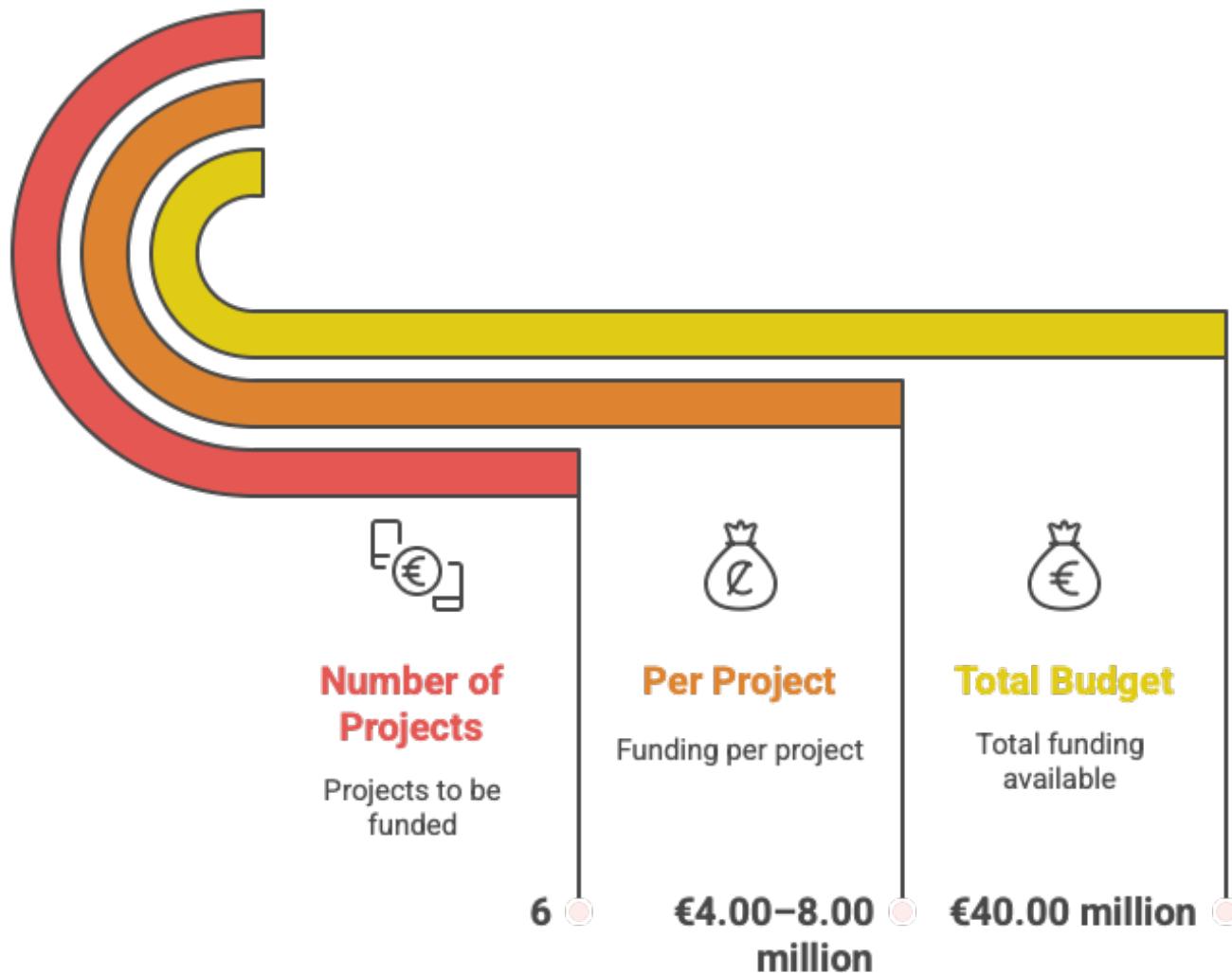☺

HORIZON-INFRA-2026-DEV-01-02: Consolidation of the research infrastructure landscape – pilots for strategic coordination, synergies and simplified access pathways, by large thematic clusters of pan-European research infrastructures.

ENVRI-ONE

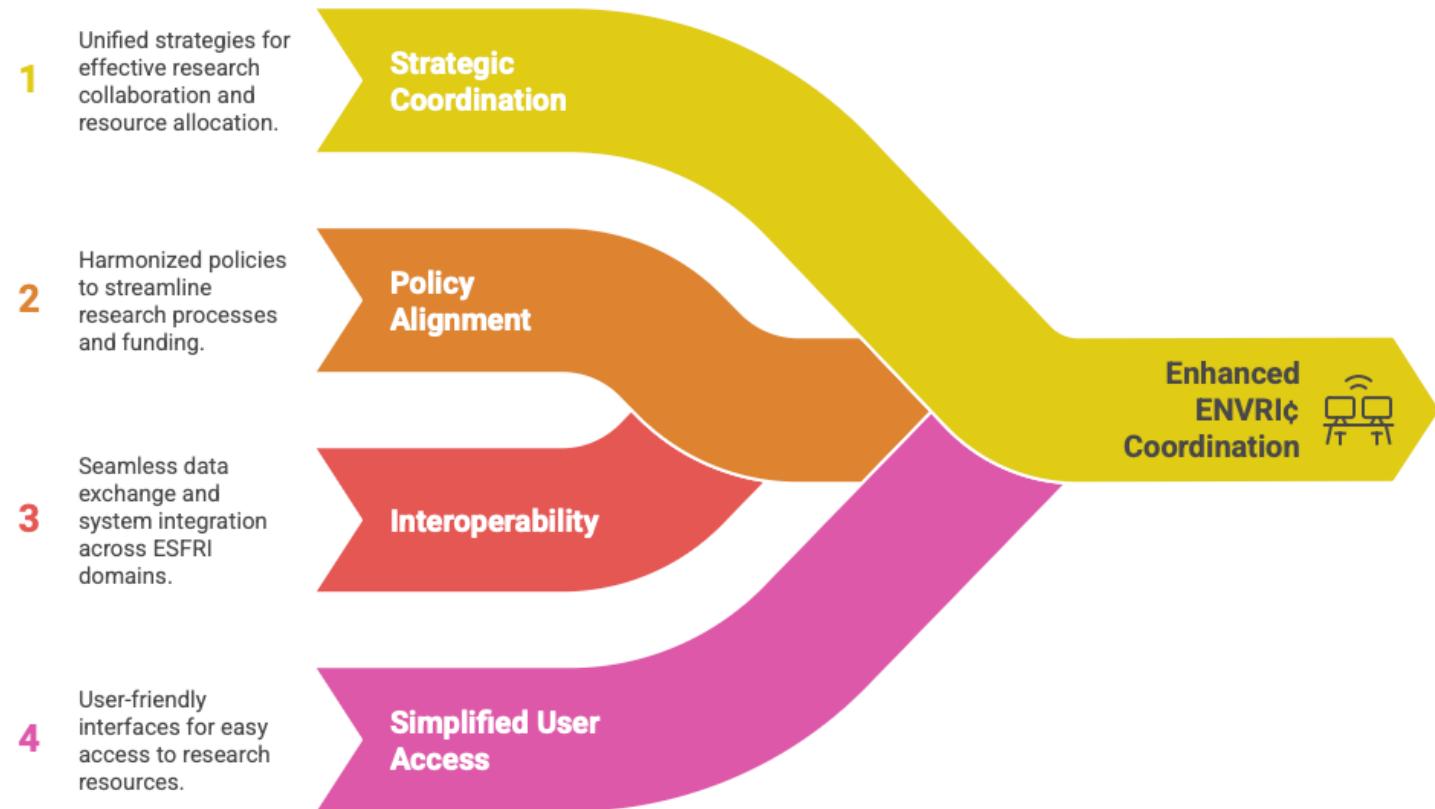We are the environmental cluster as one entity - one system, one interface, one voice.

First we made it **FAIR**, **NEXT** we developed it further, now we bring it together as **ONE**

Horizon-Infra-2026-DEV-01-02 Funding

Number of Projects

Projects to be funded

Per Project

Funding per project

Total Budget

Total funding available

6

€4.00–8.00 million

€40.00 million

- This call is **the successor to the Horizon 2020 science clusters (ENVRI, PaNOSC, ESCAPE, EOSC-Life, SSHOC).**

- Now focused on **strategic coordination, policy alignment, interoperability and simplified user access** within each ESFRI domain.

1 Unified strategies for effective research collaboration and resource allocation.

Strategic Coordination

2 Harmonized policies to streamline research processes and funding.

Policy Alignment

3 Seamless data exchange and system integration across ESFRI domains.

Interoperability

4 User-friendly interfaces for easy access to research resources.

Simplified User Access

Enhanced ENVRI¢ Coordination

Expected results: 1.Policy contribution and visibility

Each thematic cluster becomes the *recognised voice* of its domain in EU and global policy discussions.

The cluster shows clear *impact beyond science*: contribution to EU missions, Green Deal, digital transition, etc.

Enhanced **policy influence** and stronger links with initiatives like EOSC, Copernicus, EuroGEO, Destination Earth, etc.
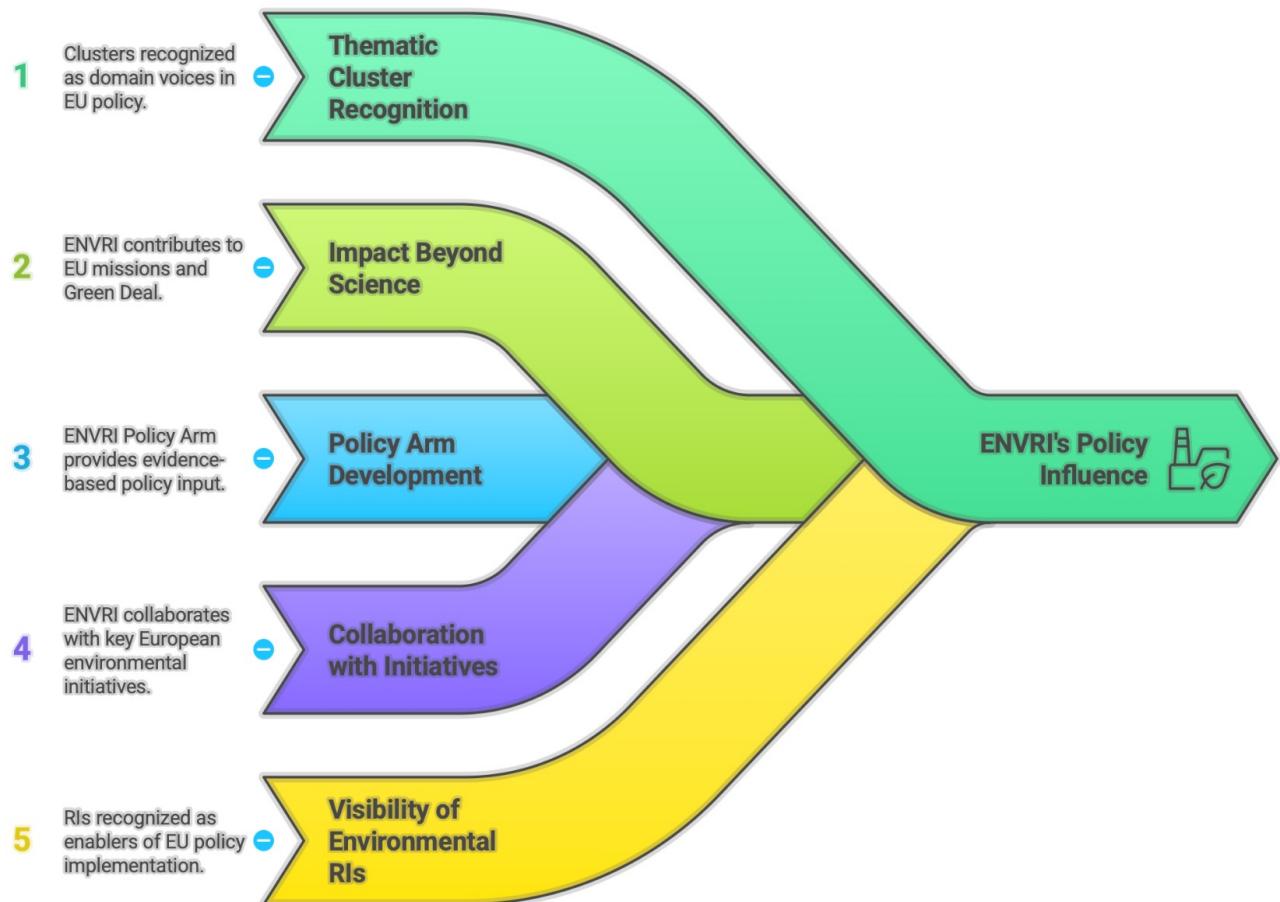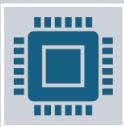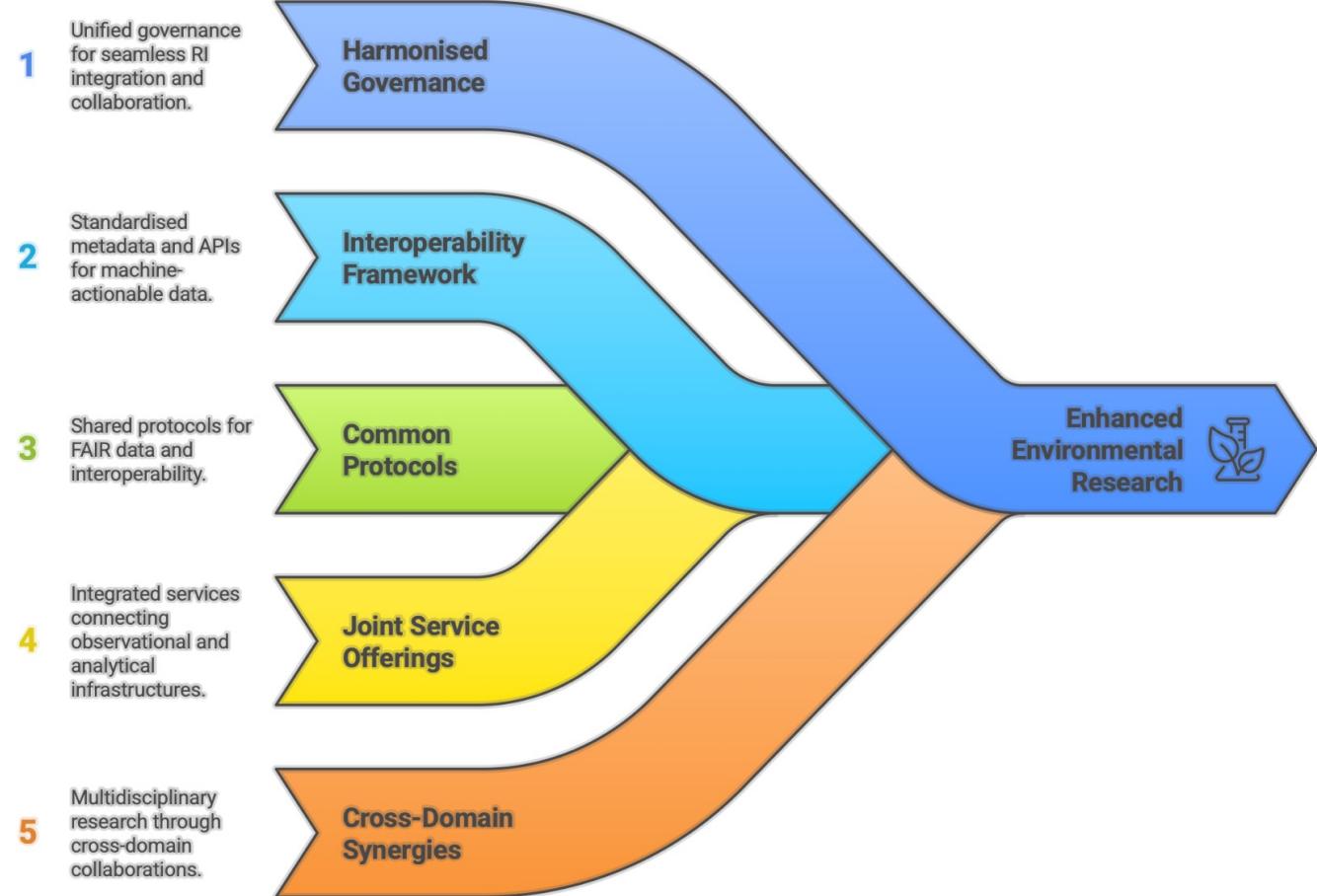
Expected results:3. European portfolio of R&I services

- Build a *common front page* or **single entry point** for access to domain services (e.g., ENVRI-Hub as the single-entry portal).

- Develop or connect **catalogues of R&I services** that are interoperable with EOSC and other European catalogues.

- **Harmonise** access procedures and selection criteria.

- Provide a coherent, visible European **"offer" to user**s (researchers, innovators, public authorities, SMEs).

Visible Portfolio

Building a recognised European portfolio of environmental research and innovation services.

Unified Access Point
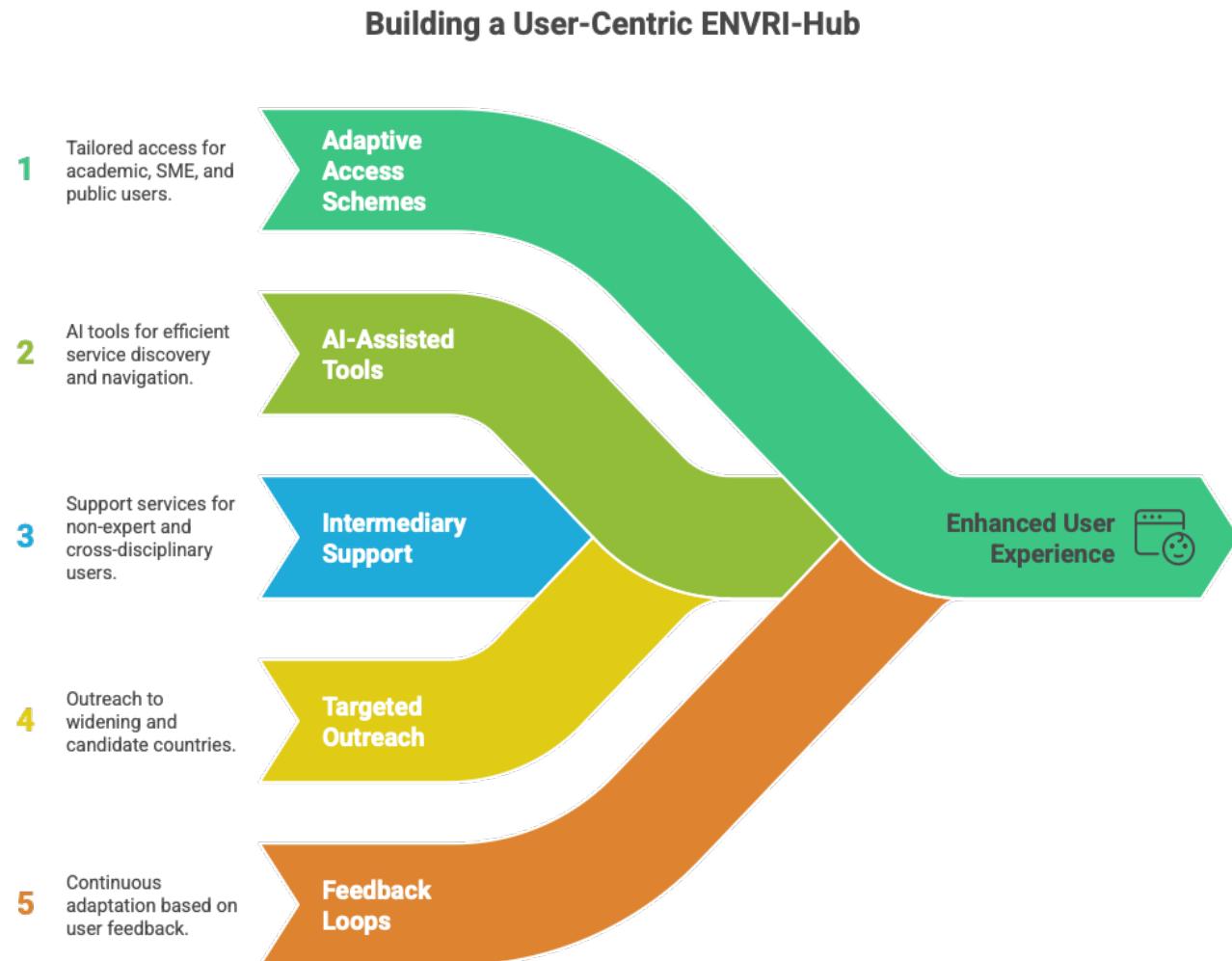
Establishing ENVRI-Hub as the primary entry point for environmental research resources.

ENVRI-Hub

Converging Access Rules

Simplifying user access through standardised rules and procedures across research infrastructures.

Interoperable Services

Creating a unified catalogue of services across research infrastructures, compatible with EOSC.

Harmonised User Experience

Ensuring a consistent and user-friendly interface across all environmental research portals.
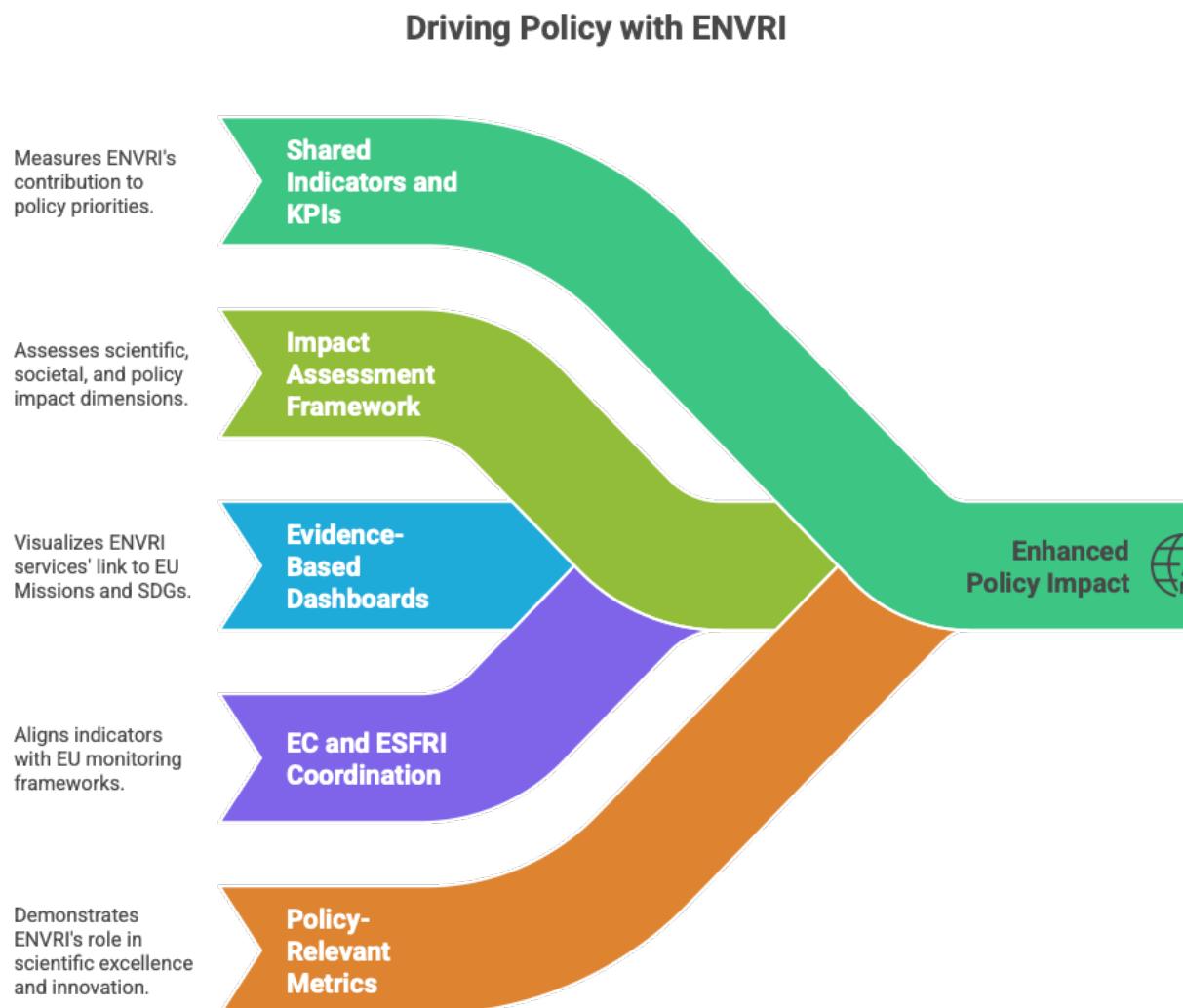
Expected results: 4. Simplified access pathways & increased awareness

- Improve **visibility** and findability of RIs and their services.

- **Simplify access** for *new and non-traditional users*: early-career researchers, widening countries, SMEs, public administrations, etc.

- **Develop *AI*-assisted navigation tools** and *intermediary services* to help users discover the right RI services.

- Strengthen **user support** and feedback mechanisms.

Building a User-Centric ENVRI-Hub

1   Tailored access for academic, SME, and public users.   **Adaptive Access Schemes**

2   AI tools for efficient service discovery and navigation.   **AI-Assisted Tools**

3   Support services for non-expert and cross-disciplinary users.   **Intermediary Support**

4   Outreach to widening and candidate countries.   **Targeted Outreach**

5   Continuous adaptation based on user feedback.   **Feedback Loops**
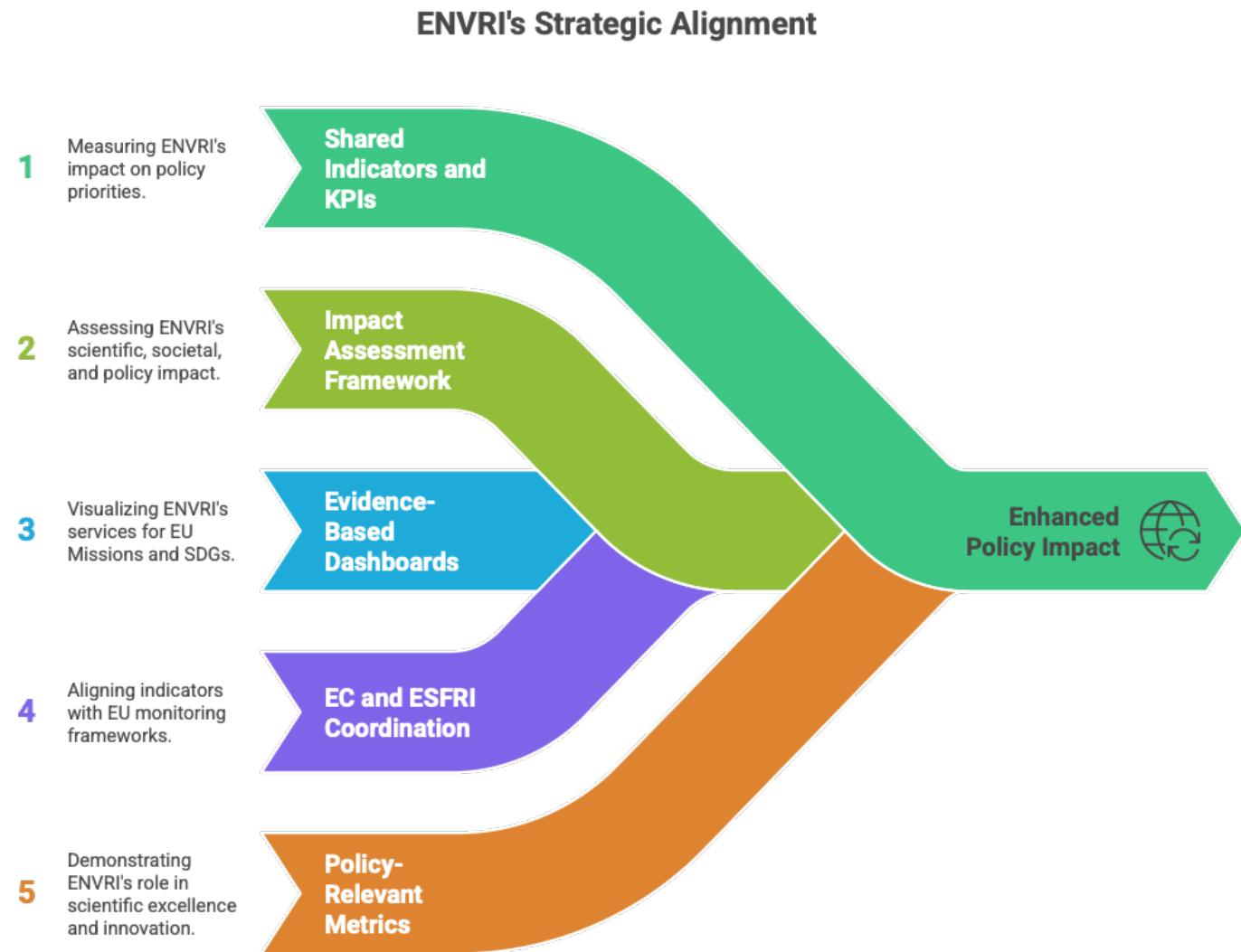
Enhanced User Experience

Expected results: 5. Indicators of strategic relevance

- Develop indicators showing how specific RI services contribute to EU priorities (missions, partnerships, policy areas).

- Coordinate impact assessments and validation mechanisms across infrastructures.

Driving Policy with ENVRI

Measures ENVRI's contribution to policy priorities.

Shared Indicators and KPIs

Assesses scientific, societal, and policy impact dimensions.

Impact Assessment Framework

Visualizes ENVRI services' link to EU Missions and SDGs.

Evidence-Based Dashboards

Aligns indicators with EU monitoring frameworks.

EC and ESFRI Coordination

Demonstrates ENVRI's role in scientific excellence and innovation.

Policy-Relevant Metrics

Enhanced Policy Impact

Expected results: 6. Close coordination with related EU initiatives

- Ensure alignment and interoperability with:
  - **HORIZON-INFRA-2025-DEV-05** (preparatory action for integrated access schemes),
  - **HORIZON-INFRA-2027-SERV-01 & 02** (future access implementation pilots),
  - **ERIC Forum and EIROforum** (cross-domain policy coordination),
  - EOSC & OSCARS,
  - Possibly **JRC** (for cross-domain collaboration, esp. environment–food–health links).

ENVRI's Strategic Alignment

1 Measuring ENVRI's impact on policy priorities.

Shared Indicators and KPIs

2 Assessing ENVRI's scientific, societal, and policy impact.

Impact Assessment Framework

3 Visualizing ENVRI's services for EU Missions and SDGs.

Evidence-Based Dashboards

4 Aligning indicators with EU monitoring frameworks.

EC and ESFRI Coordination

5 Demonstrating ENVRI's role in scientific excellence and innovation.

Policy-Relevant Metrics

Enhanced Policy Impact

Made with Napi

Strengthened sustainability and long-term governance

- **Not explicitly listed** in the call text as a named expected result.

- However, it is **implied** throughout the call's **scope and objectives**, in several subtle but important ways.

- it is absolutely aligned with the intent of the call.

Building a Resilient Research Infrastructure

1 Balanced roles for policy and technical ENVRI arms.

Governance Model

2 Defined cost-sharing models for shared services.

Funding Models

3 Consolidated service management and digital frameworks.

Operational Maturity

4 Alignment with ESFRI and EOSC for ecosystem integration.

Ecosystem Integration

Sustainable ENVRI Cluster

• **From the call text: "Proposals should elaborate on which key EU priorities and initiatives (such as Horizon Europe partnerships, missions) they will consider and the nature and objectives of the envisaged coordination mechanisms or joint activities."**

EU Missions

- **Mission: Adaptation to Climate Change** -
  ENVRI RIs (ICOS, ANAEE, ACTRIS, eLTER, EPOS, etc.) provide essential *observational and modelling data* for assessing climate impacts, vulnerability, and resilience.
  → *ENVRI can offer harmonised data services and indicators supporting Mission monitoring frameworks.*

- **Mission: Restore Our Ocean and Waters** -
  Through e.g. ANAEE, EMSO, Euro-Argo, ICOS Ocean Thematic Centre, ENVRI provides marine, biogeochemical, and carbon flux observations.
  → *Joint work on marine data interoperability, pollution tracking, and ocean carbon monitoring.*

- **Mission: Cancer** -

  EISCAT - especially prevention, e.g., chemical risk assessment and the environmental determinants
  of health

- **Mission: Soil Health and Food** -
  ANAEE, eLTER and LifeWatch deliver soil, biodiversity, and ecosystem data crucial for soil restoration and agroecological transition.
  → *ENVRI can offer shared protocols and FAIR datasets for Mission demonstrators.*

- (Indirectly) **Mission: Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities** —
  Urban air-quality and greenhouse-gas monitoring data from ICOS and ACTRIS support city-level climate actions.

- **Horizon Europe Partnerships**
- **European Partnership for Environmental Observations (planned / under design)** — natural fit; ENVRI can act as the *backbone* of the observation infrastructure component.
- **Partnership for Biodiversity (Biodiversa+)** — collaboration via LifeWatch, ANAEE, eLTER, ICOS, and cross-data standards for ecosystem services.
- **Partnership for Climate Services (CSA / C3S interface)** — linking ENVRI data streams to Copernicus Climate Services for policy-ready products.
- **Partnership for Ocean Research and Innovation (BlueMission / EuroMarine)** — coordination via EMSO, Euro-Argo.
- **Partnership for Rescuing and Valorising Research Data (under EOSC / OSCARS)** — align FAIRness and interoperability frameworks.
- **Partnership for agroecology** – ANAEE; LIFEWATCH
- **Partnership for forestry** –
- **Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC) -** supports the EU Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and the Green Deal's "Zero Pollution" ambition. EIRENE is a key project partner, sitting on the Management Board and leading the WPs on Fair Data, Concepts and Toolboxes, and Building infrastructure and Human Capacities. - EISCAT

- **EU Policy Frameworks**

- **European Green Deal** — overarching driver for all environmental RIs.
  ENVRI provides data and services supporting climate neutrality, pollution monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable resource use.

- **Destination Earth (DestinE)** — ENVRI observational data are fundamental for digital twins of the Earth system; collaboration with ECMWF and ESA is key.

- **Copernicus** — ensure interoperability of ENVRI in-situ observations with Copernicus satellite data (especially via ICOS, ACTRIS, EMSO).

- **EuroGEO / GEO / WMO** — strengthen Europe's contribution to global Earth-observation systems.

- **EU Digital and Data Strategy / EOSC** — ENVRI as a major data provider within the EOSC federated ecosystem.

The EC expects to describe how ENVRI will interface with these initiatives, not just conceptually, but practically.

Example here:

Coordination Mechanism	Objective / Expected Result	Example Partners / Links
Policy-level coordination	Establish ENVRI Policy Forum with links to DG RTD, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, and Mission Secretariats.	Provide coordinated input from environmental RIs to EU policy processes and Mission implementation plans.
Data and service alignment	Harmonise ENVRI service catalogues and metadata with Copernicus, DestinE, and EOSC schemas.	Technical working groups between ICOS/ACTRIS/eLTER and ECMWF/ESA.
Joint pilots / demonstrators	Run co-designed pilots addressing specific EU policy goals (e.g., carbon cycle monitoring, biodiversity restoration).	Collaborations with Biodiversa+, EuroGEO, or JRC.
Shared indicators & reporting	Develop metrics showing ENVRI's contribution to EU Missions and SDGs.	Linked dashboards with Mission secretariats or EC Mission Implementation Platforms.
Stakeholder engagement & communication	Co-organise policy workshops, Mission events, and stakeholder dialogues.	Joint sessions at EU Green Week, EOSC Symposium, EuroGEO, etc.

- ENVRI-Hub NEXT → builds the tools
- ENVRI EOSC Node → connects them to EOSC
- HORIZON-INFRA-2026-DEV-01-02 → unifies policy, governance, and access at the European level.
  - **Limit the consortium** to **core ENVRI landmarks**
  - **Limit the number of beneficiaries per ENVRI;**
  - **Include a way to engage the ESFRI projects, current and potential new ones**

- ACTRIS
- AnaEE
- DANUBIUS
- DISSCO X
- EMBRC
- EISCAT_3D
- EMSO ERIC
- ELTER ?
- EPOS ERIC
- EURO-ARGO ERIC
- EUROFLEETS ?
- IAGOS
- ICOS ERIC
- LifeWatch ERIC
- SEADATANET
- SIOS

This project will run in **parallel and full complementarity** with **ENVRI-Hub NEXT** (which develops the technical integration and innovation framework) and the **ENVRI EOSC Node** (which ensures the operational connection to EOSC). Building on these foundations, the new project will **consolidate the technical components** developed under previous ENVRI initiatives and provide the **missing strategic coordination and policy layer** of the environmental research infrastructure cluster.

- EGI – *ENVRI-Hub NEXT and EOSC (secondary role)*

VISION

The vision of ENVRI ONE is to make Europe's environmental research infrastructures operate as one coordinated European system that is easy to access, easy to engage with, and strategically aligned with EU priorities.

By consolidating strategic coordination, policy engagement, access frameworks, and governance across the ENVRI community, the project will transform a fragmented landscape into a coherent European offer for users, policymakers, and partners. Users will be able to discover and access environmental research infrastructure services through simplified and harmonised pathways, while EU initiatives will benefit from a clear and reliable point of coordination with the environmental RI community.
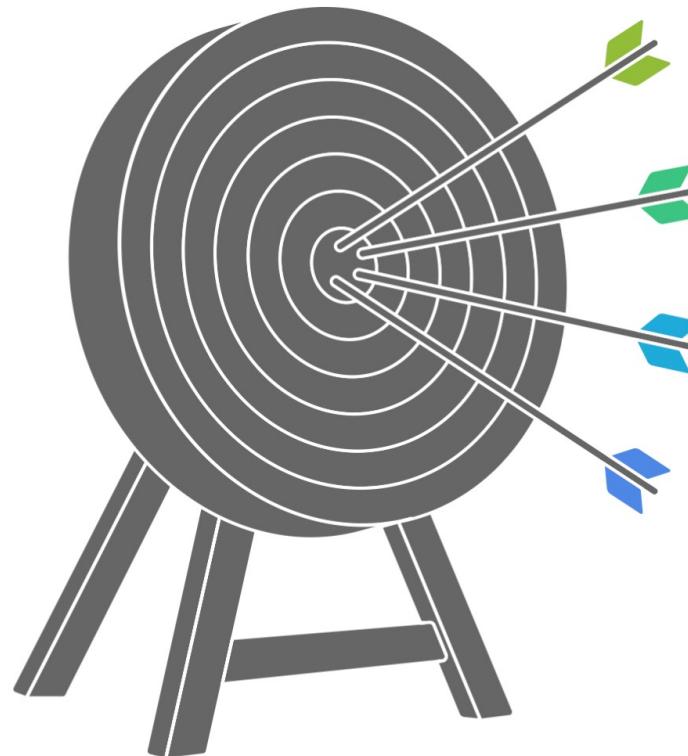The project builds on existing technical integration efforts and supports a consistent and coordinated exposure of ENVRI services, including through EOSC where relevant, without duplicating technical development activities.

This vision is not about creating new infrastructures or new technical platforms. It is about connecting what already exists into a coherent, strategic, and user-oriented system.

Objectives

1	2	3	4	5
Strengthen strategic coordination and policy alignment	**Improve coordination, synergies, and interoperability across infrastructures**	**Deliver a coherent European portfolio of environmental RI services**	**Simplify access and broaden uptake by users**	**Demonstrate strategic relevance and ensure sustainability**

1

Strengthen strategic coordination and policy alignment

Expected Result 1 – Policy contribution, impact and visibility of research infrastructures of European interest

Expected Result 5 – Indicators flagging the strategic relevance of RI services to EU priorities (at strategic/policy level)

Expected Result 6 – Close coordination with related EU initiatives and actions

2

Improve coordination, synergies, and interoperability across infrastructures

Expected Result 2 – Improved coordination, complementarities, interoperability, harmonisation, integration and synergies

Expected Result 6 – Close coordination with related EU initiatives and actions

Objectives

3

Deliver a coherent European portfolio of environmental RI services

Expected Result 3 – A European portfolio of R&I services of European interest

Expected Result 5 – Indicators flagging the strategic relevance of RI services to EU priorities (at service level)

Expected Result 3 – European portfolio of R&I services (via access coherence and single-entry logic)

Expected Result 4 – Increased awareness, findability and accessibility; simplified access pathways

4

Simplify access and broaden uptake by users

Expected Result 1 – Policy contribution, impact and visibility

Expected Result 5 – Indicators of strategic relevance

Expected Result 6 – Close coordination with related EU initiatives and actions

(Implicitly) Long-term sustainability and governance, as required by the scope of the call

5

Demonstrate strategic relevance and ensure sustainability

	ER1	ER2	ER3	ER4	ER5	ER6
O1	X				X	X
O2		X				X
O3			X		X	
O4			X	X		
O5	X				X	X

Death by powerpoint

Objective 1 – Strengthen strategic coordination and policy alignment

Acceptable (fits the call)

•**"Policy aspects (showcase)"**: Green Deal, Missions, Partnerships, DG dialogue, Copernicus/industry *as coordination*

Why: The call asks clusters to be a "single or coordinated voice" in EU policy and initiatives.

•**"ENVRI-Board empowerment"** as *strategic decision-making / coordination body* (not operational manager)

Why: The call is explicitly about "strengthening the representation... as a single or coordinated voice."

Acceptable only if reframed (downgrade from "implementation" to "coordination mechanism")

•**"Mesh-node governance blueprint"** → keep as **governance reference model / coordination mechanism**, not "implementing a node"

Why: "Proposals... [should elaborate]... the nature and objectives of the envisaged coordination mechanisms or joint activities."

•**"International fulfilment / MET services / operational services"** → keep as **liaison and alignment**, not service provision

Why: the topic is about "policy arm combined with a technical arm, to increase awareness, findability and accessibility."

Not acceptable in this call (scope/role mismatch)

•**"Business model implementation... service-level agreements"** (as an operational business rollout)

Why: the call asks for coordination and convergence, not operational business deployment; it also pushes "holistic view from design to implementation" *via collaboration with access actions*, rather than doing implementation here.

Objective 2 – Improve coordination, synergies, and interoperability across infrastructures

Acceptable

•**Interoperability/harmonisation/integration as coordination** (standards alignment, cross-domain interfaces, etc.)

WHY: "Strengthening coordination... to foster complementarities, interoperability, harmonisation, integration and synergies..."

Acceptable only if reframed

•**"Second-wave RI integration / onboard [X] RIs"** → keep as **pathway/criteria/engagement model**, not onboarding and integration work

WHy: the call focuses on "strengthening coordination among research infrastructures..."

(So: define how to bring them in; don't do the onboarding as a project deliverable.)

•**"Harmonised data streams / plug-and-play"** → keep as **interoperability framework + requirements**, not implementation

Why: "Proposals should foresee close collaboration... to ensure... technical interoperability..."

(Interoperability is expected, but it's framed as coordination across projects, not building pipelines.)

Not acceptable

•**"LLM-driven semantic interoperability"** (as tool development), **"implement cross-domain metadata standards"** (as build/rollout)

Why: in this call, the technical arm is about coordination/navigation/catalogues; deep tool building is not what's described. The call's technical items are catalogues and intermediary navigation services.

Objective 3 – Consolidate a coherent European portfolio of environmental RI services

Acceptable

•**"Core vs Added-Value service portfolio"** as a **portfolio definition / classification** exercise

WHY: "Developing, optimising and connecting catalogues of research infrastructures services…"

•**"Discovery / helpdesk"** as part of **service catalogue + user support concept**

Why: "Developing and implementing intermediary services, user support, tools…"

Acceptable only if reframed

•**"Massive ECV scaling / EBVs scaling"** → keep as **mapping services to EU priorities and identifying gaps**, not increasing delivered variables

WHy: the call speaks about *catalogues of services* and *access pathways*, not producing more variables.

•**"ENVRI Hub IP / brand / contracts"** → if mentioned at all, keep as **clarifying reuse/access rights, sustainability options, governance scenarios**, not asset transfer

WHy: focus is "strategic coordination… synergies and simplified access pathways."

Not acceptable

•**"Transfer of assets: legal transfer of Hub IP, service contracts, brand identity (from ACTRIS to new entity)"**

Why: this is legal/operational re-organisation, not what the topic asks. The topic frames collaboration and coordination, not executing asset transfers.

Objective 4 – Simplify access and improve usability for diverse user communities

Acceptable

•**Single-entry point logic**, **simplified access pathways**, **support for new users (widening, SMEs, public authorities)**
Why: "increase awareness, findability and accessibility..."
WHy: "Attention is required to new users... widening countries... industry... non-expert users."
•**AI-assisted navigation** (as navigation / intermediary service)
Why: "AI assisted research infrastructure services navigation."

Acceptable only if reframed

•**"Sandboxes / co-creation environments"** → keep as **use-case driven "intermediary service" concept** or coordination of existing sandboxes, not deploying new ones
Why: "Developing and implementing intermediary services, user support, tools..."

Not acceptable

•**"Deploy collaborative sandboxes where scientists co-develop tools/plugins/automated QC workflows"**
Why: "co-develop tools/plugins/QC workflows" is software/service development; the call does not ask for platform/tool R&D here (it points to building on existing projects and coordinating).

Objective 5 – Demonstrate strategic relevance and support long-term sustainability

Acceptable

•**Indicators of strategic relevance**, impact assessments, validation mechanisms with EU initiatives

WHy: "Elaborating and promoting indicators... including... impact assessments, and possible validation mechanisms..."

•**Sustainability roadmaps/scenarios** (governance options, resourcing options, not execution)

Supported by scope framing around sustained coordination and integrated access schemes.

Acceptable only if reframed

•**"Establish permanent institutional home / legal entity (AISBL etc.)"** → keep as **options analysis + roadmap**; do not promise incorporation

Why: the call frames expected work as coordination mechanisms and collaboration, not establishing new legal entities.

•**"Membership and service model"** → keep as **business model exploration** (scenarios, feasibility, interfaces with national contributions), not "launch"

Why: call focuses on coordination/access scheme collaboration rather than operational launch.

•**"Federation compliance / EIF requirements"** → keep as **readiness assessment + gap analysis**

WHy: "When relevant... services should be made accessible through EOSC." (accessibility/alignment, not certification/deployment).

Not acceptable

•**"Deployment as a Tier-1 EOSC Thematic Node"** / "ensure all services meet latest EIF requirements" (as a compliance/deployment commitment)

Why: EOSC "deployment/federation" has its own call lines; here EOSC is "when relevant" and via making services accessible and coordination with other actions.

WP1 – Project Management and Coordination
Tasks:
- T1.1 Project setup & governance
- T1.2 Operational coordination & risk management
- T1.3 EC liaison & reporting

Key outputs (deliverables):
- Project Handbook (governance, risks, decision rules)
- Periodic & final reports

WP2 – Strategic Coordination, Governance and Policy Alignment
Tasks (3):
- T2.1 Strategic coordination framework & governance reference model
- T2.2 Policy engagement & EU coordination mechanisms
- T2.3 Cross-project & cross-domain coordination (ER6)

Key outputs:
- ENVRI Strategic Coordination Framework
- Policy engagement plan & position papers
- Coordination roadmap with other cluster projects

WP3 – Coordination, Synergies and Interoperability Frameworks
Tasks (3):
- T3.1 Interoperability principles & alignment frameworks
- T3.2 Cross-domain synergies & RI engagement pathways
- T3.3 Requirements & gap analysis (no implementation)

Key outputs:
- Interoperability & alignment framework
- Cross-domain synergy roadmap
- Requirements & gap analysis report

WP4 – European ENVRI Service Portfolio and Access Framework
Tasks (3):
- T4.1 Service identification & portfolio structuring
- T4.2 Harmonised service descriptions & access principles
- T4.3 Alignment with EU access schemes (INFRA-SERV, EOSC)

Key outputs:
- European ENVRI Service Portfolio
- Common service description templates
- Access principles & selection framework

WP5 – User Access Pathways and Single-Entry Coordination
Tasks (3):
- T5.1 User journey mapping & access pathways
- T5.2 Single-entry/front-page coordination logic
- T5.3 User support & feedback framework

Key outputs:
- User access pathways model
- Single-entry/front-page coordination blueprint
- User support & feedback framework

WP6 – Impact, Indicators and Strategic Monitoring
Lump-sum logic: measurable outputs + future orientation
Tasks (3):
- T6.1 Strategic relevance & impact indicators
- T6.2 Monitoring framework & assessment
- T6.3 Sustainability & future access roadmap

Key outputs:
- Indicator framework & baseline
- Impact assessment report
- Sustainability & future access roadmap

WP7 – Communication and Stakeholder Engagement
Lump-sum logic: visible outputs, not continuous activity
Tasks (2–3):
- T7.1 Communication strategy & materials
- T7.2 Stakeholder engagement actions
- (optional) T7.3 Alignment with EU-level communication

Key outputs:
- Communication strategy
- Website & dissemination toolkit
- Stakeholder engagement report

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BKhZapdrZ6zmqHF_Bhem8S8NgPniu0NVHtWBRamCNmU/edit?usp=sharing

Coordinator : Michel Boer
Co-Coordinator: Anca Hienola
PM:
WP1
WP2
WP3
WP4
WP5
WP6
WP6: Communication (ICOS/ANAEE?)

DONE!!!