CERIC-ERIC the multi-technique research infrastructure for materials research in Central-Eastern Europe

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The scientific problems coming up in this fields have become more and more complex in the recent years and require an ever-increasing number of instrumental and analytical techniques and disciplines. Such complexity requires the availability of expertise as well as open access to a wide range of probing techniques and many different complementary instruments. The CERIC-ERIC research infrastructure was developed to face this challenge and to make a wide variety of instruments available through open access as well as the management of the acquired data.

CERIC stands for Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium and is a distributed research infrastructure unifying several national institutions, under one roof [1]. This multinational facility was set up as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) [2]. It brings together research facilities from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Romania and Slovenia (Fig 1). Statutory seat is in Trieste, Italy. All partners offer a set of complementary, cutting-edge instrumentation from national institutes for free and open access to excellent researchers all over the world.

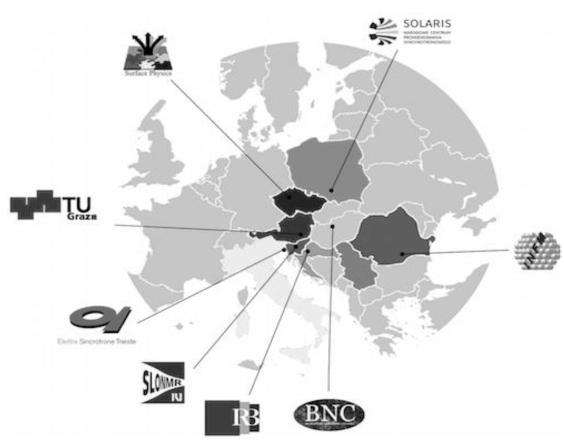

Fig. 1 Locations and partners of CERIC-ERIC

CERIC-ERIC comprises synchrotron radiation, neutron radiation, microscopic techniques, ion-beam analysis methods and NMR. All instruments are available for open access through one single entry point. The selection of proposals and experiment time is done in a peer-review process and based on scientific excellence only. Following the nature of CERIC as a multi-probe facility, the open access operation allows to ask not only one instrument per proposal but to get experiment time granted for several complementary instruments with one proposal.