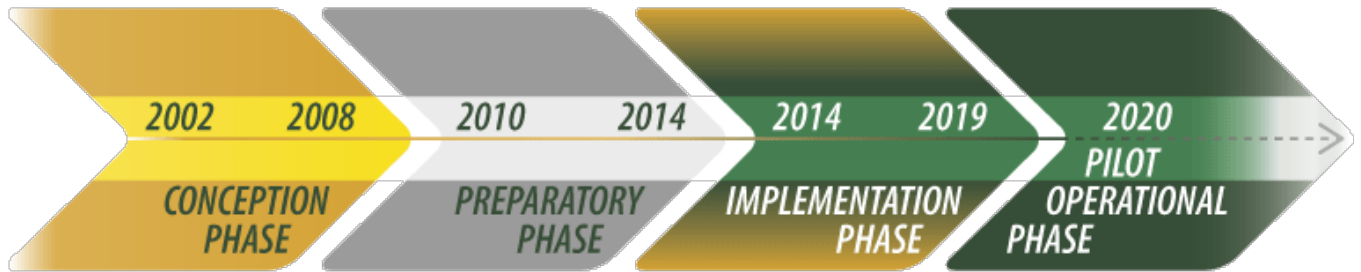


EPOS Preparatory Phase



The EPOS Preparatory Phase (PP) ran from 2010-2014 and was funded under the European Commission's FP7 Work Programme. The project included 20 partners from 18 countries and one international organization (ORFEUS). Five countries were associate partners and there was one international organization (EMSC).

The EPOS Preparatory Phase was key for the implementation of the pan-European research infrastructure for solid Earth science that EPOS will become.

The EPOS Preparatory Phase project had the ambitious goal of creating the conditions for the integration of existing and future national and international research infrastructures (RIs) in Europe with the final goal of improving access to data, products and services. This has been possible because the national governments fully support EPOS and, in turn, because EPOS ensures that the services chosen to be implemented respect national priorities and strategic visions. 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.

EPOS PP has been a successful project, which made the infrastructure ready for its implementation, because:

- the technical design of the Thematic and Integrated Core Services has been shared and agreed with the communities, successfully engaged during the preparatory phase;
- the legal, governance, and financial models have been discussed and agreed with the governmental representatives and research institutions successfully engaged during the preparatory phase;
- it has been positively evaluated by EC and ESFRI and included within the top-three ESFRI infrastructures for implementation by the EU Competitiveness Council;
- It succeeded in integrating the solid Earth European scientific community providing a global perspective and an effective possibility to exploit results;
- its innovation level and impact will likely go beyond solid Earth Sciences and involve society;
- its attractiveness for engaging the private sector and industry is high and exploitable.