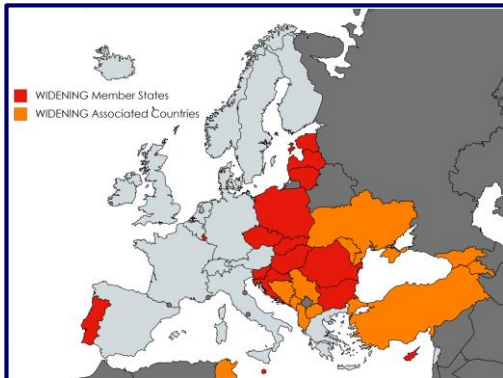


Widening Research Infrastructures in the ERA

Research Infrastructures are distributed unevenly across Europe. Usually, the bigger the research community on a topic, the denser the local facilities footprint. This has the potential to enforce a positive feedback loop with negative consequences for the cohesion of the ERA, in which disparities increase.

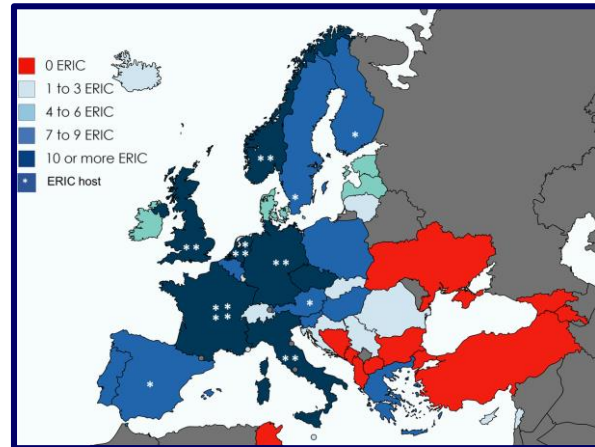
The **H2020 – WIDENING** Programme provides some tools to close the gap, through the installation of **Centres of Excellence, Hiring of top talent and networking** of Research communities from WIDENING countries and top-level research centres across Europe.



EU Member States and H2020 Associated countries eligible to coordinate H2020-WIDENING projects

What about Research Infrastructures?

Unevenness in the geographical coverage and membership of Research Infrastructures can not only bring **negative consequences** for the local research communities in underserved countries. It can also **decrease the quality of the scientific output.**, by reducing the amount and quality of data that help identifying patterns and feed **global models**.



Membership in the 19 European Research Infrastructures established as ERIC* (as of April 2018) by EU Member States and H2020 Associated countries.

*European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) is a legal form that facilitates the establishment and operation of research infrastructures in Europe

Different ways to Widen

The RICH project organized an *Expert Seminar on Widening Research Infrastructures in the ERA* (Prague, 19th of April, 2018). Guests **Ana Alselmo** (HZB, CALIPSOplus), **Eija Juurola** (ICOS ERIC) and **Allen Weeks** (ELI-DC) shared their views on 3 approaches to Widening the reach of Research Infrastructures.

Engage larger user base



CALIPSOplus offers **Transnational Access** to 14 Synchrotrons and 8 Free Electron Lasers in 12 countries. To enlarge the user base, the project engages with potential new users of light sources through direct **promotion in target low-user countries** and a **Twinning programme** that pairs newcomers with experienced users.

Expand ERIC membership



Geography is of particular interest for **Environmental Research Infrastructures**. ICOS has currently 11 member countries + 1 observer. Through the **RINGO project**, membership is expected to grow, which will **improve** GHG balance studies, finding **synergies** with other research infrastructures and **strengthen the ERA**.

Build facility first



Research Infrastructures are physically installed unevenly across Europe, feeding a positive feedback loop which favors **concentration of research communities**. The Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) will be the first ESFRI ERIC hosted by EU13 countries (HU, RO, CZ). Qualified scientists will start a **virtuous cycle** in these local communities.