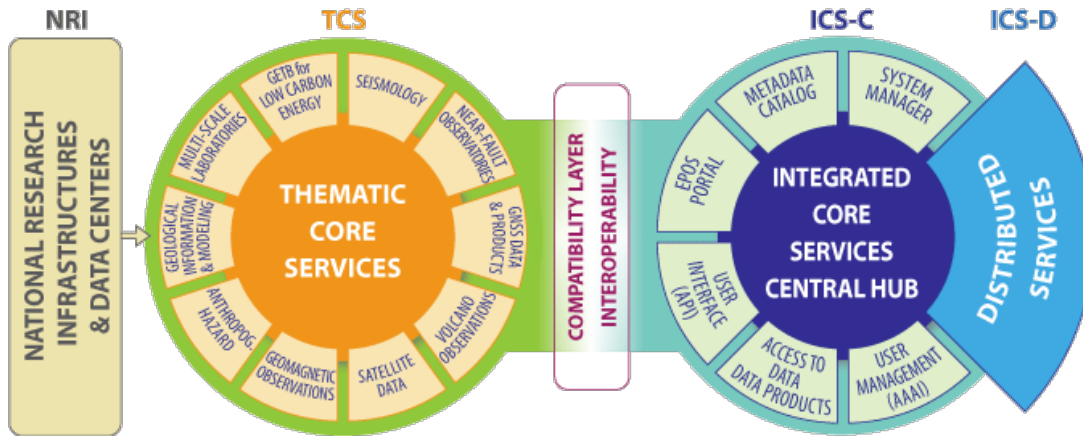


How EPOS Works



The EPOS architecture

EPOS is integrating a set of diverse European Earth Science National Research Infrastructures ([NRI](#)) into one single interoperable platform. The programme will develop implementation plans and use new e-science opportunities to monitor and understand the dynamic and complex solid Earth system.

The NRIs participating in the EPOS integration plan already exist and are fully operational, providing access to data and services for specific communities at national level. European countries together own such a mosaic of hundreds of impressive but separated NRIs that includes geophysical networks, observatories, temporary deployments, laboratories and modeling facilities for solid Earth studies.

In order to govern the integration of this complex landscape, EPOS has elaborated an architecture, designed by the scientific community and approved by the Board of Governmental Representatives, that, taking into account [technical](#), [governance](#) and [legal](#), and [financial](#) issues, will allow the enterprise to work as a single, but distributed, sustainable research infrastructure.

Three complementary elements form the EPOS Architecture:

- National Research Infrastructures ([NRI](#))
- Thematic Core Services ([TCS](#))
- Integrated Core Services: central hub ([ICS-C](#)) and distributed services ([ICS-D](#)).

These three, key, elements represents the scientific/technical backbone of the whole enterprise.