

## Milestone 5.3: First NFs labelled and operational

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## 1 Purpose of ACTRIS National Facility labelling

The ACTRIS National Facility (NF) labelling process shall prove the operational capacities of the NFs in ACTRIS and ensure the high quality of ACTRIS data by granting the label “*ACTRIS National Facility*” to Observational and Exploratory Platforms that comply with the ACTRIS standards. The ACTRIS labelling principles and the labelling process have been developed during the ACTRIS Preparation Phase Project (ACTRIS-PPP). They were documented in two deliverables (ACTRIS-PPP D5.3 and D5.4) and approved by the Interim ACTRIS Council (IAC) in its 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Lyon, 25-26 October 2018). The labelling plan is further described in ACTRIS-IMP D5.1.

The awarded ACTRIS label is: “**ACTRIS National Facility**”, with a specification of “*ACTRIS Observational Platform*” or “*ACTRIS Exploratory Platform*”.

The ACTRIS label shall be accompanied with at least one *Certificate of Compliance* regarding

- Aerosol remote sensing
- Aerosol *in situ* measurements
- Cloud remote sensing
- Cloud *in situ* measurements
- Reactive trace gases remote sensing
- Reactive trace gases *in situ* measurements

for ACTRIS Observational Platforms or

- Mobile Platform
- Atmospheric Simulation Chamber
- Laboratory Platform

for ACTRIS Exploratory Platforms.

## 2 Short description of the labelling process

The process leading to the ACTRIS label consists of three steps: initial acceptance (step 1a), performance evaluation (step 1b) and approval and granting of ACTRIS label (step 1c). Step 2 is the periodic re-evaluation of the facility to retain the label.

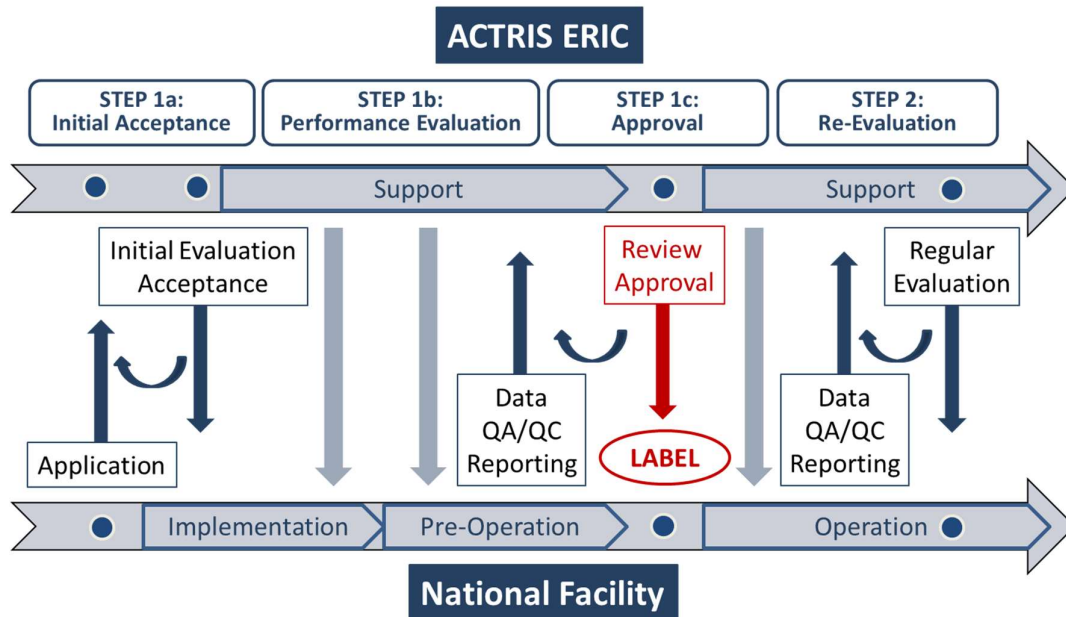


Fig. 1: Steps and actions of the ACTRIS labelling process. The upper horizontal arrow indicates the responsibilities of ACTRIS ERIC, including the CFs, RI Com and GA, whereas the lower arrow stands for the activities of the NF. Vertical arrows illustrate the interactions between ACTRIS ERIC and the NF. The dark blue dots on the horizontal arrows mark the major points of action within the process.

The whole labelling process is described in more detail in ACTRIS IMP deliverable 5.1 “ACTRIS NF Labelling plan” available on the ACTRIS web site under the deliverables at <https://www.actris.eu/how-are-we-funded/actris-imp-documents>.

The step 1a in which this document focuses consists of the following work flow:

1. The hosting country proposes the NF to be included in ACTRIS.
2. ACTRIS Head Office (HO) gives the NF Principle Investigator (PI) access to the labelling interface.
3. The NF PI provides necessary information on existing and planned facility, contacts and instrumentation.
4. The respective TC evaluates the NF to identify / confirm the current gaps in compliancy, starting the work from the data the NF has put in the system.
5. The NF PI provides a plan how and when to reach compliancy with ACTRIS requirements based on the evaluation results.
6. The respective TC provides a recommendation to RI committee whether the NF is ready for initial acceptance considerin the instrumentations and measurements.
7. The NF host RPO(s) provide(s) a commitment for long term funding of the facility recognizing the ACTRIS data- and service policies. This can be done already earlier to speed upthe process.

8. The HO checks the information and documents the facility has provided and makes a recommendation to RI committee whether the NF has provided everything that is needed and is ready for initial acceptance.
9. The RI committee evaluates the NF (the big picture, feasibility of the plan, non-technical compliancy) and gives a recommendation for initial acceptance of the NF.
10. The ACTRIS ERIC Director General (or interim ACTRIS Leader) grants the initial label.

### 3 Labelling pilot

To test the labelling process and tools the labelling was piloted with a set of experienced Observational Facilities. 13 Observational Facilities bringing into ACTRIS 21 components were chosen for the pilot in Spring 2022 with the following distribution:

- Aerosol in situ measurements: 6
- Cloud in situ measurements: 0 (as the respective TC is not yet ready for operational activities)
- Trace gases in situ measurements: 5
- Aerosol remote sensing: 3
- Cloud remote sensing: 5
- Trace gases remote sensing: 2

All of these facilities were approved by the respective host countries. The facilities were given access to the labelling interface in June 2022 with a request to fill their information by end of September. As one of the aerosol remote sensing components withdrew from the process and another one had delays, two more facilities were added in October 2022 bringing in one more aerosol in-situ component and two aerosol remote sensing components. First seven components were fully evaluated in October / November 2022, all for aerosol in-situ measurements. They were brought to the RI committee for recommendation 9.12.2022, with the resulting recommendations listed in chapter 4.

The labelling pilot will extend to January / February 2022, after which feedback is collected. After necessary modifications the labelling process will be opened to a larger number of facilities.

### 4 First ACTRIS National Facilities initially accepted

The first ACTRIS National Facilities were initially accepted (completed labelling step 1a) by interim ACTRIS Leader Eija Juurola in 9.12.2022 and marked in the NF data base in 14.12.2022. These facilities were:

**National Atmospheric Observatory Kosetice**, hosted by Czech Republic

**Pallas Atmosphere-Ecosystem Supersite**, hosted by Finland

**RADO-Bucharest**, hosted by Romania

**SMEAR II (Hyytiälä)**, hosted by Finland

All of these facilities participated in the labelling pilot and were labelled with a certificate for compliance on aerosol in-situ measurements. The sites had provided all necessary information, had been evaluated by Centre for Aerosol In-situ Measurements (CAIS-ECAC) and had provided a signed commitment letter with requested level of commitment to long term funding and ACTRIS data- and service policies. The facilities were recommended for initial acceptance by CAIS-ECAC for the technical side and by ACTRIS Head Office for completeness of the labelling documentation. In its meeting 9.12.2022 ACTRIS RI committee gave the final recommendation to initially accept these facilities. The interim ACTRIS leader Eija Juurola announced her initial acceptance of the facilities during the RI committee meeting. The acceptance was recorded in the ACTRIS NF labelling data base 14.12.2022 as soon as it was technically possible.

A fifth facility was also initially accepted the same week:

**Barcelona**, hosted by Spain

This facility also participated in the labelling pilot as an aerosol in-situ facility, but started later than the others in October 2022. By the time of the RI com meeting 9.12.2022 the facility had provided all the technical documentation and had been recommended by CAIS-ECAC for initial acceptance, but had not yet provided the requested commitment letter. The RI com gave a conditional recommendation that the facility should be initially accepted once the commitment letter is provided. The letter was provided 15.12.2022 and was considered sufficient, and therefore interim ACTRIS Leader Eija Juurola initially accepted the facility 16.12.2022

There were two more facilities evaluated in the same RI committee meeting, but those were left on the table until the next meeting as the RI committee did not have enough information to provide a recommendation.

## 5 Reaching the milestone 5.3

The ACTRIS IMP milestone 5.3. "First NFs labelled and operational" is considered to be reached when the first National Facilities have been initially accepted (completed step 1a in the labelling process) and the list of these is available on the ACTRIS web site.

The initial acceptance has been given and the initial acceptance is stated in the facility information reachable through the ACTRIS NF maps. Further more, the information is included in this document, also openly available at the ACTRIS web site under the milestones at <https://www.actris.eu/how-are-we-funded/actris-imp-documents>.

Therefore the milestone is to be considered reached 16.12.2022.