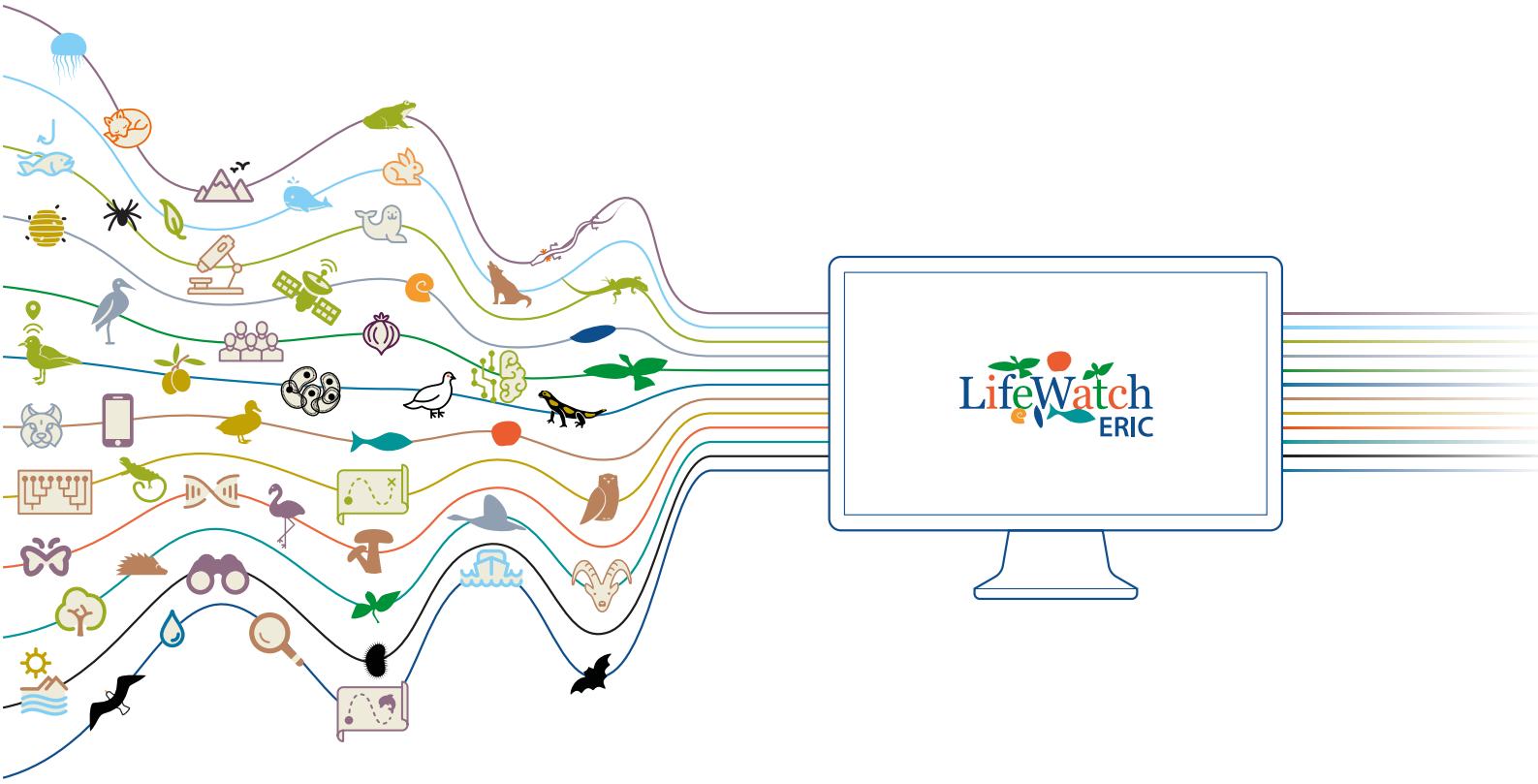
LifeWatch ERIC



2019 ACTIVITIES **REPORT**

June 2020



© Photo by Thanos Dailianis, LifeWatch Greece
Arborescent protected sponge
Axinella cannabina in the blue Aegean

LifeWatch ERIC

Statutory Seat

Plaza España SN,
SECTOR II-III
41013 Seville (Spain)

Tax Identification Number
N9101001G

Table of contents

- **Foreword** 4

- **LifeWatch ERIC | Our Life Support System** 8
  - > Mission 9
  - > Vision 9
  - > Governance 11
  - > Structure 12
  - > The Staff 14

- **Operations & Achievements** 18
  - > Starting-up 18
  - > Science in progress through disruptive technologies 18
  - > European Union funded projects 22
  - > Gearing up LifeWatch ERIC as an organisation 22
  - > Financial Statements 2019 24
  - > Looking ahead 28
  - > Highlights 29

- **Acknowledgements** 32

Foreword



Gert Verreet
Chair of the
LifeWatch ERIC
General Assembly

The COVID-19 pandemic painfully rolled over us and made us aware of the many forms of biological interconnectedness that we are a part of… and how we all long to be more than just passive agents of transmission…

Which processes speed up transmission of pathogens? How can we become symbionts in our natural world? Can we see crucial tipping points in our data? Whether or not you have any affinity for these, or similar, particular questions, from a policy background or as a scientist determined to crack the hidden codes of nature, we're living in fascinating times and, surely, the research goalposts are moving!

LifeWatch ERIC, the e-Science Infrastructure for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Research, helps those who want to meet these challenges. It harnesses and introduces the acceleration of data and advanced computational systems in this community. It allows us to squeeze even more valuable information out of the painstakingly collected field data, in new combinations and models. Its Virtual Research Environments (VREs) will give a boost to testing hypotheses and enable new forms of data-driven biological and ecological research, for basic or applied purposes.

We look back in this report to the progress made over 2019 in the collaborative efforts of the pioneering organisations in the countries that support this vital European Research Infrastructure for the benefit of all users. These small steps hold a big promise for your more effective and efficient research journey.

Against a background of ambitious new European and on-coming global biodiversity policy commitments, LifeWatch ERIC aims to fully play its role in deciphering Spaceship Earth's instruction manual. Stay tuned.

In fond memory of Marc R. de Jonge, Chair LifeWatch ERIC General Assembly until his untimely passing on 27 April 2019.



Christos Arvanitidis
LifeWatch ERIC
Chief Executive Officer

It gives me great pleasure to address all our present and future audiences and stakeholders in LifeWatch ERIC because so much has been achieved in this last year. Thanks for the milestones passed and deliverables submitted go primarily to our people, our staff, the researchers who volunteer their time, and the professionals who advise.

I feel very much indebted to the members of our General Assembly for their continuous and sound support and advice. Over the last year key positions have been filled in ICT operations, in Finance, in Communication and I am delighted we have a full Executive Board. To inform and support the entire team, essential policies and procedures have reached completion.

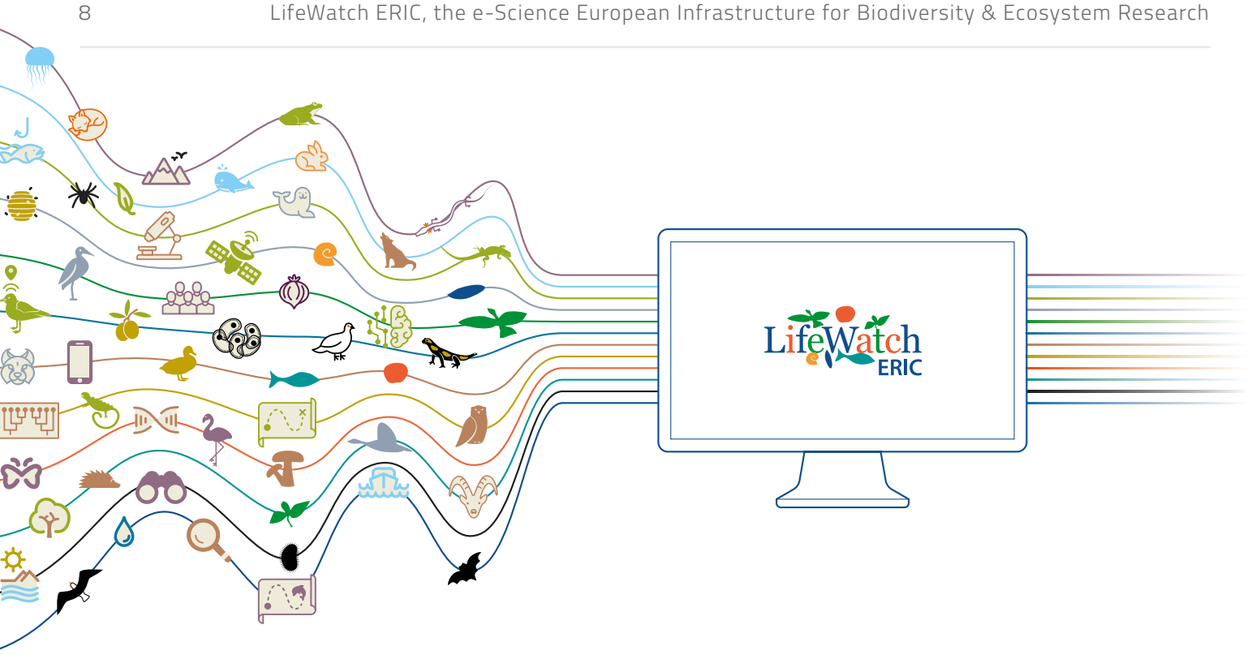
We've certainly come a long way from our establishment as an ERIC in 2017, but the excitement of meeting our challenges is just beginning. We've put our ICT team and biodiversity experts together and they are building the next generation of Virtual Research Environment, which is planned to go live in late 2020.

That is where we will really begin to offer massive integration of open access data and reproducible analytics from multiple sources, and mobilised communities to model future scenarios of sustainability on the planet, which is where our work will be recognised as invaluable not only to scientists, but to the whole of society.

Photo by Massimiliano Manno
Coastal wetland in the Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto, Italy

LifeWatch ERIC

Our Life Support System



▪ LifeWatch ERIC

Our Life Support System

LifeWatch is a European Research Infrastructure Consortium that provides e-Science research facilities to scientists so they can increase our knowledge and deepen our understanding of biodiversity organisation and ecosystem functions and services. Ultimately, this supports the whole of society in facing today's key planetary challenges.

LifeWatch ERIC uses and further develops the most advanced digital technologies and draws on the existing data, services, information and knowledge to bring scientists, administrators and managers, politicians and common people into a continuous collaborative environment. This environment provides them with the knowledge to understand the functioning of '*Our Life Support System*' and allows them to develop the actions that will achieve sustainability in the decades to come.

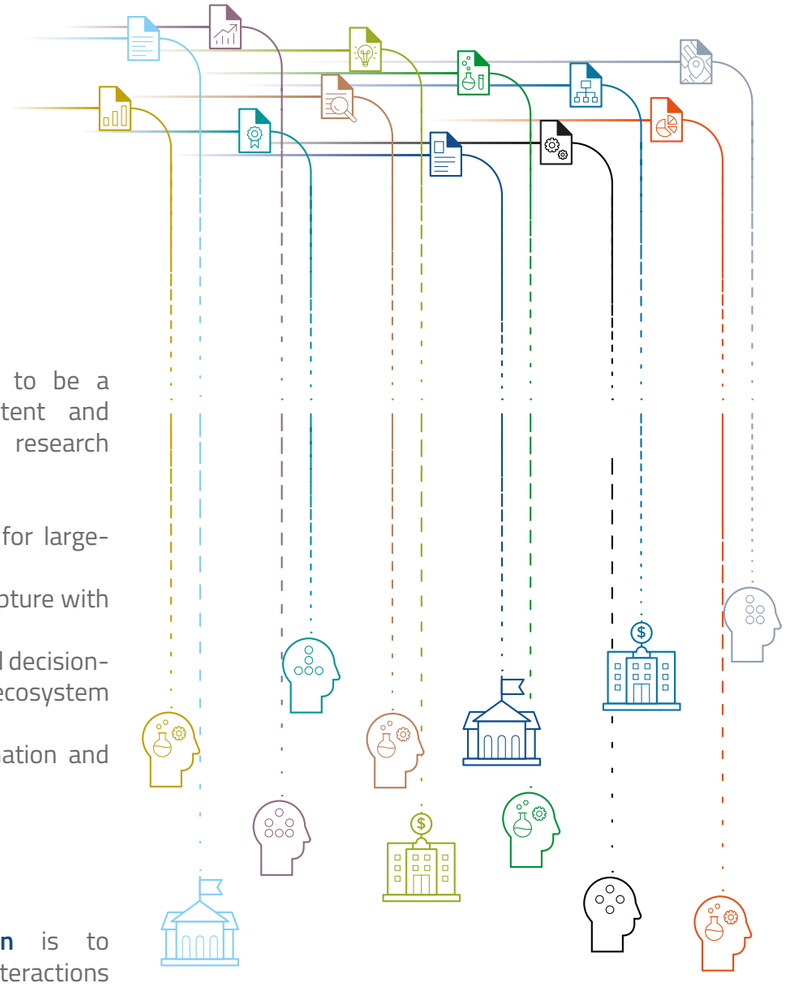
The vision of LifeWatch ERIC requires an e-Infrastructure that is fully developed, operational and supported by federated and distributed FAIR-compliant data and services, to respond to today's societal challenges. Such an infrastructure must be continuously evolving to maintain the highest standard of digital technologies implemented and to render all types of data findable, accessible and interoperable in the LifeWatch ERIC e-infrastructure, and then reusable by its users.



> Mission

LifeWatch ERIC's **mission** is to be a worldwide provider of content and services for the Biodiversity research community by:

- Offering new opportunities for large-scale scientific development;
- Enabling accelerated data capture with innovative technologies;
- Supporting knowledge-based decision-making for biodiversity and ecosystem management;
- Providing training, dissemination and awareness programmes.



> Vision

The LifeWatch ERIC **vision** is to understand the complex interactions between species or any other level of biological organisation and the environment, taking advantage of High-Performance, Grid and Big Data computing systems, and to develop complex modelling tools to help implement management measures that will contribute to preserving life on Earth.
In addition to this statement, LifeWatch ERIC also envisions:

- Becoming the biggest and most complete research infrastructure for the study of biodiversity and ecosystems in Europe.
- Becoming an international leader in connecting scientists and citizens to biodiversity issues.
- Contributing to making our ecosystems as rich, healthy and biodiverse as they were in the past, halting the loss of species.
- Incorporating into the ERIC other partners concerned with the conservation of biodiversity, including countries from America, Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Fostering liaisons with other environmental research infrastructures, promoting collaboration and mobility of researchers in the international field.

LifeWatch ERIC enables researchers, decision-makers and citizens to build a FAIR-er future for biodiversity and ecosystems in Europe.



LifeWatch ERIC provides **researchers** with access to open data, e-Services and Virtual Research Environments which, combined with disruptive technologies, make it possible to perform unprecedented faster research to address key societal challenges and reinforce synergies in the European and international biodiversity and ecosystem research area.

LifeWatch ERIC supports decision making processes and **institutions** in the implementation of the EU Green Deal roadmap and in reaching the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy targets, supplying evidence-based synthetic knowledge and nature-based solutions to tackle societal challenges.



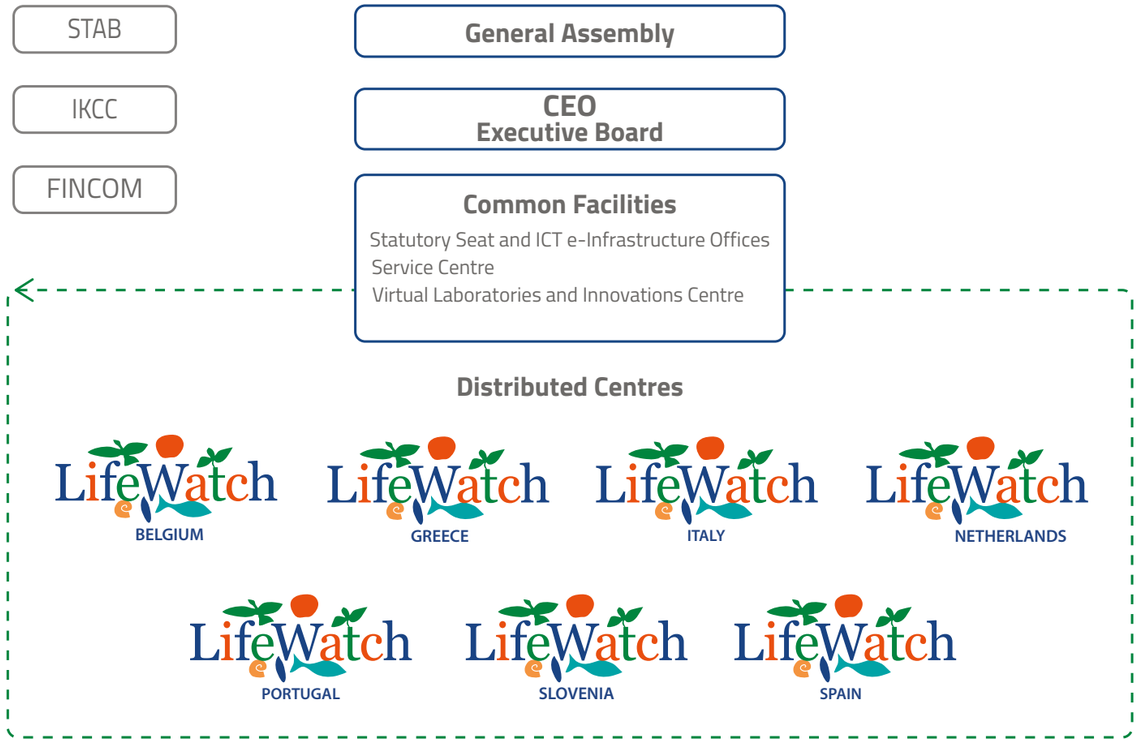


Human well-being depends on the richness of biodiversity and the health and strength of different ecosystems. The knowledge and tools produced by LifeWatch ERIC will better assist **citizens** to tackle key environmental issues affecting their own daily lives, in terms of health, resource supplies, job and growth opportunities.

> Governance

LifeWatch ERIC has implemented a multi-level governance model to ensure effective decision-making, smooth management, scientific integrity and transparency of its processes.

The **European Commission** provides the overarching legal framework for management and operations, while the **General Assembly**, composed of the Member Countries, has the overall power to approve implementation rules, guidelines and all other decisions required to ensure the optimal performance of tasks and activities within LifeWatch. The **Executive Board** ensures consistency, coherence and stability of the infrastructure's services through its oversight of implementation processes, as well as coordination between the Common Facilities and Distributed Centres. **Three auxiliary independent boards** are in the process of being established: the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board, an independent body of qualified scientists and experts that includes the Ethics Committee (STAB); the Financial Committee (FINCOM); the In-Kind Contribution Committee (IKCC).



The core structural components are the **three Common Facilities**, serving the entire ERIC and responsible for the implementation, coordination and management of all activities: the **Statutory Seat and ICT Core (SSO, ICT-Core)**; the **Service Centre (SC)**; and the **Virtual Lab and Innovation Centre (VLIC)**. These functions require highly qualified personnel who, as LifeWatch ERIC staff, ensure that the highest quality of services is delivered to the whole infrastructure. In 2019, 11.5 positions were filled across the three centres. The Common Facilities coordinate the contributions of the **Distributed Centres** (DCs), which are governed by Service Level Agreements (SLAs) that regulate their operations and the services provided to LifeWatch ERIC. Currently, there are four such DCs: Belgium, Greece, Portugal and Slovenia.

National Support Committees, under the supervision of the Common Facilities, help to connect the user communities.

> Structure

Common Facilities

Distributed Centres

--> Netherlands

The **Virtual Laboratories and Innovations Centre** coordinates and manages the requirements and needs analysis, the design and implementation of the scientific case studies and the products of the LifeWatch ERIC Virtual Laboratories.

--> Spain

The **Statutory Seat** and the **ICT e-Infrastructure Technical Offices** jointly assist the functioning of the infrastructure, the former being the coordinator of all legal, administrative and institutional activities, and the latter responsible for managing the distributed ICT e-Infrastructure operations and implementation.

--> Portugal

--> Belgium

--> Observer

Slovakia

--> Slovenia

--> Italy

The **Service Centre** provides the infrastructure's interface with its user communities, identifying their needs and making available the relevant services. It is also responsible for energising the active involvement of the European scientific community, for training and for LifeWatch ERIC's communication activities.

--> Greece

> The Staff

The Executive Board



Christos Arvanitidis
Chief Executive Officer



Juan Miguel González-Aranda
Chief Technology Officer



Lucas de Moncuit
Chief Financial Officer



Alberto Basset
Director of Service Centre



Peter H. Van Tienderen
Director of VLab & Innovations Centre

The Statutory Seat



Giovanna Caputi
National Nodes Operations Manager



Cristina Huertas-Olivares
International Initiatives & Projects Manager

The ICT e-Infrastructure Technical Office



Antonio José Sáenz Albanés
e-infrastructure Operation Coordinator



Francisco Manuel Sánchez Cano
e-infrastructure Resource Integration Coordinator

Service Centre



Nicola Fiore
Service Centre ICT Coordinator



Sara Montinaro
Chief Communication Officer



Julian Kenny
Communication Officer



Bénédicte Madon
Scientific Community Networking Officer



Patricia Szép
Fundraising & Administrative Assistant



Lucia Vaira
Web Portal Officer

VLab & Innovations Centre



Jacco Konijn
Project Manager VLab & Innovations Centre



Spiros Koulouzis
VRE Developer

2019

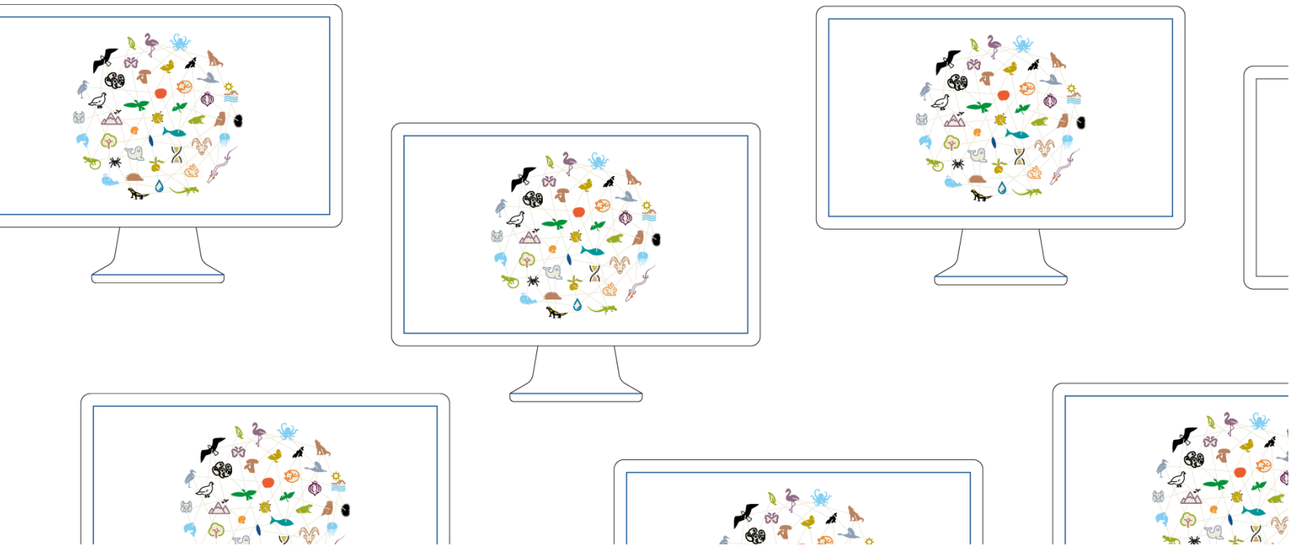
Operations & Achievements



Photo by CSIC-LW.ES
Birds in a tree at Doñana National Park, Spain

Operations & Achievements

There are three ingredients for the success of a distributed and virtual Research Infrastructure, such as LifeWatch ERIC: **(1) open access data, (2) reproducible analytics, and (3) mobilised communities.** In 2019, LifeWatch ERIC made it possible to start their integration at an accelerated pace. We took all the steps needed in order to open up to the broader community, scientific and engineering (ICT), and to start delivering what is required along our first period of implementation as an ERIC: 2017-2021.



> Starting-up

2019 marked a milestone in the story of LifeWatch ERIC. A formidable effort was required in order to achieve our scientific, technological and financial objectives and to take all the necessary steps to ensure the smooth operation of the infrastructure.

> Science in progress through disruptive technologies

The year 2019 was a turning point in the history of LifeWatch ERIC because it set in motion the implementation of our Strategic Working Plan for the period 2019-2021. This was the first period of full operability of the ERIC and it was dedicated to the **integration of the resources** developed by all the participating countries and institutions over the period 2011-2017. This period is also very important because it lays the foundations for the planning of the next stage of the ERIC's development, 2022-2026.

Some of these achievements have been received by the relevant communities as examples of **innovation**

breakthroughs and have helped LifeWatch ERIC to establish itself as an **irreplaceable Research Infrastructure on the global landscape**.

The primary scientific and technological outcomes of LifeWatch ERIC in 2019 were:

- The start of the **Internal Joint Initiative (IJI)** on the impacts of **non-indigenous invasive species (NIS)** on native species, genetic diversity, ecosystem functioning and services, as well as on our current practices in environmental management and policy implementation. This approach is entirely interdisciplinary and makes use of disruptive technologies (see below);
- The **LifeBlock** prototype, which deploys BlockChain technology for the integration, management and transparency of data and services;
- The **Tesseract** prototype, which forms the basic technological layer of the LifeWatch Research Infrastructure (RI). Tesseract ensures the **integration** (composability) of all the analytic services offered by the RI and is therefore instrumental in developing its Virtual Research Environment (VRE);
- The **systematisation** of all the **resources** of LifeWatch ERIC: the data, services and networks of our various communities;
- The release of **EcoPortal**, the first semantic resources catalogue for the biodiversity and ecosystem domain, providing innovative tools for discoverability and alignment.

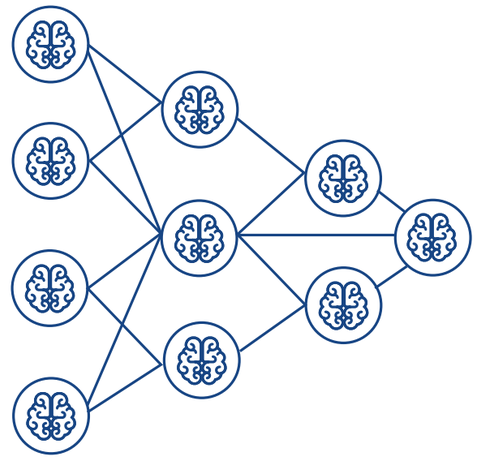
Both of the above prototypes have helped the relevant communities to realise how much there is to gain from their further development through the scientific initiative on NIS.

Modern science in the field increasingly makes use of disruptive technologies and instruments that necessitate novel ways of collaboration and optimal support for workflows for data analyses and modelling. The vision is that by using these **disruptive technologies**, LifeWatch ERIC offers a VRE in which users can enter, upload or explore data made available from international sources (e.g. GBIF, OBIS, etc.) and then make their own workflow or multiple workflows, run them and finally compare their results. The entire process, from the data end to the comparison of results, is packaged (containerised) and saved for further use or for submission to a journal when the results merit publication. This level of **composability** of **services** has **never been attempted before** and provides users with the freedom to make their own workflows depending on the hypothesis, data and the sequence of the services available (e.g. the output of the previous service to be used as input for the next). The entire process ensures **efficiency**, **transparency** and **reproducibility**, which all form the very foundations of the process of creating evidence-based knowledge.

From Brain-etics...



... to Brain-omics



Science is built on such knowledge. This is a turning point in the way we currently make science and it is based on three main components throughout the entire process: (a) open access data, (b) reproducible analytics, and (c) mobilised communities.

Another advantage with these LifeWatch prototypes is that the resources created by the investment of our member countries have become part of the general VRE - they can be combined in any possible way and therefore, their **value increases with time**. Also,

cross-domain research is widely supported which has, in turn, another massively positive effect: the de-fragmentation of our communities.

However, the most important **change** the above-mentioned achievements may bring is neither scientific, nor technological: it is **cultural**.

Our mission for the next period of LifeWatch ERIC now becomes *to turn scientists' attitude from working in isolation in a single-core PC and with licensed software into using and benefiting from an ecosystem of web services publicly available on the web site of the LifeWatch RI, with huge data management drive and support, storage capacity and computational power, which provides them not only with the capability to scale up their research interests and work on global hypotheses, but also ensures transparency, repeatability and attribution for their endeavours.*

All of the above constitutes the very fundamentals of the scientific method and production of knowledge. Therefore, the vision for LifeWatch ERIC must be to achieve **this ground-breaking change in the way most scientists on biodiversity and ecosystem research currently work**: *to change their everyday habits, by opening the LifeWatch RI web page as they turn on their PCs to use their preferred VREs. This change would direct most of the scientific effort from a single-core brain (SCBs) operation or "brain-etics", into high-performance brain network synthesis (HPBNs) or "brain-omics". This is a cultural change we have to push forward in our community.*

The first **National Support Networks** meeting was held in Pamplona (Spain), in March 2019. This meeting played a pivotal role for the seven Member States of LifeWatch ERIC in joining forces on the mobilisation of the communities and providing guidelines and best practices on how to organise the National Support Committee (NSC). Two proposals were developed: one for a common organisational scheme capable of mapping all our legal, administrative, scientific and technical issues; and another on the internal National Support Networks governance scheme. Finally, Dr Pedro Beja was elected as the Chair of the LW-NSC for one year.

LifeWatch ERIC fosters a '**Network of biodiversity and ecosystem knowledge**' to reach out to and serve a broad scientific community. In 2019, a directory of skills and capabilities within the organisation was developed, identifying gaps in knowledge to meet current and future needs. This was complemented by a strategically designed training offer for various biodiversity and ecosystem key stakeholder groups,





made available through LifeWatch ERIC's **e-Training platform and tools**, and also as offline workshops, summer/winter schools, and conferences.

LifeWatch ERIC opened up its scientific agenda to the community for the first time in Rome, May 2019. This was the **First Scientific Community Meeting**, where world-class authorities, both in science and in ICT engineering, were invited and presented the current frameworks and future challenges, not only for LifeWatch, but for all the environmental Research Infrastructures. Examples both from science and technology proliferated throughout the entire three-day meeting. The event extensively showed the complexity of biodiversity and associated research, which emerges at many levels such as those of domains and scales. This complexity is often the cause of confusion for many parts of the scientific community. For this reason, calls were made for the integration and reconstruction of the existing e-Infrastructure into a new one equipped with a sound composability layer to support the development and operation of the VREs. In parallel, the involvement not only of scientists from biology and ICT engineering but also from economics and the social sciences was proposed. This was identified as one of the previously missing links in the domain of biodiversity and biodiversity informatics. Observations from the audience included our current needs to: (a) coordinate the activities of the RIs, (b) increase our education and training on using the RIs, especially when it comes to broadening of scientific thinking and hypothesis formulation and testing, (c) add the missing satellite data, especially those from the socio-economic disciplines, and (d) implement a systemic approach to every particular challenge in biodiversity.

Early on in 2019, the Executive Board started the process of implementing this vision through its **Internal Joint Initiative (IJI)** on **non-indigenous invasive species**. The challenging goal for the year 2019 was the start of the **dialogue** between two broad categories of communities: **scientists** and **engineers (ICT)**. The most important challenge for the above communities to achieve a common understanding was again a cultural one: their different languages. The first priority therefore was to try to create a common language, starting from basic terms to be used in both disciplines.

Two workshops (Seville, October 2019 and Rome, December 2019) were organised:

- In the workshop held in Seville, the scientific community formulated several scientific questions that were not only of pure scientific interest, but also from the policy implementation and environmental management perspectives. These scientific questions were transformed into simple, schematic workflows in which the steps of data management and application of the analyses were paired with the analytical services made available by the LifeWatch ERIC RI. Particular emphasis was given to the language of this exercise: it needs to be an oversimplified language that can deliver the main components required in order to carry out those analyses and provide the scientists with the evidence needed to reply to the initial scientific questions. These schematic workflows were subsequently communicated to the ICT community so they could start their preparation for the second workshop.

▪ During the second workshop in Rome, at the end of the year, the ICT community assisted the scientists to transform their schematic workflows into a form that is understandable to the ICT community and ready to be further developed into real workflows, that is, pipelines of data management and analytic services which can run from top to bottom across the entire sequence of analyses required to produce the evidence needed to answer the scientific questions. Subsequently, planning the further development of the entire VRE for non-indigenous invasive species was delivered by the ICT team, along with a timetable properly marked with milestones and deliverables. This VRE will be the first step towards the integration of all the data and services available in LifeWatch ERIC.

Biodiversity Next was the international event, held in Leiden (the Netherlands) and with more than 750 participants from all over the world, where LifeWatch ERIC presented its achievements by means of oral presentations, posters and a dedicated booth. This participation sparked discussions with members of the scientific community, many of whom declared their interest in the operation of LifeWatch ERIC and its integrated data and services. In parallel, LifeWatch ERIC participated in the annual meeting of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Nodes meeting and made several interventions.

Finally, LifeWatch ERIC opened up dialogue with major ERICs and Research Infrastructures in Europe and globally, to cultivate greater collaboration: GBIF, OBIS, NEON, EMSO ERIC, EMBRC ERIC, EuroARGO ERIC, DiSSCo, eLTER, Danubius-RI, ELIXIR, CLRTAP-UNECE, Climate EIT-KIC, CAFF-AMBI, AIRCentre and others.

> European Union funded projects

ERIC FORUM Implementation project (ERIC FORUM)
This project brings together 20 established European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) and 3 ERICs in preparation to strengthen their coordination and enhance their collaborations. The strategic approach of the ERIC Forum will contribute to address critical challenges and develop best practices.

Towards a new EU-LAC partnership in Research Infrastructures (ResInfra EU-LAC)
This project aims to promote collaboration among Research Infrastructures from the EU and countries from Latin America and the Caribbean.

ENVRI-FAIR
The overarching goal of the ENVRI-FAIR project is to connect the Environmental Research Infrastructure (ENVRI) community to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC). Participating research infrastructures (RIs) of the environmental domain cover the subdomains of Atmosphere, Marine, Solid Earth and Biodiversity/ Ecosystems and thus address the Earth system in its full complexity.

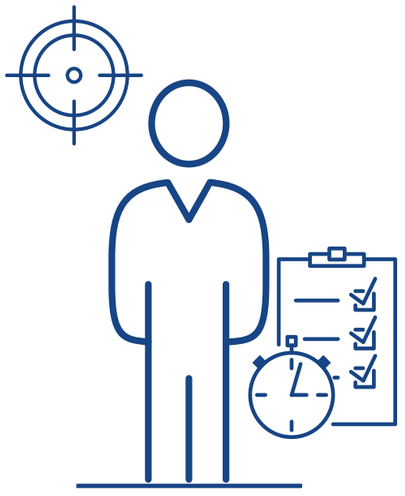
> Gearing up LifeWatch ERIC as an organisation

During 2019, the great bulk of the planned administrative, legal and financial activities were either completed or developed up to a level of maturity which will ensure their proper completion in the year

2020. In this way, LifeWatch ERIC became a fully operational organisation, with **clarity**, **transparency** and **efficiency** in **all** of its **operations**: administrative, legal and financial.
The year started with the recruitment of the new **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of LifeWatch ERIC through an open and transparent procedure, which involved an open call for candidates, and an Evaluation Committee whose proceedings were approved, resulting in the ratification of the results of the CEO by the Extraordinary General Assembly, held on April 15, 2019.
The same open and transparent procedure was followed for the employment of the remaining senior Officers of LifeWatch ERIC: the **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)** and the **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)**.

Regrettably, the newly elected Chairman of the General Assembly, Mr. Marc René de Jong passed away just before the fourth General Assembly. That Assembly then unanimously voted Mr. Gert Verreet, former vice-Chairman and acting Chairman after the former Chairman's demise, as Chairman of the General Assembly of LifeWatch ERIC.

The fifth General Assembly, held in Leuven (Belgium), witnessed the first scientific and technological results produced by LifeWatch ERIC. Operational activities were accelerated and LifeWatch ERIC was brought much closer to becoming a fully operational Research Infrastructure and ERIC.



Examples of such activities include:
▪ The Rules for Procedure of the LifeWatch ERIC General Assembly;
▪ The Rules of Procedure for the Scientific and Technical Advisory Board (STAB);
▪ The first version of the Service Level Agreement template (SLA);
▪ The Rules of Procedure and the first version of the contractual templates and guidelines for the In-Kind Contribution Committee (IKCC);
▪ The employment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
▪ The employment of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO);
▪ The initiation of recruitment for the Chief Financial Officer (CFO);
▪ The initiation of the process to establish the Scientific & Technical Advisory Board (STAB); and
▪ The establishment of the National Support Networks.

In parallel, LifeWatch ERIC:
▪ Made presentations at many national, European and international Conferences, Symposia, Workshops, project and other type of meetings;
▪ Participated in the activities of recently funded projects;
▪ Was involved in the drafting process and submission of several proposals;
▪ Created synergies with other European and international Research Infrastructures, organisations and initiatives in order to define areas of collaboration, plan for synergies and provide in common assistance to address EU policies.

During 2019, LifeWatch ERIC established and built the strength of its **Communication Office**. The distributed nature of the LifeWatch ERIC infrastructure demands a central hub to enact a strategic approach for communications, embedding national communicators in a distributed integrated network, ensuring that the brand is presented in a professional, consistent manner, guaranteeing specialised professional skills, the coordination and implementation of communication activities across different media at the European level.

> Financial Statements 2019

Remarks

Accounting and financial reporting framework

As there is not yet a specific accounting regulation for ERICs in Spain, the members of the Executive Board have decided to prepare these Abridged Financial Statements of Special Purpose in accordance with the Spanish General Accounting Plan, adapted to non-profit entities and entities without lucrative purposes (abridged model). The legal framework is set under Law 10/2005, of May 31, on Foundations of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia and under compulsory regulations approved by the Institute of Accounting and Audit of Accounts in development of the General Accounting Plan and its complementary regulations. This framework applies in all its aspects except as regards the in-kind contributions, which are currently being assessed by the In-Kind Contribution Committee, whose inaugural meeting was held on April 24th 2020.

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents
The balance of €4.043.292,62 represents cash deposited at four financial institutions in Italy, Spain and the Netherlands to facilitate liquidity management of the three Common Facilities.
The cash position comes from 3 different sources:
- Reserves carried-over from previous years and surplus from 2019;
- In-cash contributions from Members;
- Pre-financing for two European projects ENVRI-FAIR and ERIC FORUM received in 2019.

Accounts receivable
The amount recognised in this section corresponds to the contributions of ERIC members pending collection at December 31, 2019.

Equity & Liabilities

Equity
Accumulated surpluses from previous years amount to €2.833.710,74, while the 2019 surplus amounts to €1.028.734,42.

Advanced payments from projects externally funded
In 2019, pre-financing was received from the EC for the ERIC FORUM. The liability of €508.012,09 represents the non-executed part of the received pre-financing relecting the accrual progress of the two projects for the period January-December 2019.

Profit & Loss

Income
The income statement for 2019 includes:
1. Revenues equivalent to the estimated costs of ENVRI-FAIR and ERIC FORUM projects incurred in 2019
2. In-cash contributions from Members: the amount of the revenue is equivalent to the contributions of the Member States for the financial year 2019.

Personnel expenses
Personnel expenses as of December 31 totalled €865.440,03 including the remuneration of Senior Management of €238.515,33.

Personnel structure
As of 31 December 2019, LifeWatch ERIC was composed of 11.5 full-time equivalent positions, an increase of over 9 employees during 2019. Of them, one was hired specifically for the H2020 ENVRI-FAIR project.



Abridged Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2019

Assets	2019	2018	2017
Non-current assets	**58.621,36**	**53.419,66**	**-**
Intangible assets	13.859,96	26.519,73	-
Tangible assets	44.761,40	26.899,93	-
Total current assets	**4.400.312,89**	**2.863.130,04**	**1.531.048,50**
Users and others accounts receivables for the Association's own activity	351.003,00	108.676,00	710.936,00
Current investments	244,19	-	-
Prepayments for current assets	5.773,08	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents	4.043.292,62	2.754.454,04	820.112,50
Total Assets	**4.458.934,25**	**2.916.549,70**	**1.531.048,50**

Equity & Liabilities	2019	2018	2017
Equity	**3.862.445,16**	**2.833.710,74**	**1.531.048,50**
Equity	3.862.445,16	2.833.710,74	-
Profit/(Losses) from previous years and other	2.833.710,74	1.531.048,50	-
Profit/(loss) for the period	1.028.734,42	1.302.662,24	1.531.048,50
Total equity	**3.862.445,16**	**2.833.710,74**	**1.531.048,50**
Current liabilities	**596.489,09**	**82.838,96**	**-**
Current payables	**508.012,09**	**-**	**-**
Advanced payments from projects externally funded	508.012,09	-	-
Trade and other payables	**88.477,00**	**82.838,96**	**-**
Other trade payables	19.568,36	38.651,16	-
Personnel (salaries payable)	2.840,25	3.093,98	-
Accounts payable to Public Administrations	66.068,39	41.093,82	-
Total Equity & Liabilities	**4.458.934,25**	**2.916.549,70**	**1.531.048,50**

Abridged Profit and Loss Account as of December 31, 2019

Operating Profit/(loss)	2019	2018	2017
Association's own activity income	**2.411.313,33**	**1.735.592,80**	**1.531.074,00**
Operating grants taken to income	2.411.313,33	1.735.592,80	1.531.074,00
Operating expenses	**(1.380.714,72)**	**(432.930,56)**	**(25,50)**
Personnel expenses	(865.440,03)	(272.418,77)	-
Depreciation and amortisation	(22.968,08)	(1.045,29)	-
Other operating expenses	(492.306,61)	(159.466,50)	-
Other results	**(1.864,19)**	**-**	**(25,50)**
Operating Profit/(loss)	**1.028.734,42**	**1.302.662,24**	**1.531.048,50**
Consolidated Profit/(loss) before taxes	**1.028.734,42**	**1.302.662,24**	**1.531.048,50**
Income tax	-	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the period	**1.028.734,42**	**1.302.662,24**	**1.531.048,50**

These financial statements were approved by the LifeWatch ERIC General Assembly members on June 29, 2020.

> Looking ahead

LifeWatch ERIC is already on its way to fulfilling its main mission and vision.

Our next steps to achieve our mission and vision will be:

1. To enhance our position in the European and global landscape of Research Infrastructures;

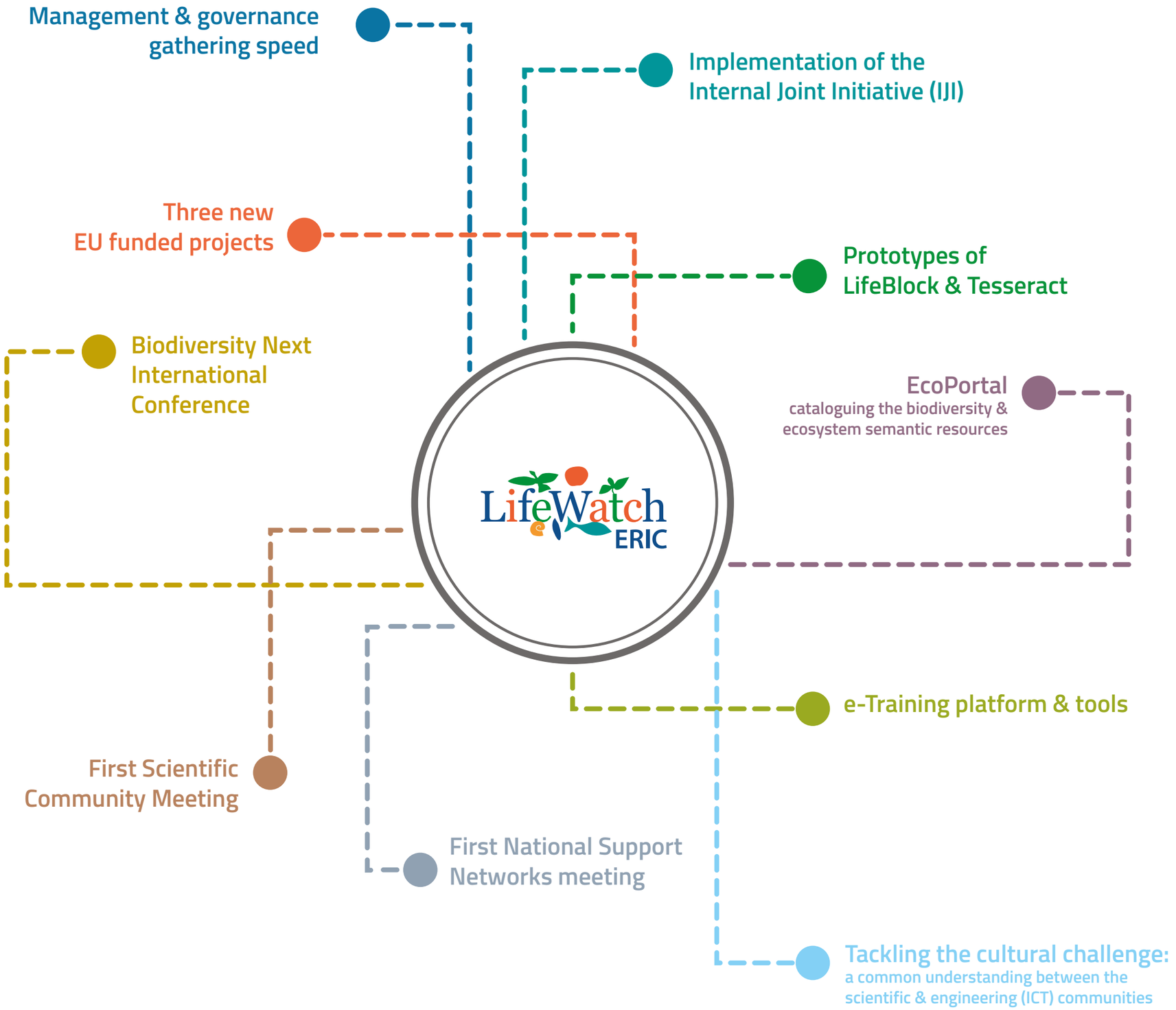
2. To continue the implementation of our Internal Joint Initiative and complete our composability layer to facilitate the integration of all of our resources;

3. To foster collaboration with our national distributed nodes as well as with the other ERICs and Research Infrastructures at European and global levels;

4. To continue and extend our dialogue with Stakeholders;

5. To accelerate our efforts to tackle the major challenge to making our vision a reality: the cultural challenge.

> Highlights



Acknowledgements



© Photo by Thanos Dailianis, LifeWatch Greece
Tentacular crown of the polychaete species *Sabella pavonina*

Acknowledgements

LifeWatch ERIC is grateful to its members and representing entities for their support of our operations and achievements:

LifeWatch ERIC

Statutory Seat

Plaza España SN,
SECTOR II-III
41013 Seville (Spain)

Tax Identification Number
N9101001G

This report was approved by the LifeWatch ERIC General Assembly in June 2020 and is available on the LifeWatch ERIC website in the Documents section **www.lifewatch.eu/documents**.
This report was printed in July 2020 on FSC® Recycled Credit with 100% recycled fibre paper.

www.lifewatch.eu

@LifeWatchERIC

ERICLifeWatch

LifeWatch ERIC

info@lifewatch.eu