

ERIH PLUS Background

ERIH PLUS was created and developed by European researchers under the coordination of the Standing Committee for the Humanities (SCH) of the European Science Foundation (ESF). The ERIH lists, which initially covered only humanities disciplines, were first published by ESF in 2008, while revised lists were made available in 2011-2012. In 2014, responsibility for the maintenance and operation of ERIH was transferred to the [NSD - Norwegian Centre for Research Data](#). The reference index at NSD is called ERIH PLUS in order to indicate that it has been **extended to include the social sciences**.

ERIH was a timely project which contributed substantially to debates on the impact and appropriate evaluation mechanisms for humanities research within Europe as well as globally. The project has triggered lively debates among humanities researchers and funders. In view of those debates, in 2010 the ESF, upon request by its Member Organisations, commissioned a report to analyze the current status and outline the future options for ERIH. The main recommendation of the report was to develop ERIH as a research infrastructure for the humanities and to orient it towards a bibliographic approach (the report of the Working Group is available as a PDF file [here](#)).

In 2008 the SCH published the so-called ERIH 'Initial Lists', and in 2011-2012 the 'Revised Lists'. The approval of journals to ERIH was based on a peer review process conducted by expert panels in 14 humanities disciplines. 140 researchers from 28 countries participated on a voluntary basis in the work of the ERIH panels in the two rounds. All journals included in ERIH had to meet the threshold standards for scholarly journals defined by SCH (information on ERIH aims and quality criteria is available as a PDF file [here](#)).

The lists published by the ESF SCH in 2011-2012 form the basis for the ERIH PLUS list. ERIH PLUS does not feature ERIH categories but the database includes all other information accessible via the ESF website. The ERIH PLUS benchmark standards ([here](#)) has been developed jointly by NSD and ESF and are based on the main principles used by the ESF SCH in ERIH and the [National Board of Scholarly Publishing](#) in the [Norwegian Register for Scientific Journals, Series and Publishers](#).

ERIH PLUS REVISION STARTING

Published 30 October 2015

Starting fall 2015 all journals transferred from ERIH to ERIH PLUS was revised against the ERIH PLUS criteria. The aim of the revision was to ensure that all indexed journals followed the ERIH PLUS standard. During the revision the ERIH PLUS team collected data about all the journals in order to make this information transparent for the users of the index and to ensure that the information in ERIH PLUS was up to date. In addition to verifying data about the criteria, we also collected data about language of the publication, country of publication, publisher, open access, whether the publication was national or international, and the website.

All journals transferred from ERIH were, regardless of the outcome of the revision, still be indexed in ERIH PLUS. The journals either appeared with an updated approval in accordance with [the ERIH PLUS criteria](#) or were remained approved according to [the former ERIH criteria](#), depending on the findings of the revision. All journals approved in accordance with the ERIH criteria from 2008 or 2011-2012, got with this revision, the opportunity to also be approved in accordance with the ERIH PLUS criteria for inclusion.

Once a journal was revised an email was sent to the editor of the respective journal. We used the contact information for the journal's editors (or other relevant personnel) that was found by examining the journal's website.

All journals undergoing the ERIH PLUS revision was treated in a standardised way.

ERIH PLUS REVISION ENDING

Published 10 May 2017

When ERIH became ERIH PLUS in 2014, all ERIH journals were transferred to ERIH PLUS as approved journals. In 2015, we started the process of revising all journals transferred from ERIH to ERIH PLUS against the ERIH PLUS criteria. The aim of the revision was to ensure that all indexed journals follow the ERIH PLUS standard. In addition, the revision would ensure that the information in ERIH PLUS is up to date.

Since we started the revision process, we have revised almost 5000 ERIH journals against the ERIH PLUS criteria. Until the process is finished, the ERIH journals will still be indexed in ERIH PLUS regardless of the outcome of the revision. Once the revision process is completed, however, *all ERIH journals that has been found to not comply with the ERIH PLUS criteria will no longer be listed as approved journals in ERIH PLUS.*

The revision process is estimated to be completed this summer.

All journals undergoing the ERIH PLUS revision are treated in a standardised way. More information about the ERIH PLUS approval procedures can be found [here](#). Please contact the ERIH PLUS team at erihplus@nsd.no if you have any questions about the ERIH PLUS revision.

ERIH PLUS REVISION COMPLETED

Published 2017-09-06

Between 2015 and 2017 all journals transferred from ERIH to ERIH PLUS were revised against the new ERIH PLUS criteria. The aim of the revision was to ensure that all indexed journals follow the ERIH PLUS standard. During the revision the ERIH PLUS team collected data about all the journals in order to make this information transparent for the users of the index and to ensure that the information in ERIH PLUS is up to date. Moreover, we collected data about language of the publication, country of publication, publisher, open access status, and whether the publication is national or international. Furthermore, the ERIH PLUS team evaluated the information available on the journals' websites against the ERIH PLUS criteria. To

be included in ERIH PLUS, the journal must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Explicit description of the journal's procedures for external/independent peer review.
- A list of the members of the journal's academic editorial board, along with their affiliations with universities or other independent research organizations.
- Valid and active ISSN number, confirmed by the [ISSN International Centre](#).
- All original articles should be accompanied by abstracts in English and/or another international language relevant for the field. The abstracts should preferably be available online.
- Information on author affiliations and addresses for two recent issues, i.e. the full names of the respective universities or other independent research institutions. ERIH PLUS encourages journals also to include author addresses (either email or postal addresses).
- No more than two thirds of the authors published in the journal are from the same institution.

After revision of a journal, the ERIH PLUS team has attempted to convey the result of the evaluation to editors, publishers or contact persons. However, the listings of the journals in ERIH have not included contact information, which has made this part of the process difficult in some cases. We wish to extend our apologies if we have not been able to reach you earlier.

The revision process was completed on August 31, 2017. All journals not complying with the ERIH PLUS criteria by this date are no longer indexed. However, the outcome of the revision is not final. ERIH PLUS maintains records of these journals, and they may request a re-evaluation on basis of new documentation indicating compliance with the criteria. Please contact us at erihplus@nsd.no if you would like to request a re-evaluation. You will need to provide relevant documentation and/or direct links to the criterion/criteria in question. If information about the criteria is only to be found in the printed version of the journal, issues can be sent to us by [email](#) or to our [postal address](#).

All journals undergoing the ERIH PLUS revision have been treated in a standardized way. More information about the ERIH PLUS approval procedures can be found [here](#). Should you require any more information about the ERIH PLUS revision, please do not hesitate to contact us at erihplus@nsd.no.