



Horizon Europe

Project: 101079789

**D5.1 - Updated Governance and management
structure and implementation report
WP 5 – Governance & Legal Framework**

WP Leader:	MU
Date:	Sep. 2023
Nature:	DEC
Dissemination level:	Public



*Funded by the
European*

Document Information

Grant Agreement Number	101079789	Acronym	EIRENE PPP
Full title	EIRENE PPP		
Project URL	https://www.eirene-ri.eu/		
Project Officer	Emiliano Carozza - Emiliano.CAROZZA@ec.europa.eu		

Delivery date	Contractual	30/09/2023	Actual	30/09/2023
Status	Draft /Final			
Nature	DEC			
Dissemination level	Confidential /Public			

Responsible Partner	MU		
Responsible Author	Shachar Dvir	E-mail	shachar.dvir@recetox.muni.cz
	Partner	MU	Phone
Other authors			

Document History

Institution	Date	Version
MU	30/09/2023	v.01

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Main Components of EIRENE	4
General Assembly (GA)	4
Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) / Ethics Advisory Board (EAB)	4
Stakeholders Forum (SF)	5
EIRENE Head Office (EHO)	5
Director-General (DG)	5
Management Board (MB)	5
Extended Management Board (EMB)	6
Exposome Hub (Xhub)	6
Central Coordination Units (CCU)	6
National Nodes (NN)	7
Annex 1: Examples of ERIC structures	10

Introduction

EIRENE is a distributed research infrastructure whose structure models existing ESFRI Research Infrastructure Projects and Landmarks (e.g., ICOS, BBMRI, ACTRIS, etc.). This model, developed over many years by ESFRI RIs, has proven very efficient for coordinating and managing large pan-European research infrastructures. The development of EIRENE follows the five-phase (Design, Preparation, Implementation, Operation, and Decommissioning) ESFRI lifecycle. EIRENE is currently in the Preparatory phase and plans to establish itself as an ERIC (i.e., a legal entity) during the subsequent Implementation phase. The development phases require unique governance structures. Here, we concentrate on the final structure envisioned for when EIRENE becomes fully operational, but we also describe the intermediate structures and how they will be implemented. Until EIRENE is established as an ERIC, the governance (management) is predominantly project-based through EC-funded consortium agreements (such as in the EIRENE PPP project). This document also describes the basic architecture of EIRENE to provide a more complete picture of the entire organization. This will also facilitate understanding the components that comprise the various bodies.

Main Components of EIRENE

General Assembly (GA)

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of EIRENE and the ultimate decision-making body. It is composed of the country representatives (two each) of EIRENE Members and Observers and is responsible for the overall direction and supervision of EIRENE. They are elected and act on behalf of their respective national authorities responsible for research infrastructures (e.g., ministries of research, science, education, etc.). Representatives can also be accompanied by their own expert advisors. The GA has a Chair and at least one Vice-Chair elected at the first meeting of the GA. The GA meets regularly, at least once a year. In extraordinary cases, the Director-General can call a special meeting or conference call.

Among others, the GA decides on the admission or removal of Members and Observers, approves the strategy, budget, and financial statements, elects the Director-General, and approves changes to the Statutes. Decisions of the GA are supported by the advisory bodies, Director-General, Stakeholders forum, and others. During the interim period, members of the future GA will serve in an advisory function as members of the Stakeholders Forum.

Interim General Assembly (IGA)

The Interim General Assembly is composed of the representatives of the countries currently involved in EIRENE. Specifically, it includes the EIRENE PPP project partners. Once EIRENE becomes an ERIC, members of the IGA will become part of the Extended Management Board. The Interim General Assembly is responsible for the development, negotiation, and approval of constitutional documents (such as statute and financial rules), legal structure, financial plans, data policies, access policies, staffing plans, organizational structure, and all relevant guidelines for operating the EIRENE Research Infrastructure. The IGA will monitor the tasks assigned to the Interim EIRENE Head and ensure that the preparation and implementation phase activities are accomplished according to the schedule. The IGA will work according to its own rules and procedures.

Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) / Ethics Advisory Board (EAB)

The advisory boards consist of five to seven independent, internationally recognized external experts such as Director-Generals of complementary ESFRI RIs (e.g., ICOS, ACTRIS, BBMRI, etc.), lawyers, financial experts, etc. They support the decision-making of the General Assembly and the operations of EIRENE by providing input on scientific matters, such as focus, orientation, and future development, on concrete technical or technological issues, and regarding the commercial markets and international trends. Through their activities, they also promote the strengthening and spreading of excellence within the consortium and across Europe.

Interim Scientific & Implementation Advisory Board (ISIAB)

The composition of the ISIAB is similar to the future ISAB but focuses primarily on the development (implementation) of EIRENE. The members of ISIAB will be selected by the Interim Management Board, and approved by the Interim General Assembly. The ISIAB shall meet at least twice a year, and provide a yearly report to the Interim General Assembly.

Stakeholders Forum (SF)

The Stakeholders Forum will include a wide range of stakeholders, such as members of the European Commission, policymakers, funding agencies, users, industry, ESFRI, NGOs, citizens, etc. Additional ad hoc or permanent forums will be established depending on the needs.

Interim Stakeholders Forum (ISF)

The Interim Stakeholders Forum will consist of similar members and functions as the Stakeholders Forum. Nonetheless, during the interim period, the ISF will also include country representatives acting on behalf of their respective national authorities who are responsible for research infrastructures (e.g., ministries

EIRENE Head Office (EHO)

The EIRENE-ERIC Head Office will be responsible for the operational management of EIRENE, supporting all its functions (e.g., financial, human resources, training, communication, etc.). Among others, the EHO will be responsible for providing organizational support to EIRENE Members and Observers and the user community, preparation of annual work plan, budget, reports, financial statements, audits, and contract management, ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of EIRENE through strategic planning, evaluation of the performance of the National Nodes and Central Coordination Units, development of standard operating procedures and operational documents based on best practices, and risk management.

EIRENE Coordination Team (ECT)

The EIRENE Coordination Team, based in the Czech Republic, is responsible for coordinating all the activities of EIRENE.

Director-General (DG)

The Director-General, appointed by the GA, is the legal representative of EIRENE-ERIC, responsible for all its activities. The DG is accountable for implementing GA decisions and ensuring that the scientific and strategic development of EIRENE leads to the expected results on socio-economic impacts, technological development, and innovation. The DG shall actively contribute to community building by fostering external relations and strategic partnerships and overseeing and coordinating EIRENE activities. The DG shall represent EIRENE ERIC in any litigation. The term of the DG shall be five years and may be renewed once by the GA. The DG shall be based in the statutory seat of EIRENE ERIC and shall be responsible for managing the Head Office staff, the Exposome Hub, and other activities of EIRENE ERIC.

Interim EIRENE Head

The Interim EIRENE Head is responsible for coordinating, with the support of the EIRENE Coordination Team, all the activities of EIRENE.

Management Board (MB)

The Management Board (MB) includes the heads of the Central Coordination Units (CCU), Exposome Hub, and the Director-General as chair. The MB is responsible for developing the

annual work plans based on the EIRENE strategy and coordinating EIRENE activities across the CCUs. The MB supports the DG in fulfilling the scientific, technical, and administrative tasks, making decisions concerning the overall strategy in order to achieve the EIRENE aims, summarizing the most relevant results for dissemination and exploitation, initiating contractual changes if necessary, collecting information related to IPR, strengthening the awareness of and being responsible for ethical, safety, data protection, gender issues, Good Laboratory Practices, data management, EOSC, etc.

Interim Management Board (IMB)

The Interim Management Board is composed of the Interim EIRENE Head and the Work Package leaders of the PPP and future projects.

Extended Management Board (EMB)

The Extended Management Board (EMB) consists of members of the Management Board and the National Nodes Contact Points. The EMB is responsible for developing the long-term strategy of EIRENE and coordination among the National Nodes. It is the largest body dealing primarily with the scientific, technical, and operational aspects of EIRENE.

Exposome Hub (Xhub)

The Exposome Hub (Xhub) is a single-access point for all EIRENE services. It is responsible for managing the physical, remote, and virtual access to EIRENE services. The Xhub is part of EIRENE-ERIC. Among others, it is responsible for the management of the access peer-review process (applications, feasibility review, selection, and support), coordination of interactions between users and service providers (i.e., CCU), user helpdesk (ELSI / Services), and collection of statistical data on users and services provided (units of access, costs, types of services requested or provided, altimetric data, publications, acknowledgments of EIRENE, patents, and user feedback surveys).

Central Coordination Units (CCU)

The Central (thematic) Coordination Units coordinate the various research areas covered by EIRENE on a pan-European/international level across National Nodes. While the National Nodes (consortia) bring together the national members (i.e., research-performing organizations) as a legal entity, operationally, the research-performing organizations will work directly with respective CCUs through service-level agreements. This ensures that EIRENE resources are utilized in the most efficient way and maximizes research outputs and impact. The specific CCUs remain to be determined, but they are likely to consist of Analytical Chemistry, Toxicology, Biostatistics/Bioinformatics, Cohorts/Bio-collections, and Data Central Coordination Units. There are several options for hosting the CCUs. One option is to include them as part of the ERIC. Another option is to host each CCU in a different research-performing organization based on their expertise in the respective area. In this case, the CCUs will be dispersed across Europe. CCU heads will be part of the EIRENE-ERIC Management Board and, therefore, will take an active role in developing the overall strategic direction of EIRENE. This also ensures efficient coordination of EIRENE activities across the CCUs.

National Nodes (NN)

The National Nodes are consortia of national research-performing organizations. The size, number of institutions or laboratories, areas of expertise, and available services vary considerably among EIRENE NNs. While several NNs have well-established consortia, political and financial support, are included in their national research infrastructure roadmaps, and provide a wide range of services, others are just beginning to build their networks. National Node Contact Points (NNCP) represent their respective NNs in the EIRENE Extended Management Board. On the strategic decision-making level, NNs are either Members or Observers and thus are represented in the General Assembly. It is envisioned that several NNs will host Central Coordinating Units.

There are several possible models for financing the development and operation of the NNs. Some established research infrastructures fund the development of facilities based on an overall strategy, while in others, the development is exclusively funded nationally. Many RIs rely extensively on EC project funding (i.e., INFRA calls) for the development and provision of Open Access to services.

Figure 1: Implementation timeline

	Preparatory Phase			Implementation Phase			Operational Phase
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029 -2050
Interim General Assembly							
General Assembly							
Ethics Advisory Board							
Scientific & Implementation Advisory Board							
Scientific Advisory Board							
Stakeholders' Forum							
EIRENE Interim Head							
EIRENE Director-General							
EIRENE Coordination Team							
Central Management Office							
Exposome Hub							
Interim Management Board							
Management Board							
Extended Management Board							
Data Center CCU							
Analytical Chemistry CCU							
Toxicology CCU							
Biostatistics / Bioinformatics CCU							
Cohorts / Bio-collections CCU							
National Nodes							

Interim body/structure 
 Final body/structure 

Figure 2: EIRENE structure - final

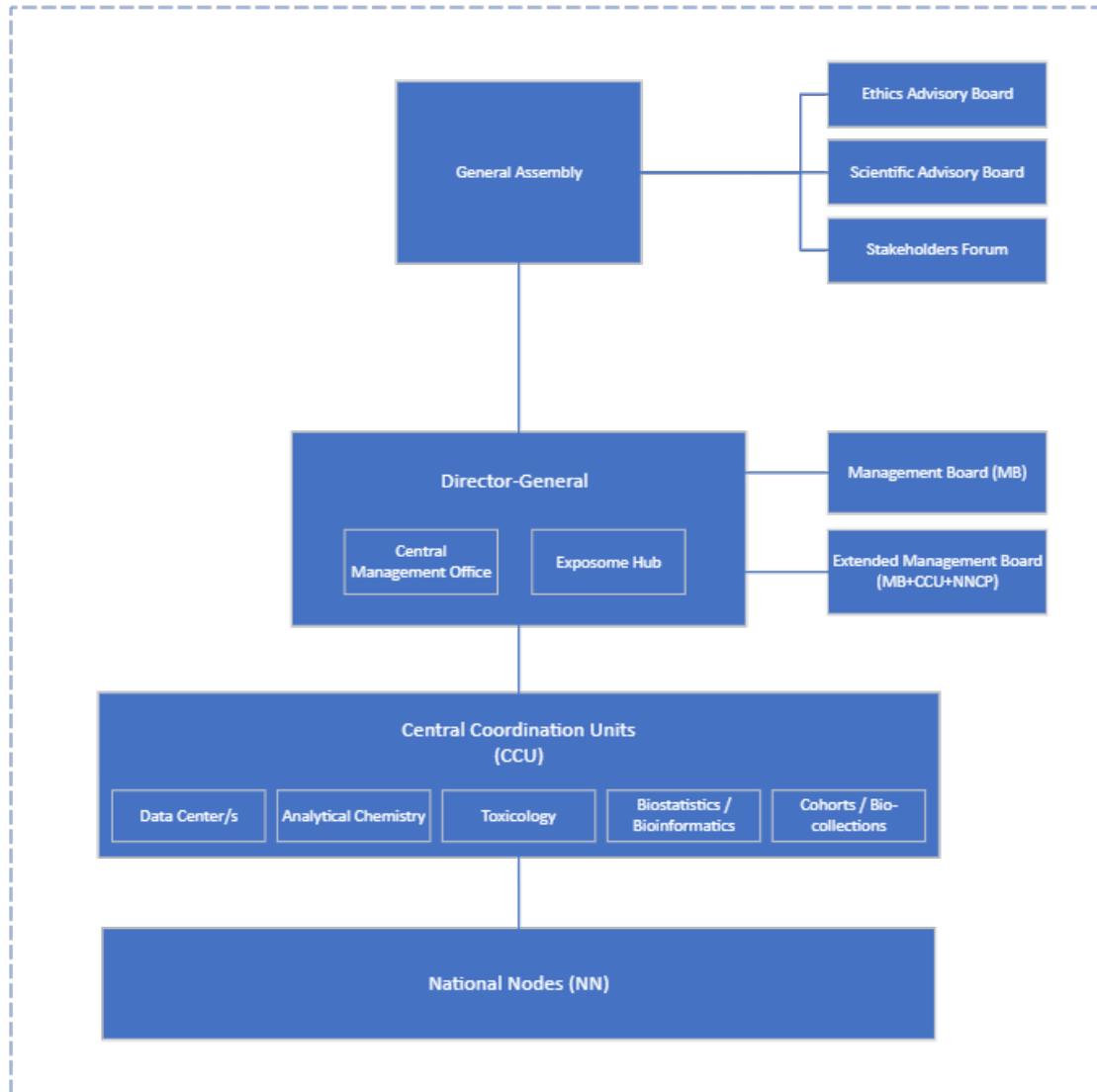
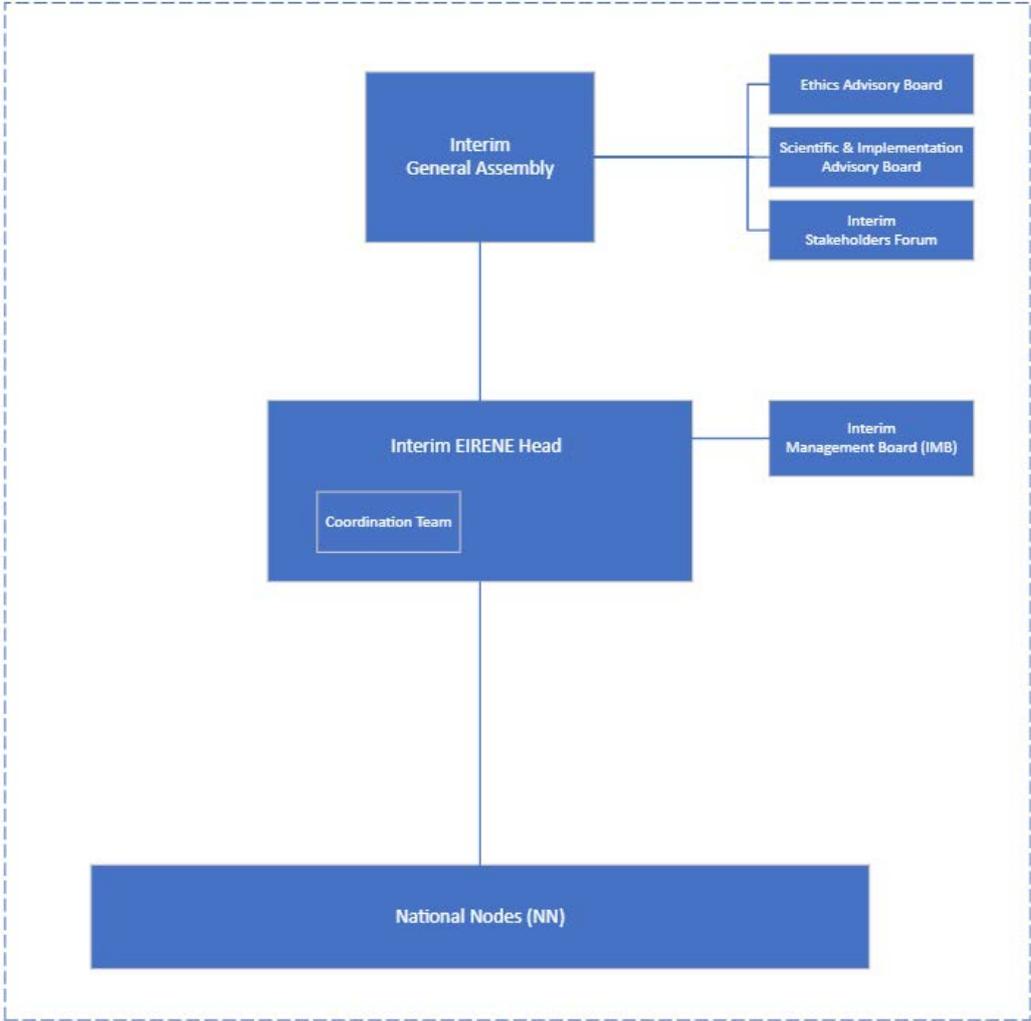


Figure 3: EIRENE Structure - interim



Annex 1: Examples of ERICs structures

Figure 4: MIRRI ERIC

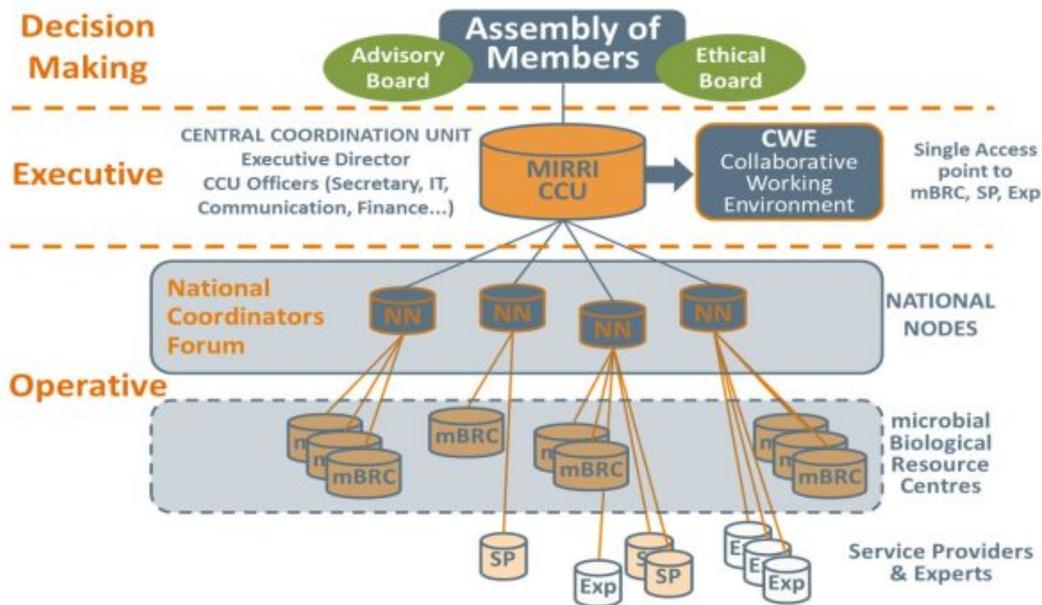


Figure 5: ICOS-ERIC

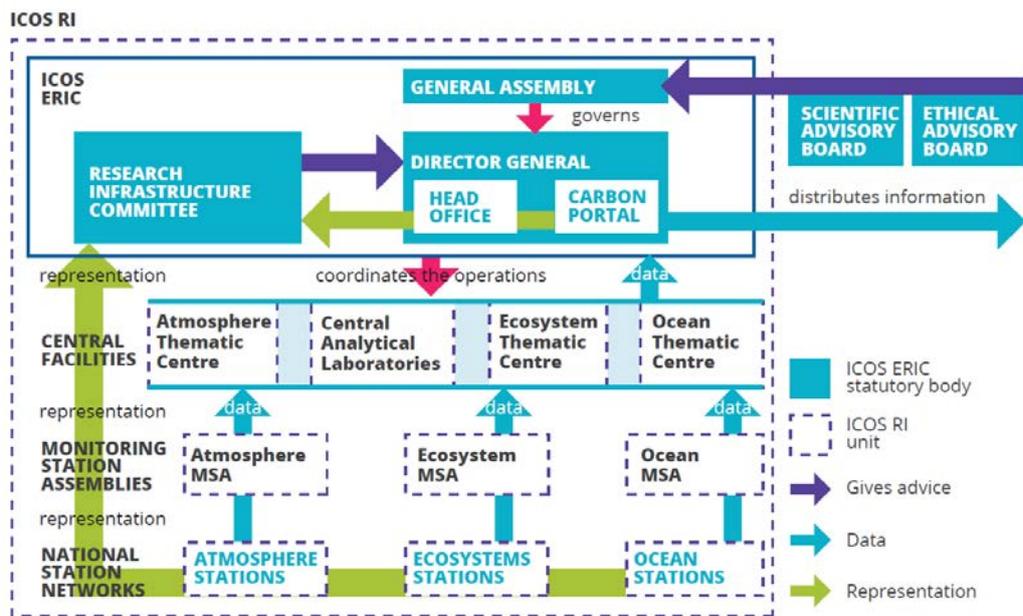


Figure 6: BBMRI-ERIC

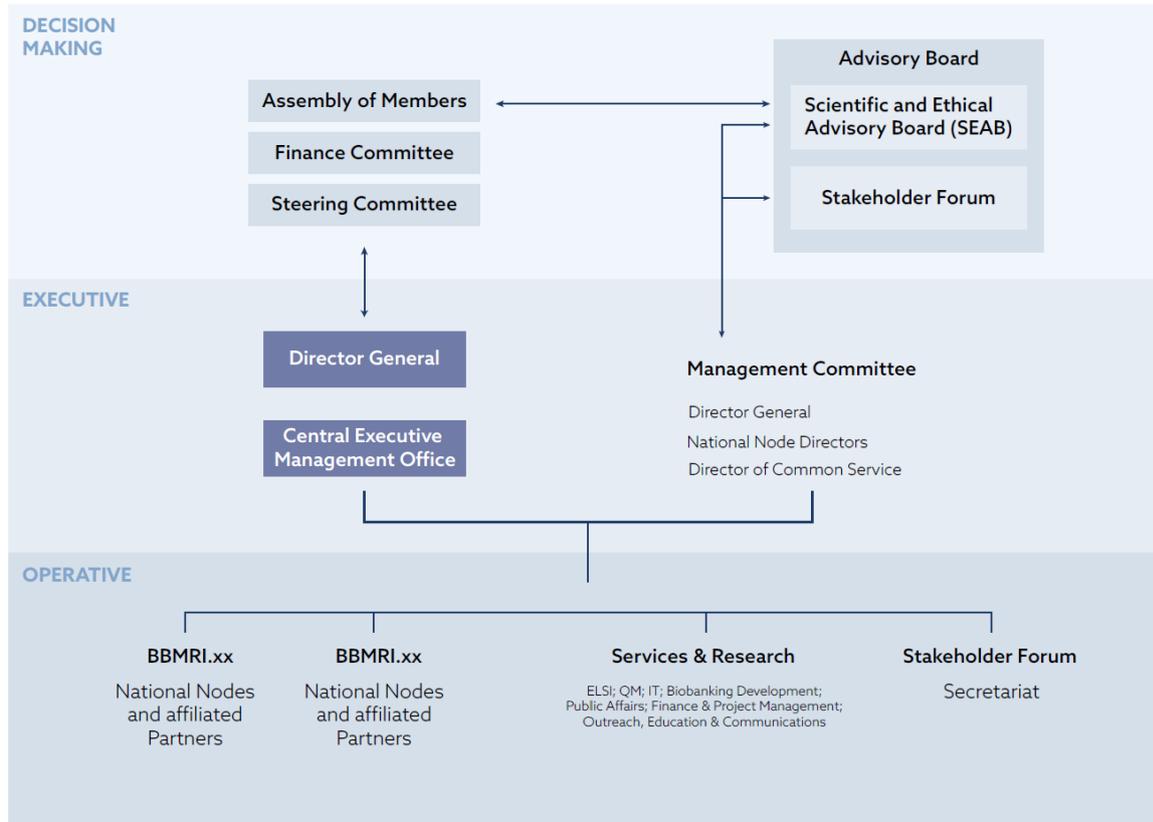


Figure 7: ANAEE ERIC

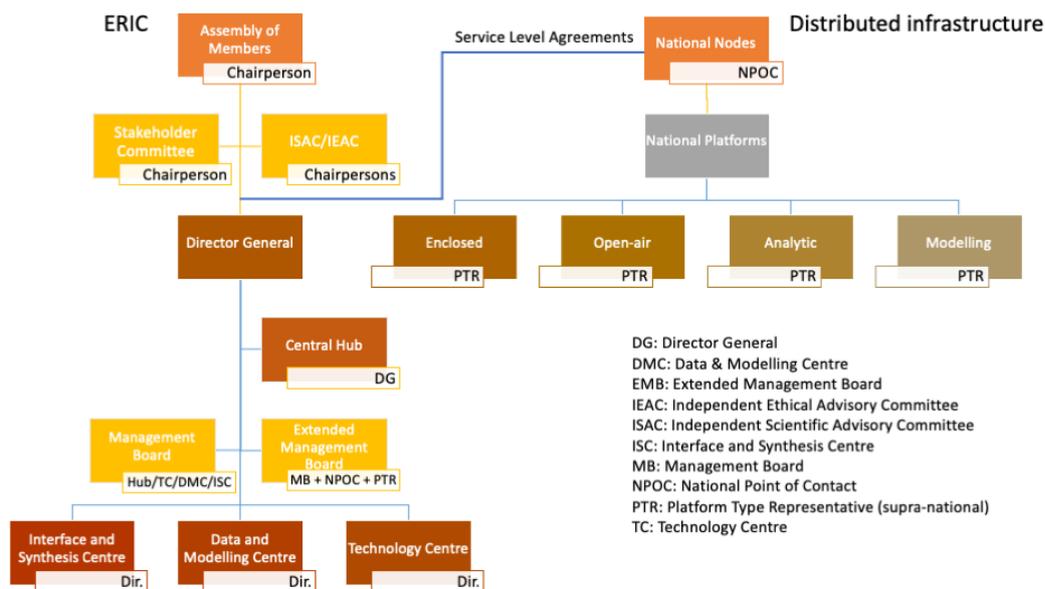


Figure 8: EMBRC ERIC

