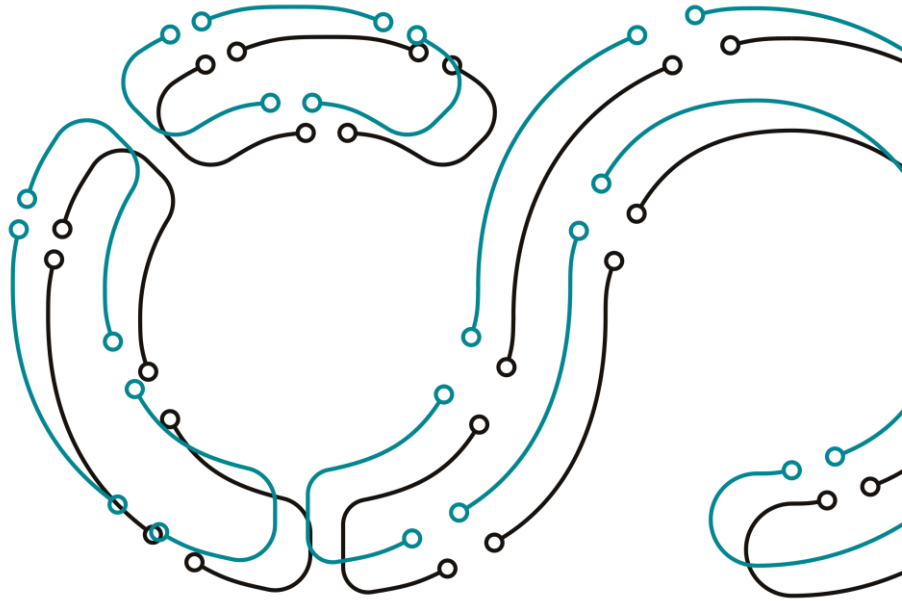
Connecting users, data, and services

EOSC Symposium 2026 / 14-16 October / Florence



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EOSC GRAVITY

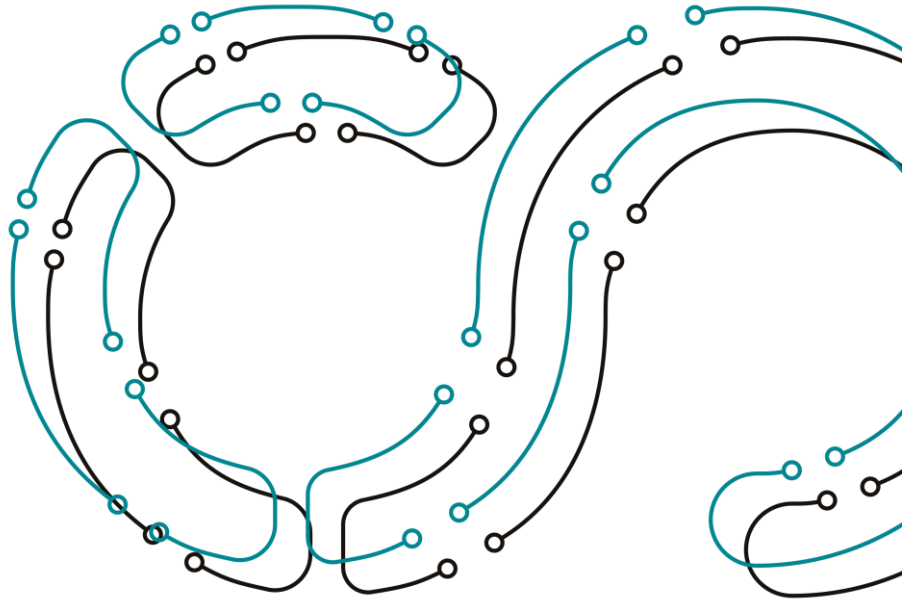
Funded by the European Union

Examples of business models in distributed environments

Thematic Research Infrastructure

Ornela De Giacomo

Deputy Executive Director, CERIC-ERIC



Thematic distributed research infrastructures

CERIC

Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

PSE

Facilities located in 10 countries

EPOS
EUROPEANPLATEOBSERVINGSYSTEM

European Plate Observing System (ERIC) – 760 data and service providers

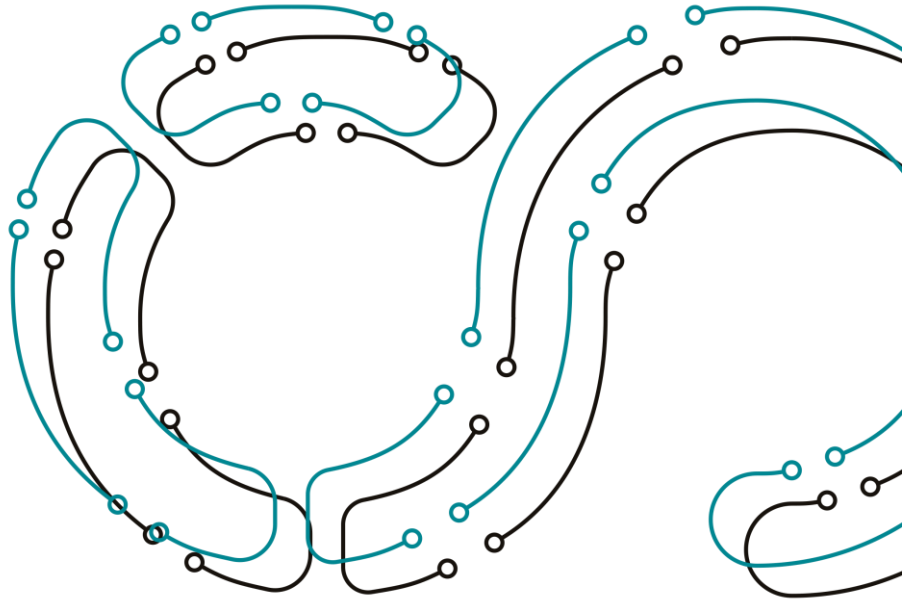
ENV

EBRAINS

European Brain ReseArch INfrastructureS (AISBL -> EDIC)

DIGIT

9 full members +37 associated members



Thematic distributed research infrastructures and their business models

CERIC

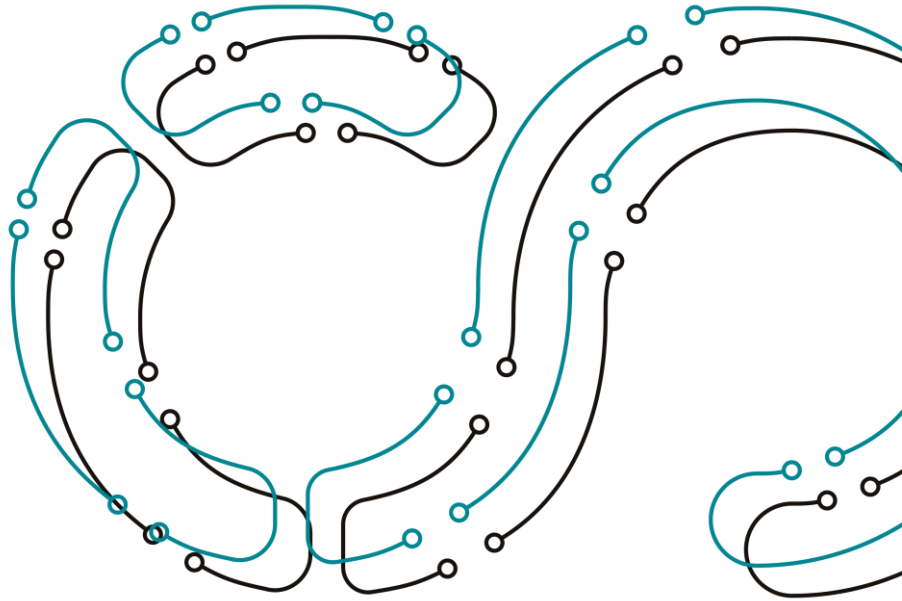
ERIC, IKC + Host contribution from Italy + Membership fees + projects

EPOS
EUROPEANPLATEOBSERVINGSYSTEM

ERIC, IKC + Host contribution from Italy + Membership fees + projects

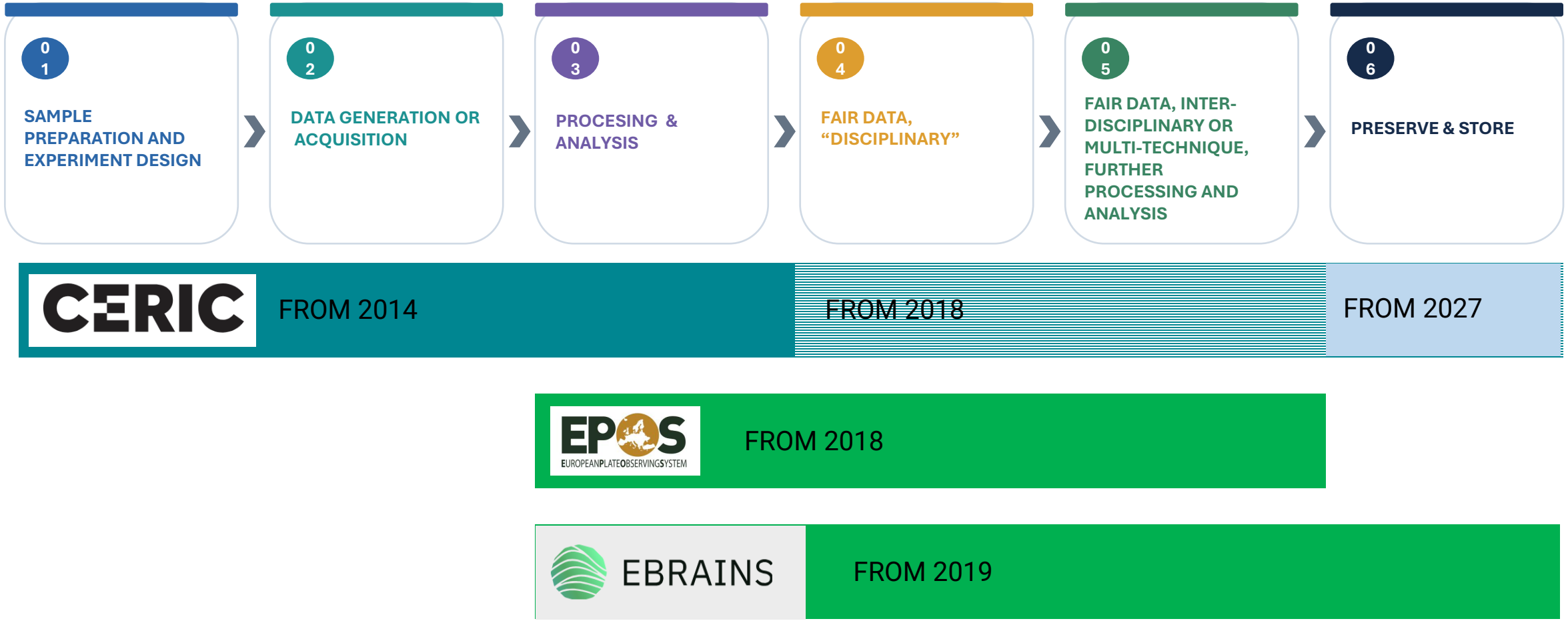
EBRAINS

Co-funded by EC + in-kind contributions from members



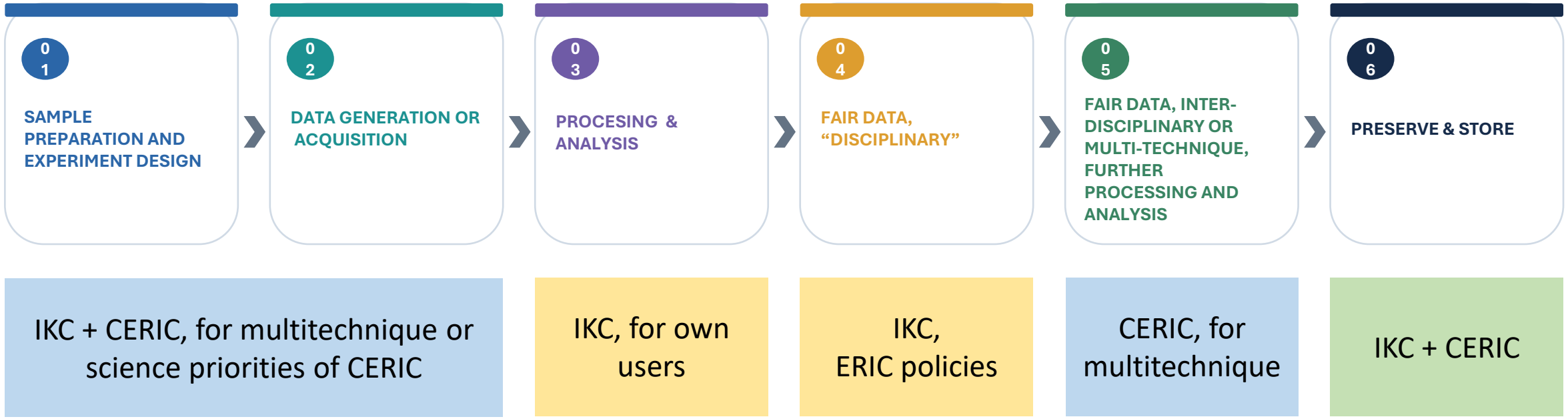
Perspective of thematic RIs

Data and services in the core mission of RIs



Sustainability model for the provision of access to RI, data and services in free and open access: costs

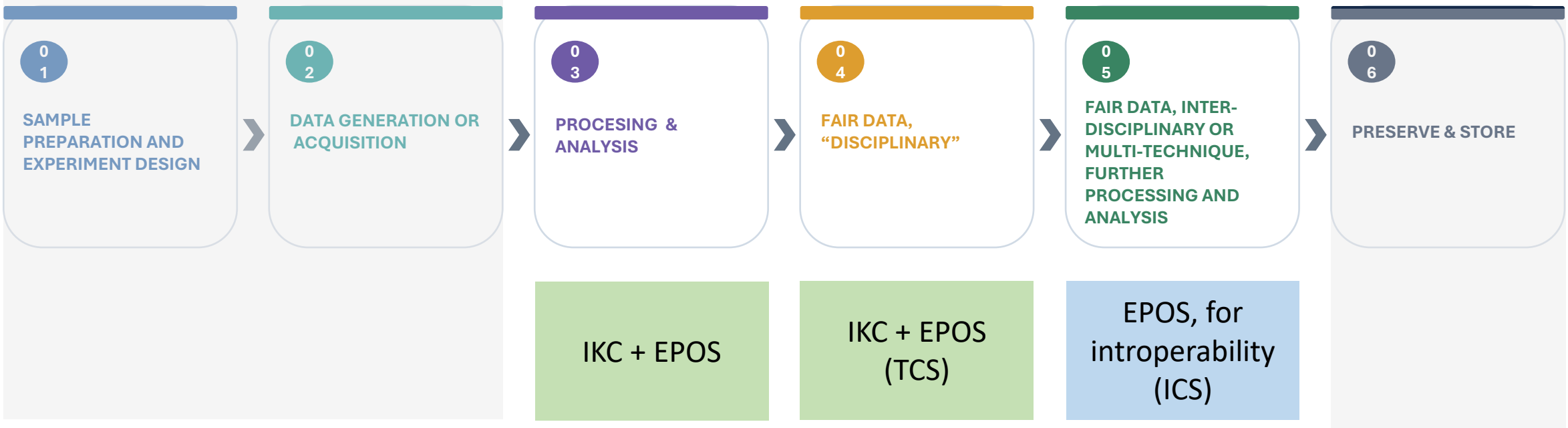
CERIC



CERIC support is not proportional to member contributions but is decided by ISTAC based on the impact on CERIC: the concept of "just retour" is secondary to the scientific impact on the community and the increased attractiveness of facilities.
This is accepted because these small-scale projects should serve as seeds; we cannot deliver multi-technique pipelines for all instruments. Funding and personnel are needed to implement these projects.

Sustainability model for the provision of access to RI, data and services in free and open access: costs

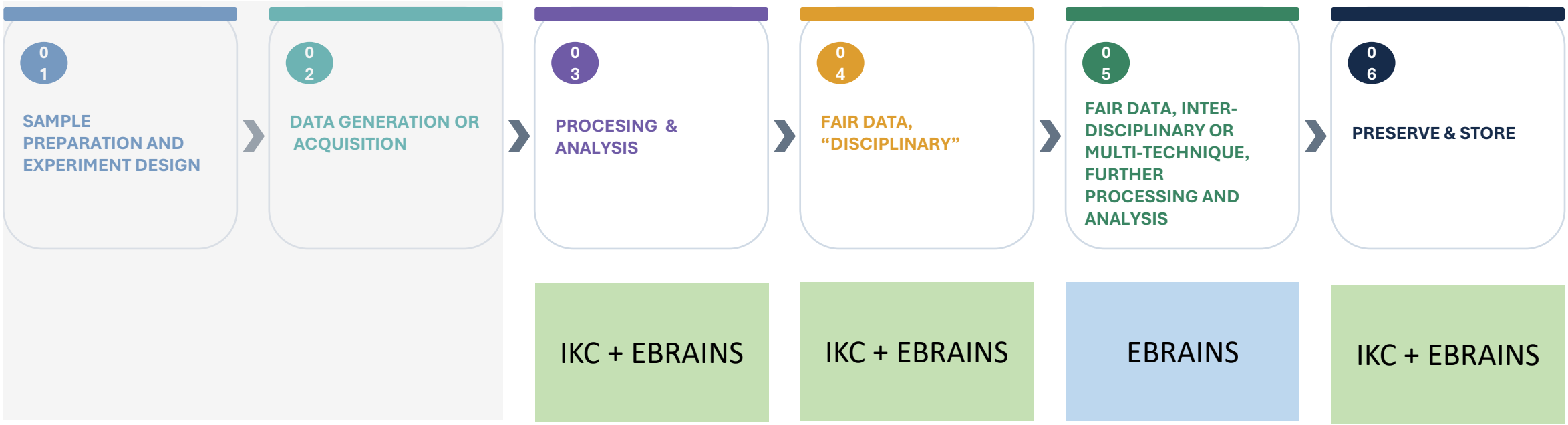
EPOS
EUROPEANPLATEOBSERVINGSYSTEM



Data and services are accessed through the EPOS platform, created and maintained by EPOS ERIC. The ERIC supports activities related to the interoperability of data between disciplines. Funding is distributed to the scientific communities and is not based on the country. This is possible because everyone benefits from interoperable data and services.
The model for the provision of resources such as workflows and computing is under development.

Sustainability model for the provision of access to RI, data and services: costs

EBRAINS



TNA, free and open is available, based on the EC grant (through EBRAINS 2.0) and some resources allocated in kind by members. National node: Free access to data and services for national users, partial cost recovery for researchers from other countries, access to companies based on cost recovery as well.

Sustainability model for the provision of access to RI, data and services: value (some examples)

CERIC

EPOS EUROPEANPLATEOBSERVINGSYSTEM

EBRAINS

FREE and OPEN access to data

FREE and OPEN access to services (limited)

Why?

- Users help improve the RI
- Multi-technique pipelines can lead to new scientific discoveries
- Reused data generate value through new science

- Interoperable data and services made available by EPOS enable interdisciplinary science and new communities
- Reused data generate value through new science

- Users develop new pipelines, software, methods, etc for the benefit of the community
- Service providers become “technologically ready” to serve a community when co-developing

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the EOSC Association and the session organisers for the invitation to participate, and to

EBRAINS Italy National Node Steering Committee and EPOS **ERIC** for the information provided and their support in the preparation of the presentation

Q&A

