

**European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) strengthen collaboration
14 ERICs sign Memorandum of Understanding to establish the ERIC forum**

Munich, May 2017. During the 6th ERIC Network meeting in Helsinki, Finland, all ERICs have agreed to further intensify their collaboration and to set up the ERIC Forum. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the ERIC forum was signed by all 14 ERICs, including SHARE.

The meeting took place on the 9th & 10th of May 2017 and brought together representatives from all ERICs, research infrastructures aspiring ERIC status, as well as national governments and the European Commission.

In particular, the objectives of the MoU are to identify common challenges and to jointly develop responses to them, to contribute to the further development of the ERIC Regulation and European and international research context, and to foster the visibility, impact and sustainability of ERICs.

The MoU is not legally binding but reflects a spirit of collaboration between the Forum members and is an important step towards future cooperation. According to the MoU, the ERIC forum shall meet twice a year. The next meeting will be held in Graz, Austria in November 2017.

European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs) are specific legal forms to facilitate the establishment and operation of research infrastructures with European interest. The Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) became the first European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) in March 2011. This gives it legal personality and capacity in all EU Member States and other partner countries of the ERIC.

About SHARE:

SHARE, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) is a multidisciplinary and cross-national panel database of micro data on health, socio-economic status and social and family networks of more than 120,000 individuals (approximately 300,000 interviews) from 20 European countries and Israel (Wave 1 to 6) aged 50 or older. The data are available to the entire research community free of charge. SHARE responds to a Communication by the European Commission calling to "examine the possibility of establishing, in co-operation with Member States, a European Longitudinal Ageing Survey". SHARE has become a major pillar of the European Research Area, selected as one of the projects to be implemented in the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) in 2006 and given a new legal status as the first ever European Research Infrastructure Consortium (SHARE-ERIC) in March 2011. SHARE is centrally coordinated by Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan, Ph.D. at the Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA), Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy.

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