

The National Hellenic Research Foundation represents the Hellenic Republic in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium «Integrated Structural Biology», Instruct-ERIC as an Observer



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On July 4th 2017, the European Commission decided to set up the legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium of «Integrated Structural Biology» under the name «Instruct-ERIC»¹. The objective of Instruct-ERIC is to establish a pan-European Research Infrastructure, which will provide access to the community of structural biology users, to Instruct centres after evaluation.

The research infrastructure will offer users specialized expertise in integrative structural cell biology and high quality training in cutting-edge technologies and will coordinate networking and dissemination activities promoting the available services. The ultimate aim of Instruct-ERIC is understanding of protein function at cellular level based on their three dimensional structure at high resolution. The results produced by the infrastructure will have a plethora of applications in the fields of health and drug design, in life sciences, in food and biotechnology and biomaterials.

The 14 members of Instruct-ERIC include Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL). Out of these, Greece, Spain, Sweden and the EMBL, have made known their decision to participate in Instruct-ERIC initially as an observer, being connected but not having free access to Instruct centres without paying any fee to the infrastructure for maximum two years. The celebration of the Commission's decision for Instruct-ERIC award was organized by the

United Kingdom, coordinator of the infrastructure and was held in London on the 17th of July at Royal Society.

The National Hellenic Research Foundation was invited by the Instruct coordinators to participate in the preparatory phase of the European infrastructure operation in 2008 and since then, NHRF represents the Greek structural biology users community, whose interest has been on the increase. The non-stop efforts of NHRF and the Greek structural biologists in Greece and abroad, to reinforce scientific excellence and performance of competitive research in the field, led to the recognition of structural biology as a national priority that was also included in the national roadmap for research infrastructures, keeping the affiliation with the European RI, Instruct.

Especially for Greece, access to the facilities available at Instruct centres and the high quality training and transfer of knowledge provided young scientist to the latest technological advances is vital for performing innovative research. The aim of Greek scientists working on different aspects of integrative structural biology employing experimental (in vitro) and computational (in silico) approaches, as well as those that work on data management emerging from complementary and/or horizontal cooperative activities with other European research infrastructures, is for Greece to become full member of Instruct-ERIC and centre for structural biology users of the South East Europe and Mediterranean area.

NHRF has been authorized to represent Greece in Instruct-ERIC with Dr V. Gregoriou, President of NHRF as primary observer at the Instruct-ERIC council, Dr E.D. Chrysinas, Senior Researcher of IBMCB-NHRF as primary observer at the Instruct-ERIC Executive committee and Ms M. Koutroki, MSc, GR's delegation member to ESFRI, International S&T Cooperation Directorate, European Union Division, GSRT as deputy representative to both.

Related links

1. Website of Instruct-ERIC: <http://www.instruct-eric.eu>
2. Press release of Instruct-ERIC: <http://www.instruct-eric.eu/news/instruct-eric-was-launched-at-a-ceremony-in-london/>

3. European Commission's decision for the establishment of Instruct-ERIC:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2017:173:TOC>

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