

eLTER RI FUNDING MODEL

The eLTER Preparatory Phase Project (eLTER PPP) prepares the funding model for the implementation and operation of the eLTER Research Infrastructure (eLTER RI). The funding model covers the budgets of eLTER Central Components, including the eLTER ERIC Head Office and Topic Centres. The eLTER ERIC budget is under the decision-making power of the eLTER Interim Council and later the eLTER ERIC General Assembly. The location of Topic Centres budgets depends on the final agreements with the eLTER ERIC. They can legally form part of the eLTER ERIC or remain outside with appropriate organisational connections according to the eLTER Integrated Governance. The funding model consists of Host contributions and Membership fees ensuring a sustainable basis for the operations of the RI. The budgets of National RIs (NRI, i.e., the Sites and Platforms) are mostly covered by national funding sources.



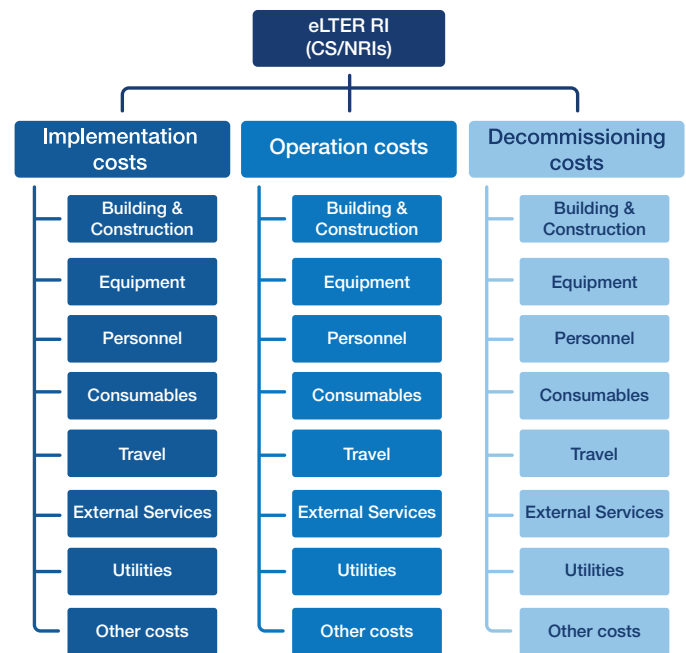
The eLTER RI funding model is the sustainable funding plan and the basis for defining the costs and revenues to the ERIC, the Central Services outside the eLTER ERIC (the RI's legal entity) and the National RI (NRI) during the implementation and operation of the RI.

Costs

The eLTER Cost book collects information from costs involved in constructing and operating both the Central Services and the sites and platforms, including the costs of personnel, premises, instrumentation, consumables, services etc. The costs of Site operations depend on the site category and focus on Standard Observations.

Revenues

The eLTER ERIC, comprising the Head Office and potentially some Topic Centres will incur operational costs that will be covered largely by its Members' public funding. The budget revenues can be divided into two main components: the Host (Premium) Contributions (contribution of the country hosting a given service) and the Membership Fees (paid by each member country according to certain criteria). Based on experiences from other ERICs, we expect a minimum of 50% Host Premium Contribution¹



during the Operational Phase when eLTER ERIC is established. Host Premium Contributions can be made in cash or partly in-kind (to be discussed and decided by the General Assembly). The rest of the expenditures of the Central Services shall be covered by annual Membership Fees towards eLTER ERIC. The eLTER RI financial planning period is 5 years.

¹ 'Host Premium Contribution' is provided by the Member (and/or Permanent Observer) countries hosting the eLTER Central Service within eLTER ERIC. If a Central Service is situated outside of ERIC, we use 'Host Contribution'.

The schematic financial flows in the operational phase of eLTER RI are illustrated in Figure 1.

The suggested model for calculating the Membership fee is based on Equal share, GDP and Site number. Membership Fees for the Observers and other associated members (e.g. intergovernmental organisations) will be computed separately.

Expenses for the eLTER Site and eLTSER Platform construction and operations will be mainly covered by national funding. Their mechanisms differ between countries, and in some cases external income from other projects, or through industry collaboration may be used. A potential access compensation from the eLTER ERIC may cover part of the operational costs incurred from provisioning the services to the ERIC.

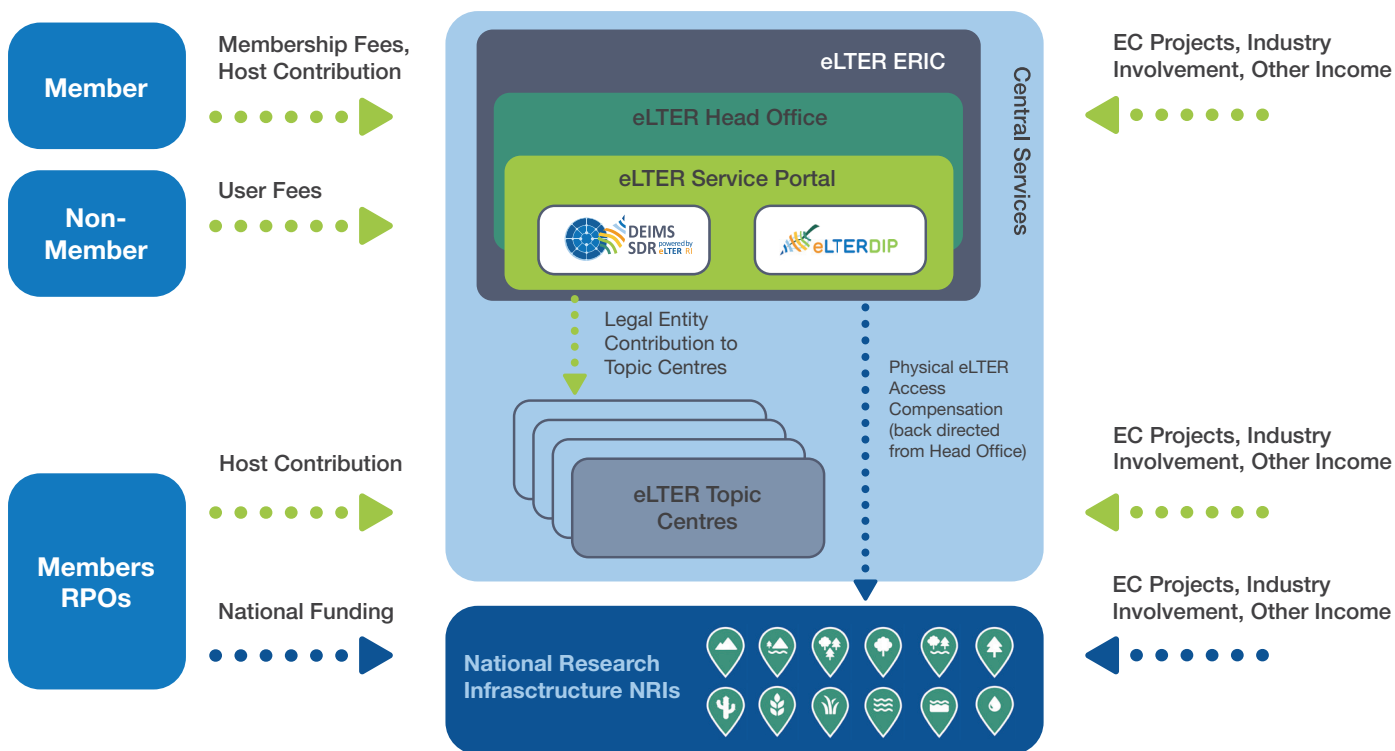
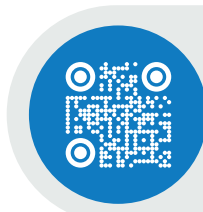


Fig. 1: Schematic financial flows during operation of eLTER RI. Green arrows are revenues to Central Components (Head Office, Service Portal, Topic Centres), and blue arrows are revenues for NRI. DIP is eLTER Data Integration Platform and RPO is Research Performing Organisation.



For more information, please scan the code or visit <https://elter-ri.eu/elter-ri>