

The European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (E-RIHS): an infrastructure for an interdisciplinary scientific domain

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Abstract:

Heritage is a key component of the European identity. The study and preservation of cultural and natural heritage is a global challenge for science and the European society at large. The European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science (E-RIHS) supports research on heritage interpretation, preservation, documentation and management. State-of-the-art tools and services will be provided by cross-disciplinary groups of researchers to cross-disciplinary users and scientific communities working to advance knowledge about heritage and to devise innovative strategies for its preservation. E-RIHS connects researchers in the humanities and natural sciences and fosters a trans-disciplinary culture of exchange and cooperation. E-RIHS pursues the integration of European world-class facilities to create a cohesive entity playing a connecting role in the global community of heritage science

E-RIHS will provide access through four platforms: ARCHLAB, providing access to archives of technical images, analytical data and conservation documentation of prestigious European museums and conservation and research institutions; DIGILAB, to provide virtual access to digital data for heritage science, making them FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable); FIXLAB, providing access to large and medium-scale facilities offering unique expertise in the heritage field; and MOLAB, by which mobile laboratories including advanced mobile analytical instrumentation will be available to carry out in-situ investigations.

E-RIHS was included in the ESFRI 2016 Roadmap update, and is currently working towards its establishment as a distributed research infrastructure with the legal form of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). It will have a star design, with a Central Hub in Florence (Italy), and National Hubs in each participating country.

In this conference, the vision and structure of E-RIHS, and the advancements towards the setting up of the ERIC and the National Hubs will be presented, with a special focus on the development of the Spanish National Hub, E-RIHS.es

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