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**DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION
COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY**

Working Party of National Experts on Science and Technology Indicators

Research and Innovation Careers Observatory – End of Year 2 status and next steps

This document reports on progress on the REICO project since the last NESTI meeting in 2025 and plans for the year ahead. NESTI delegates are invited to comment on the progress made and outputs and provide guidance on upcoming project activities and future priorities.

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Note from the Secretariat

This document provides an update on recent ReICO activities and outputs. It presents an overview of developments in the project since the 2025 meeting of NESTI, including the conclusion of the 2025 ReICO – National Contact Point data collection cycle, the 2026 updates to the ReICO online presence and database, highlights from the first comprehensive ReICO publication launched at the Blue Sky Forum and the ongoing 2026 ReICO survey of the global R&D workforce. It also provides an overview of plans for Year 3 of the project, which runs from June 2026 to May 2027, covering the commencement of new strands of work and planned improvements to existing data collection and database operations.

Action requested: NESTI delegates are invited to review the report of recent activities and outputs, share feedback on the work completed and provide guidance on plans for Year 3 of the project.

Research and Innovation Careers Observatory –status and next steps

1. About ReICO

1.1. Background

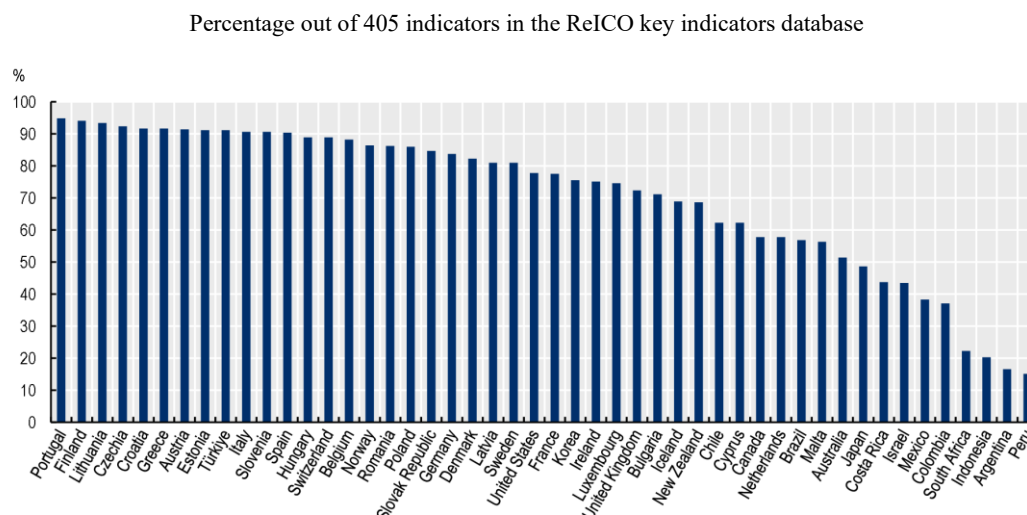
1. The Research and Innovation Careers Observatory (ReICO) is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the OECD established to bring renewed attention and effort to improving evidence on the human resources in science, technology and innovation, supporting better policymaking. ReICO responds to the recognised need for stronger evidence to map profiles and career pathways of the research and innovation (R&I) workforce by bringing together data, indicators and related analysis in one place. As well as bringing together existing evidence, ReICO is working to address knowledge gaps through innovative methodologies, novel data sources, stakeholder engagement and collaborative partnerships with key actors, providing a platform to raise awareness not only of OECD initiatives but also broader work on R&I careers.
2. The ReICO project's concept and detailed description was first discussed with NESTI in 2023 [[DSTI/STP/NESTI\(2023\)9](#)]. The project was subsequently endorsed by the 2024 CSTP Ministerial Declaration and following the conclusion of a voluntary contribution (VC) funding agreement with the European Commission, the project commenced in June 2024. ReICO is included in the CSTP PWB 2025-2026 as a self-standing Intermediate Output Result. It is scheduled to continue until May 2030.
3. ReICO's work is guided and overseen by NESTI and CSTP, carried out in conjunction with its network of National Contact Points (NCPs) and advised by an Expert Advisory Group (comprising external advisors with relevant expertise on R&I careers) as well as the project Advisory Group (comprising project officers from the European Commission and members of the ReICO team within the NESTI Secretariat).

1.2. Key features and activities

4. The ReICO evidence base currently covers more than 50 countries across three core themes - talent development, labour market perspectives and talent circulation, although coverage of ReICO key indicators varies considerably across countries (Figure 1.1). Data for ReICO is gathered and consolidated from relevant international sources (including OECD, ILO and Eurostat), and from a dedicated annual data collection carried out through NCPs. The collected data is cleaned, processed and validated by the ReICO team within the NESTI Secretariat and a series of internationally comparable indicators computed based on the collected data, resulting in a database of over 400 “key” indicators selected by the Secretariat based on country coverage, relevance and coverage of the ReICO themes. In addition to the ReICO key indicator database, three more detailed databases are published annually in the OECD Data Explorer, each oriented around one of the ReICO themes.
5. All of the data and evidence developed through the project is consolidated in the ReICO online hub (<http://oe.cd/reico>), which includes a statistical dashboard displaying a selection of more than 200 of the ReICO key indicators, links to the detailed databases for each ReICO theme, thematic charts and analysis, country-level pages with repositories of national studies and statistics, and links to releases and blog posts relating to the project.

The hub was first [launched in June 2025](#) in beta version and moved to full version following its first major annual update in June 2026.

Figure 1.1. Country coverage of ReICO key indicators, June 2026 version



Note: For conciseness, the chart shows 38 OECD Members, 8 OECD accession and/or Key Partner countries and 2 non-OECD EU Members with at least 10% of coverage. The share refers to the share of indicators with at least one value for the country available between the reference years 2020 and 2024.

Source: OECD, Research and Innovation Career Observatory (ReICO) Database, June 2026.

6. The first two years of the ReICO project have focused primarily on building and rendering accessible the combined data infrastructure described above, which allows for previously fragmented and siloed official data relevant for mapping and profiling the R&I workforce to be brought together for the first time. This has required the effective engagement with a diverse group of officials and experts within countries, helping build their own internal case for monitoring R&I careers and making key parts of that work internationally comparable. The first comprehensive ReICO report, published in September 2026, presents an analysis of some of the key insights and findings from this work, demonstrating the value of having a consolidated evidence base available to inform policy and setting out future steps. The annual data collection, consolidation and calculation of indicators is a core activity of ReICO and will continue to form the backbone of ReICO's operations in the years to come.
7. However, ReICO is also tasked with driving forward a measurement agenda for R&I talent and careers, addressing key gaps in international comparisons and expanding the possibilities of measurement and reporting to inform policy and career decisions. This means, as ReICO moves into Year 3 and beyond, its areas of focus are expanding and will become increasingly oriented towards the development of novel methodologies and data sources that support its objective to expand measurement capabilities for R&I careers beyond what is currently feasible using official data sources. The launch of the ReICO survey in July 2026 marks the start of this new phase of the project. A detailed description of the future priorities for expanding measurement and analysis possibilities is provided further below, along with a summary of immediate priorities to be progressed in Year 3. The outcomes of the 4th OECD Blue Sky Forum will also help to inspire and inform ReICO's future activities (Box 1).
8. The results of ReICO's annual data collection operations along with the results of the expanded set of activities commencing in Year 3, and the ongoing dialogue and information

exchange with national contact points, policymakers, experts and the wider R&I community, provide the basis for further developing and articulating a common language and conceptual framework on R&I talent and careers that is reflective of the actual situation within R&I systems, which is another core goal of ReICO. This conceptual development will form part of the foundation of future collaborative efforts to revise the Frascati Manual guidance on identifying, classifying and collecting data on R&D personnel within the OECD R&D statistics annual data collection.

Box 1. ReICO at the 4th OECD Blue Sky Forum

The 4th OECD Blue Sky Forum gathers the global community shaping science, technology and innovation (STI) evidence to support better policymaking and decision making worldwide. It provides a unique space for cross-disciplinary and international dialogue, bringing together policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders to help ensure that STI evidence remains relevant in a rapidly changing world.

A central theme throughout the Forum programme is the role of people as the ultimate drivers of scientific and technological progress. Three sessions linked to ReICO address this theme, exploring how new data sources, innovative methodologies and improved measurement frameworks can provide deeper insights into R&I talent, participation and career trajectories, as follows:

A key plenary session – **“Counting Who Matters Most: Setting a New Agenda for Mapping Talent, Participation and Careers in Research and Innovation”** reflecting on key messages from the launch of the ReICO publication and using it as a catalyst for discussing how R&I talent, participation, skills, mobility and career trajectories can be measured more effectively. The session also covers the national and international coordination required to develop the data infrastructures, standards and indicators that can underpin stronger talent policies and more successful R&I careers.

A first technical session – **“Official, Administrative and Publicly Supported Data on Research and Innovation Careers: New Sources, Methods and Insights”** showcasing how administrative data, official statistics and publicly funded research infrastructures can be leveraged to address persistent evidence gaps in R&I careers, particularly for tracking career pathways and outcomes, focusing on the potential for these approaches to be adopted more widely across countries and institutions.

A second technical session – **“Emerging Data Infrastructures and Methods for Monitoring Research and Innovation Careers”** highlighting the potential for expanding the measurement agenda beyond traditional statistical sources using open, commercial and public data. It brings together data producers and users to explore how such emerging infrastructures complement official statistics and administrative registers, and to reflect on opportunities and challenges of collaboration between public authorities and private organisations in building a richer and more integrated evidence base.

2. Progress and outputs of ReICO since NESTI 2025

9. The ReICO project has taken some substantial steps forward since the previous NESTI meeting held in December 2025, a period encompassing the end of the second project year (end of May 2026) and the first three months of Year 3, as summarised below.

2.1. Completion of annual data collection 2025/2026

10. The 2025 ReICO-NCP annual data collection was launched in mid-October 2025 with a closing date for submitting the completed questionnaire of 9 January 2026, although several countries were only able to submit their questionnaires after this date. Validation of submitted data with NCPs continued through February, March and April, while at the same time the Secretariat proceeded with harmonisation and preparation of data collected from international databases. In total, of the 45 countries with a designated ReICO NCP:
 - 28 countries (62%) contributed at least some national data for the 2025 data collection, including 23 OECD Member countries, 4 accession countries and 1 non-OECD Member EU country. These same countries also provided data for the 2024/2025 round.
 - An additional 4 countries contributed data for the 2024 round but did not provide data for the 2025 round, mainly because they did not have an available update on the data provided in 2024 (e.g. the data was provided from quinquennial census).
 - The 13 remaining countries could not contribute data for the 2024 nor the 2025 rounds. Where the Secretariat was able to gather information on these cases, it was generally, as might be expected, either because of a lack of data availability or lack of available resources within the NCP or other national bodies to collate the data and populate the questionnaire.
11. The experience of both years of data collection provides an indication of the extent to which countries can populate different parts of the questionnaire, and how regularly they will be able to update data. For example, many countries are now able to provide the total stock of doctorate and master's degree holders in the country and their demographic breakdowns (age, sex and country of birth). However, few countries can provide data on outcomes according to graduation cohort (for example, recent graduates which are a group of interest for ReICO). About 40% of 32 countries provided at least some data on working hours, contract type (fixed term versus indefinite employment), earnings and Frascati sectors of employed degree holders. Some countries can contribute data only from data collections with lower frequency, such as census data or data from dedicated Careers of Doctorate Holders (CDH) studies.
12. Key highlights from the 2025 data collection were presented to ReICO NCPs in May 2026. NCPs were appreciative of the work carried out and also provided some reflections on the data collection process, pointing out that the timing of the collection (October to January) comes during a busy period for many national statistical organisations. Some countries were able to achieve some efficiencies in the second round of data collection (2025 round) having invested in building workflows to respond to the first annual data collection (2024 round). However, countries requiring NCPs to undergo extensive coordination with other institutions/teams took longer to gather and to process the data. The data collection is particularly resource-intensive for NCPs needing to return more than one questionnaire.
13. As well as the updated national data, additional international data sources were included into the database for the first time in 2026, which improved coverage of several indicators (for example, indicators on employment conditions of advanced degree holders) and allowed for the integration of new indicators including:
 - counts and shares of STEM professionals (natural science, engineering and ICT professionals) in employment based on the ISCO occupation classification, although not information on their earnings or working conditions, which are potential areas of future interest;

- indicators of quality of life of advanced degree holders, on an exploratory basis, based on secondary analysis of data from the survey administered by Eurostat;
 - expanded comparative indicators on the financial resources available for R&D personnel.
14. The end of this second year of data collection provides an opportunity for the Secretariat to assess the ReICO annual data operation and reflect on ways to improve its efficiency and reduce response burden for NCPs, as discussed in the final section.

2.2. Update of the ReICO web presence – June 2026

15. The Secretariat completed a major update to [the ReICO hub](#) and ReICO's online presence on 30 June 2026, marking a graduation from the beta version launched in June 2025 to the full version. Key improvements to the ReICO hub include:
- Updated and rewritten text throughout, including the removal of all references to the "beta" version of ReICO
 - A reorganised "key indicators" dashboard on [the data section of the hub](#) with additional guidance for users, including a visual map of the indicator structure within the dashboard
 - Expansion of the interactive thematic charts and analysis available in sections addressing each of the core ReICO themes – [R&I talent development](#), [R&I labour market](#), and [R&I talent circulation](#)
 - A new thematic section on [Women in R&I careers](#)
 - Updated repositories of national statistics and studies on [the ReICO country pages](#)
16. In addition to the upgrades to the ReICO hub and existing country pages, a [new ReICO country dashboard](#) was developed in the first months of 2026 and launched at the same time as the ReICO hub update release in June. The dashboard is hosted under the main "Data" path of the OECD.org website (where all OECD dashboards are housed) with cross links to and from the ReICO hub. The dashboard shows comparisons between individual countries and a benchmark (for example, the OECD or EU average where available) for a selection of core indicators.

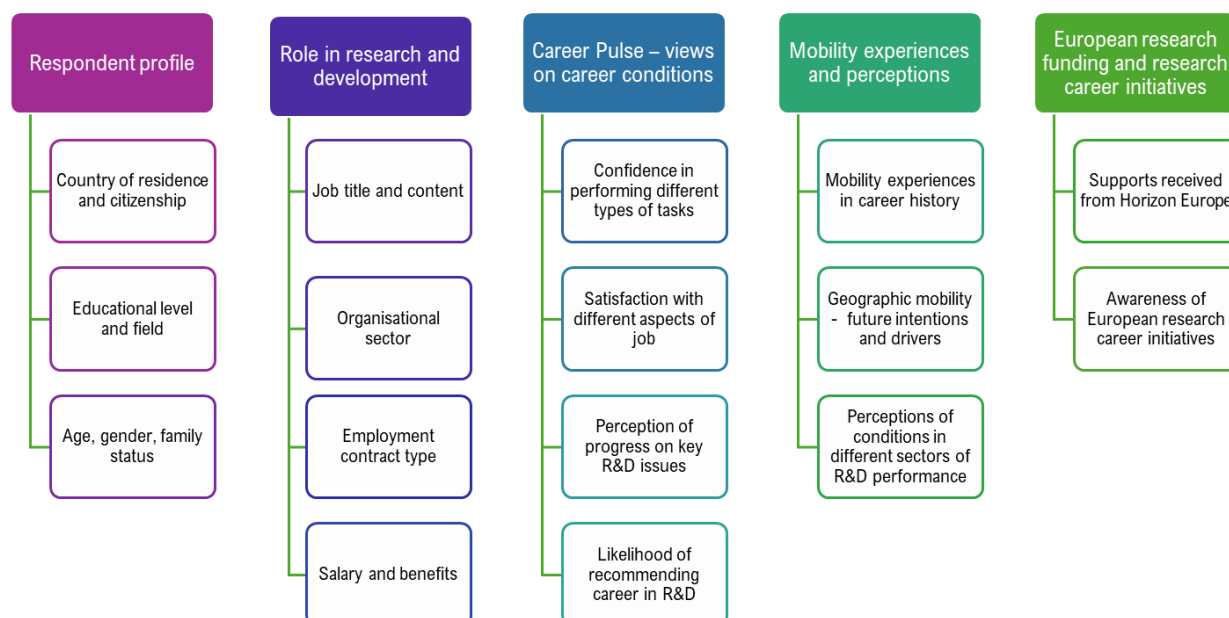
2.3. Development and launch of the first ReICO survey

17. Surveys of the R&I workforce are a key activity embedded in ReICO. Three such surveys will take place over the course of the project, the first of which was launched in July 2026, with second and third rounds planned for 2028 and 2030. ReICO surveys serve several purposes. Firstly, they provide a means to gather complementary policy-relevant data not feasible to obtain from official statistics, administrative registers or alternative data sources, such as the perspectives of R&I personnel on emerging and maturing topics of policy concern. Secondly, through collecting information on job titles and job content, they provide a means to assess how job roles and tasks may be evolving, which is particularly relevant for evaluating the R&D personnel functional classification in the Frascati Manual, long recognised as requiring review in light of the changing nature of R&D work and careers. Finally, surveys support other activities of ReICO by helping to build the ReICO community and allow for longitudinal follow-up of respondents. The following core principles underpin the survey operation:

- **iterative and cumulative improvement:** successive ReICO surveys should aim for continuous improvements in the identification of target populations, outreach and engagement, management of bias in sampling and response, administrative cost-efficiency of data collection and the authentication of respondents, while respecting their time and privacy.
- **alignment and connectivity with other surveys and data collections:** where possible, ReICO-based surveys should reuse previously validated constructs and questions and align with existing international classifications, helping to strengthen comparability and analytical value.
- **progressive strengthening of engagement** with the target population of respondents, through building a recognisable public identity for the surveys and working to build widespread recognition and trust in them over time among those working in R&I and related stakeholder organisations.

18. The first ReICO survey was developed during the first half of 2026 in consultation with the project's EAG, NCPs and Advisory Group. The design of the survey was informed by three previous OECD International Surveys of Science (known as the ISSA surveys), as well as surveys carried out as part of the four EU-funded Mobility Patterns and Career Paths of EU Researchers (MORE) studies and other relevant national and international surveys of research and development workforce. Taking into account that response rates to such surveys have been falling in recent years and “survey fatigue” is inherent in the target population, the design and development aimed to balance between minimising respondent burden, operational efficiency and maximising analytical potential from the results. Figure 2.1 shows the modules and topics covered in the survey.

Figure 2.1. ReICO 2026 survey structure



19. The survey was launched as the OECD-EU Research and Development Careers Survey in mid-July 2026 and remains open as of the time of writing, with an initially planned closing date of 25 September 2026. To date the survey has been primarily promoted through ReICO NCPs, NESTI delegates, stakeholder organisations and the European Commission. Just over 5 000 responses have been received during the first 8 weeks of the survey operation, which coincided with the summer holiday period in many countries. Responses received to date have also been quite unbalanced between countries. To increase the volume of responses further and address the imbalance across countries, the Secretariat is planning to extend the field period for the survey from September to October and work closely with individual countries with lower response rates to improve their coverage.
20. The ReICO survey benefits from strengthened authentication of respondents using a dedicated app developed for the OECD version of LimeSurvey, which allows for respondents to use their ORCID credentials to access the survey. As of the time of writing, approximately 70% of respondents had authenticated using this method, which allows their responses to be linked to their publicly available ORCID record, potentially increasing the analytical value of such responses (depending on the extent of data available in the public record) without imposing additional burden on respondents.
21. The results of the survey to date also indicate its promise for expanding the ReICO community and opportunities for communication and exchange with R&I personnel, with about 55% of respondents so far electing to join the ReICO Community. In addition, around 57% of respondents to date have indicated that they would like to remain on the ReICO panel of R&I professionals and be invited to participate in the 2028 and 2030 survey waves. This considerably strengthens the starting point for future surveys and creates opportunities to develop a longitudinal evidence base on R&I careers over the course of the project.

2.4. Engagement and communication activities

22. Engagement and communication activities since the last NESTI meeting primarily focused on project team participation at conferences, meetings and stakeholder events, helping to build visibility of the project and share perspectives and findings from the project to date to a wide audience, ensuring that they can contribute to policy-relevant deliberations. These activities took place between January and September 2026, as follows:
 - Presentation and discussion of ReICO data issues at the **OECD Indicators of Education Systems (INES) Network on Labour Market, Economic and Social Outcomes of Learning (LSO) network meeting** (March 2026)
 - ReICO participation in special session of the **OECD Global Science Forum** on integrating international collaboration with scientific research training (April 2026)
 - ReICO participation in the **Marie Curie Alumni Association Annual Conference** – panel discussion on research careers within ERA (April 2026)
 - Presentation of ReICO to the **Italian National Community of Practice** for the implementation of the European Charter for Researchers, Turin (April 2026)
 - Project update and survey briefing for the **ERA Structural Policy Group on Research Careers** (April 2026)
 - Presentation of ReICO to the **International Consortium of Research Staff Associations (iCORSAs)** (May 2026)
 - ReICO presentation at the **Eurodoc** annual conference (June 2026)

- ReICO participation at **OECD International Conference on Migration of the OECD Working Party on Migration** (panel discussion on Researcher Mobility) (June 2026)
- ReICO presentation and ReICO-related sessions at the **OECD Blue Sky Forum** (see Box 1) (September 2026)

2.5. Publications

23. Publications and releases are an important element of ReICO, helping to communicate the evidence gathered through the project in a way that is accessible for policymakers, stakeholders and the public at large. During 2026 to date, in addition to material published through the ReICO hub (detailed in Section 2.2), the project prepared and published three outputs, as follows:

- A [blog post](#) on “Women in research: Progress in education, persistent gaps in careers”, published on the OECD website to coincide with International Women’s Day in March 2026;
- A [statistical release](#) on the evolution of the research and innovation workforce, released to coincide with the ReICO hub update in June 2026;
- A [monograph](#) – “Research and Innovation Careers Observatory 2026 – key indicators on talent, mobility and working conditions” (to be) released on 14 September 2026, coinciding with the Blue Sky Forum.

3. Future plans and Year 3 priorities

3.1. Current status and broad future priorities

24. The first two years of the ReICO project have focused primarily on building and consolidating a combined data infrastructure that allows for previously fragmented and siloed official data relevant for mapping and profiling the R&I workforce to be brought together for the first time. This part of the project, comprising building relationships with national and international statistical agencies, searching and reviewing data sources and building a data infrastructure comprising key indicators databases, thematic analysis hosted on the ReICO hub and other data sources, is now reaching a certain state of maturity.
25. With regard to official statistical sources, both national and international, the project has largely integrated what is available and possible to be harmonised internationally, although the Secretariat will continue to seek new sources of official data and to maximise the value of existing ones by carrying out secondary analyses that can help illuminate relevant R&I workforce and career issues.
26. With this in mind, as ReICO moves into Year 3 it is entering a new phase, where focus will turn towards consolidation and improving the efficiency of its existing data operations, while devoting an increasing share of effort to sourcing new data and developing new methods that can continuously expand and enrich the ReICO evidence base. Nine overarching priority areas for the four remaining years of the ReICO project, to be pursued through ongoing collaboration with national and international partners and the wider R&I community, are shown in Figure 3.1. These overarching priorities will inform the year-on-year project planning for ReICO. They include continuing to strengthen the foundations and capacity for measurement of R&I workforce and careers through national data infrastructures and official statistics, supporting countries in this process via the NCP

group, on one hand, and developing new indicators for emerging and alternative data sources, on the other.

Figure 3.1. Key priorities for the next stages of the ReICO project



Source: OECD (2026), Research and Innovation Careers Observatory 2026

27. Particular gaps in the current evidence base, that are priorities for measurement using non-official data sources, such as surveys of the R&I workforce data derived from digital traces of scientific and innovation activity and professional network data, include:

- tracking career moves across sectors and borders
- identifying emerging R&I occupations linked to critical technologies
- improving understanding of the perspectives, experiences and future career intentions of the current R&I workforce.

Addressing these gaps will require careful attention to the development of transparent and relevant methodologies that draw on emerging best practices in their respective fields, taking account of the specificities, strengths and limitations of each of these sources.

3.2. The role of ReICO within broader NESTI and CSTP work

28. Accounting for the human factor in STI constitutes a key continuing thematic priority for targeted measurement and analysis in the NESTI work programme, as identified by the CSTP and laid out in the proposed 2027-2030 NESTI roadmap, as part of Pillar 2. ReICO is the key vehicle within the NESTI work programme to address this agenda. As per the expected features and activities of Pillar 2 initiatives within the Roadmap, ReICO should help to drive experimentation and scaling of new data sources, while harnessing the potential of NESTI's core data infrastructures and tools wherever possible.

29. ReICO's work can also be informative for, as well as informed by, the core NESTI infrastructures and tools (Pillar 1 of the NESTI roadmap). For example, dialogue with ReICO stakeholders, review of national data infrastructures, and information gathered from

the ReICO community and ReICO survey, among others, can be informative for the eventual revision of the Frascati Manual guidance on the classification of and collection of data on R&D personnel within the OECD R&D statistics operation. In addition, ReICO can benefit from NESTI's expertise and experience in developing international indicators based on several sources, including bibliometrics, when it comes to experimental development of new indicators relevant for research and innovation careers. As an integral part of the NESTI work programme for 2027-2030, ReICO will seek synergies and complementarities between the more experimental parts of its work programme and other NESTI initiatives, to maximise added value for all the projects under the NESTI and MARIAD umbrellas and ultimately for the benefit of Members.

3.3. Year 3 objectives and work plan

30. Year 3 of the ReICO project, running from June 2026 to May 2027 inclusive, will focus on completing and reporting on the first ReICO survey, reviewing and updating annual data collection operations in advance of launching the 2026 ReICO NCP data collection, transitioning to more frequent and timely updates of the ReICO hub and database and initiating its programme of indicator development based on alternative and emerging data sources. Year 3 will also prioritise engagement with the wider ReICO community.
31. As detailed above, **the ReICO survey** has been area of focus for the project in the first months of Year 3. The Secretariat will expand promotion efforts in the coming weeks, combined with an extension of the closing date into October 2026. Focus will then turn to post-hoc analysis of the data, including the development and application of weighting strategies where possible to do so (bearing in mind that the survey is non-representative and relies on a "crowdsourced" approach to data collection). Results of the survey will be disseminated through different channels, including a dedicated space on the ReICO hub and inclusion of selected results in future ReICO releases and publications.
32. The Secretariat is also in the process of **reviewing the ReICO-NCP annual questionnaire** and data collection operation. Some NCPs have highlighted to the Secretariat that responding to the questionnaire brings additional burden at a busy time of year, and, as highlighted in the NESTI Roadmap, many NSOs currently face considerable budgetary pressures, resource constraints and high staff turnover. Moreover, there is a growing movement in the wider international statistical community towards simplification of data collection and reducing response burden. With this in mind, the Secretariat is reviewing its ReICO operation to identify ways to streamline the data collection and reduce burden, without losing the considerable value added to the project by the contributions of NCPs. Proposals in this regard will be shared with the ReICO NCPs at the upcoming meeting of the group in October (NCP 9). Following the review process, the data collection will be launched in November 2026 with a closing date extended to February 2027.
33. The first two years of the ReICO project have shown that an annual combined update of the ReICO hub and database release, while providing a clear operational focal point and predictable schedule for data users, also comes with some drawbacks and complications. For example, as ReICO draws on several different data sources, an annual update means that the timeliness of release of some indicators can be adversely impacted, compared to the timing of the release of data from its original source. A June release of ReICO data, as has been the model used for Years 1 and 2, means that, for instance, ReICO indicators based on *Education at a Glance* (published by the OECD Directorate of Education and Skills) data are already quite dated, having been released the previous September. Furthermore, it requires all of the indicators developed through the project to be computed, processed and validated in a compressed period of time, following the completion of the

annual data collection, which may become increasingly difficult to maintain as the suite of indicators and data sources continues to expand.

34. For these reasons, Year 3 will mark a departure towards a **more frequent updating of the ReICO hub and database**. It is envisaged that the following releases will take place during Year 3:
 - An intermediate update of the ReICO database and associated elements of the ReICO hub towards the end of 2026, which will update ReICO indicators based on *Education at a Glance 2026* (due for release on 29 September 2026) and PISA 2025 data (released on 8 September 2026, with considerable focus on science performance).
 - An update of the ReICO hub with results from the ReICO survey, in early 2027.
 - A major update of the hub and database in May/June 2027, to include results of the 2026 NCP data collection along with new data from R&D statistics, bibliometrics indicators and exploitation of international data sources.
 - More regular updates of ReICO country pages with new national studies and statistics.
35. Year 3 also marks the start of ReICO's expanded programme of **indicator development based on emerging and alternative data sources**, with the relevant Blue Sky forum sessions and related discussions providing a first step in this direction. In line with the project plan for ReICO, Year 3 will focus on progressing this agenda in two ways:
 - Explore and report on the potential for developing policy and contextual system-level indicators from qualitative data sources, with illustrative examples, based on a review of available information sources to progress this work, and drawing on experiences already gained within the NESTI Secretariat on developing such indicators of public supports for R&D.
 - Identify, evaluate and engage with owners of promising microdata or commercial data sources that can address policy topics of wide interest or fill gaps in the existing evidence base. ReICO has already reviewed or initiated contact with some organisations with potential for partnership in this regard (LinkedIn for professional network data, Indeed and CEDEFOP for job ads data). ReICO will also explore the potential of bibliometric and scientometric databases which continue to improve in terms of coverage and quality, again, drawing on the long experience and expertise within NESTI and MARIAD working with these resources, along with leading researchers and research organisations developing or using these data sources for their work.
36. In light of the immediate priorities for the remainder of 2026 relating to the survey and the updates to the data collection and ReICO hub, these plans for new indicator development are not expected to start in earnest until the first months of 2027, other than preliminary discussions with project partners.
37. Finally, ReICO will increase community engagement and networking efforts during Year 3 of the project, including the initiation of a newsletter series for the ReICO community members (named "Friends of ReICO") and continue to deepen relationships with stakeholders and partners, with the ultimate goal of ensuring continuous learning across all dimensions of the project in the coming years and making ReICO an increasingly valued and useful feature of the international statistical infrastructure for STI.