

EPOS SP, a new EC project to support the EPOS transition toward operational phase

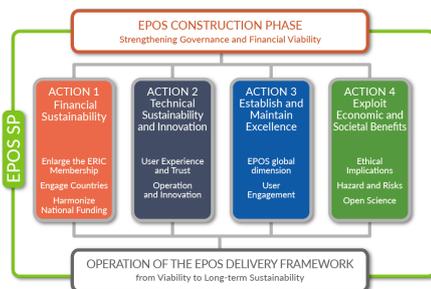
Daniela Mercurio

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and

EPOS ERIC Executive
Coordination Office

INGV, Italy



EPOS ERIC will lead the new stage of the EPOS Research Infrastructure (RI) lifecycle by exploiting the successful results achieved during the Implementation Phase (October 2015 - September 2019).

The European Commission (EC) is supporting EPOS in this crucial transition from implementation to operation through the EPOS SP (Sustainability Phase) project that has been funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020, INFRADEV-3 call, under Grant Agreement No. 871121. The call concerned the development and long-term sustainability of new pan-European research infrastructures.

The EPOS SP project will start on the 1st of February 2020 and will last for three years. It involves twenty-four beneficiaries from seventeen European countries.

The overall objective of the project is to perform activities aimed at ensuring the long-term sustainability of the EPOS Research Infrastructure as the Europe's key Research Infrastructures for the Solid Earth Science.

The EPOS SP project will support the EPOS Delivery Framework to:

- **secure governance and financial sustainability** through the entire research infrastructure lifecycle: main focus will be given to engage new countries to join EPOS ERIC and to harmonize national funding,
- **secure technical sustainability and develop innovation** to fully exploit data and service provision: this will be achieved by ensuring the delivery of robust services in an environment suitable for increasing end-user trust and encouraging new communities to join EPOS as both data providers and data users,
- **establish and maintain excellence** by preserving and reinforcing the trust and awareness of users: this will be

achieved by opening scientific data, products, and facilities to as wide as possible reservoir of scientists and other stakeholders. It will be strategic as more and more skilled users will use the data to tackle the most challenging and significant scientific and societal issues related to Earth Science,

- **exploit economic and societal benefits** to keep stakeholders engaged: main focus will be on EPOS needs to sharpen its capacity in translating the various services of a research infrastructure into valuable applications for society and industry.

The EPOS SP project is timely and crucial for the solid Earth community as it is committed to preserve the successful achievements of the EPOS IP project and building on them to develop a sustainability plan for the entire Delivery Framework to be endorsed and adopted by EPOS [ERIC](#). Moreover, the EPOS SP project will be a fundamental contribution to the EPOS [ERIC](#) Strategic Plan 2020-2022.

*Figure EPOS SP concept design. The current challenge of strengthening governance and financial viability is implemented through four strategic actions embedding the specific objectives of the project; each of this action foresees activities to be performed in dedicated work packages and designed to achieve the final goal of moving from financial viability to long-term sustainability of the EPOS Delivery Framework.

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