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PRESS RELEASE

ELI is rocketing into the future, ready to boost research and innovation in Europe

Investing in world-class research infrastructure ELI will allow European researchers to pursue blue-sky research in order to tackle societal challenges. – General Assembly of the Extreme Light Infrastructure Delivery Consortium (ELI-DC) was held at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union.

The annual General Assembly of the Extreme Light Infrastructure Delivery Consortium (ELI-DC) was held in Brussels. The General Assembly is the highest and most important decision-making body of ELI-DC. During the General Assembly sessions, the members made significant decisions and outlined the important work ahead of ELI. Representatives of the ELI-DC members worked effectively and reached consensus on a number of key issues so as to ensure the smooth implementation of the most significant R&D project in the new Community Member States.

The investment volume of the infrastructure is quite significant: it exceeds 850 Mio Euro. The majority of financing was provided to the host countries via the Community's Structural Funds.

His Excellency Tibor Stelbaczky, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU said, "As we all agree, investment in research and innovation is essential for Europe to create growth and jobs and to compete with the rest of the world. ELI is the first ESFRI [European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures] project to be fully implemented in the newer Member States of the European Union, namely in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. Hungary is committed to the success of the project in order to bring a much needed world class research infrastructure to Central and Eastern Europe. We believe that ELI will also be instrumental in reversing brain drain in our region but also in the whole of Europe."

Catalin Miron, acting Director General of ELI-DC spoke about how ELI may become a landmark in European laser history: "ELI will be the world's first international user facility for laser-based research and applications. Only after ten years, as its construction is nearing completion, ELI is about to be declared one of the 'ESFRI Landmarks' for its role as a reference project for the scientific excellence and competitiveness of the European Research Area. ELI will open a gateway to new, unexplored scientific fields within physics and allow scientists to address new technical challenges, such as relativistic microelectronics and compact laser particle accelerators. It will have a considerable impact on numerous fields across disciplines, from materials science to medicine and the protection of the environment, to name just a few."

With respect to the ELI project's extraordinary team of co-workers and collaborators, Lóránt Lehrner, managing director of ELI-HU Non-Profit Ltd. pointed out that "We have brought together leaders and young researchers in the ultrafast and attosecond communities to share our progress and goals towards the next generation of sources and the subsequent application of fundamental science. ELI-ALPS provides research opportunities in a wide range of disciplines and will enable high-quality cutting-edge research, ultraquick physical processes, biological, medical and materials sciences and energy research, from solar cells to

artificial photosynthesis. The ELI-ALPS management team believes that the ELI-ALPS project has the potential to become an engine and catalyst for significant regional economic and social development for Hungary and Europe.”

The ELI Delivery Consortium International Association (ELI-DC AISBL) is the international body in charge of the coordination of the implementation of the three research centres of ELI and of the transition, before 2018, from the implementation phase to the user operation phase of ELI under the unified governance of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium, ELI-ERIC. These activities are supported by the European Commission through the project ELITRANS, coordinated by ELI-DC and involve all ELI-pillars and additional European partners. ELITRANS received funding in 2015 under the INFRADEV 3 topic of the H2020 framework programme.

The Research Infrastructure will consist of four sites with complementary scientific profiles. Three of them are presently being constructed in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania, respectively. Their combined investment volume exceeds 850 Mio Euro, the majority of which was granted to the host countries in the form of Community Structural Funds. The implementation of ELI's fourth pillar, the highest intensity pillar, will be specified later.

More information about the ELI project:

<https://eli-laser.eu/>

Interview:

Catalin Miron acting Director General of ELI-DC
Prof. Carlo Rizzuto, chair of the ELI Coordination Council
Lóránt Lehrner, Managing Director of ELI-ALPS

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