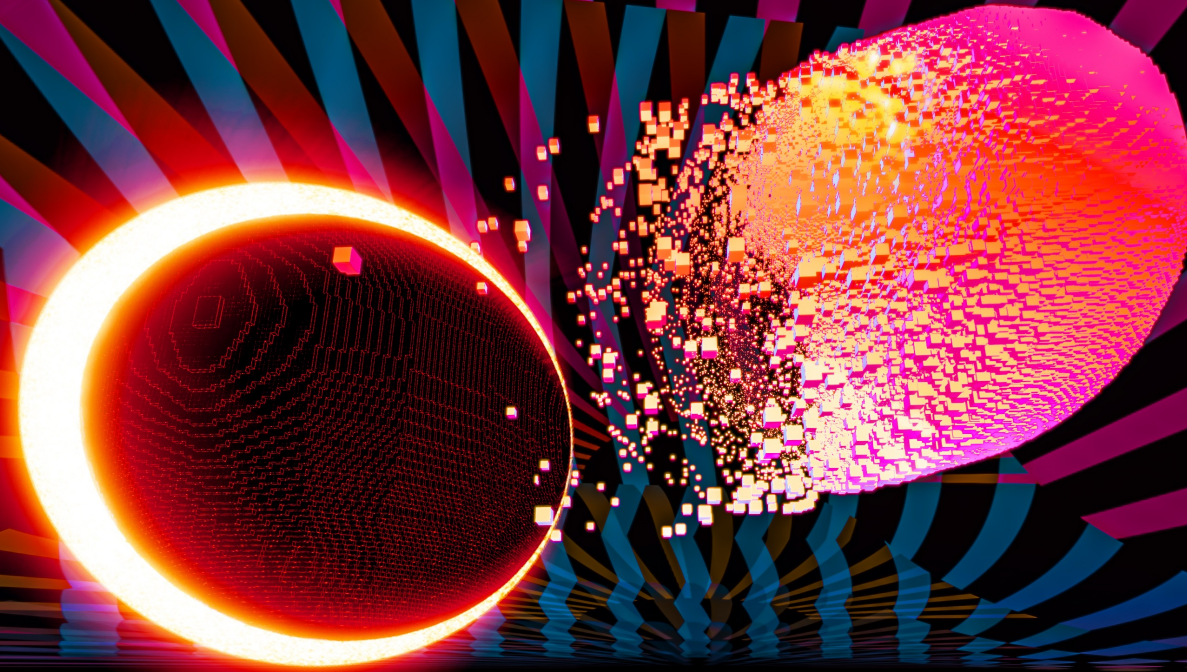




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ET-COMPASS project - Contribution to Early Implementation of ET project

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INFRA DEV 2025 Call – general info

Call scope and focus

- Scope: Call targeted the 11 ESFRI Projects that entered the ESFRI Roadmap in 2021, including the Einstein Telescope
- Focus: **key bottlenecks in the transition from preparatory to implementation phase**. Funded activities may include:
 - Governance and legal entity establishment
 - Membership enlargement and partner engagement
 - Addressing staff and procurement related issues
 - Securing Funding and related sustainability strategies
 - Consolidation of the international dimension
 - Development of ICT and FAIR-compliant data management solutions.

From EU call to ET-bid: the process

- **May 2025** - Call launched
- **June 2025** - BGR:
 - Endorses ETO's proposal for process and mandates ETO to coordinate ET-bid development
 - Suggests INFN as administrative coordinator
- **End June/Mid July 2025** - ETO/INFN bilateral alignment on proposal scope and partner engagement
- **Mid-End July 2025** - Engagement of and first consultations with potential consortium partners
- **August 2025** - Consortium building, proposal drafting, incl. WPs and budget
- **September 2025** – proposal finalization and submission of ET-COMPASS bid by INFN
- **Mid-February 2026** – EC evaluation outcome
- **18 May 2026** – grant agreement (GA) negotiations concluded
- **As of June 2026** – kick-off of the ET-COMPASS project, exact date TBD

ET-COMPASS Consortium composition

List of involved partners/beneficiaries in ET-COMPASS

Country	Institutions	Abbreviation
Austria	Montanuniversität Leoben	MUL
Belgium	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	KU Leuven
Croatia	Sveučilište u Rijeci	UNIRI
Germany	Deutsches Zentrum für Astrophysik	DZA
Italy	Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare	INFN
The Netherlands	Nationaal instituut voor subatomaire fysica	Nikhef
Poland	Particle Astrophysics Science and Technology Centre	AstroCeNT
Spain	Institut de Física d'Altes Energies	IFAE
The United Kingdom	University of Glasgow	Uni Glasgow

INFN is this INFRA DEV Coordinator. INFN and ETO worked closely in the development of this bid and will continue to do so in the implementation of the project

Project's scope and Rationale

ET-COMPASS: **C**Oordination, **M**anagement, **P**lanning And **S**trategic **S**upport

Full title: Coordination, Management Planning and Strategic Support for the Einstein Telescope

A strong, memorable acronym that is easy to say and remember

A meaningful metaphor - COMPASS supports the ETO throughout the work plan and roadmap to ET readiness.

Objectives of ET-COMPASS

Design and, where possible, test the structures, processes, policies, and tools to support ETO in addressing the development/strengthening of:

- An ET-wide management framework
- Organisational structures and resources for ETO (towards an efficient entity)
- A possible framework for in-kind personnel contribution
- Rules and procedures for the preparation of the ET project cost assessment
- Scenarios for evolution and enlargement of ETO Funders Group (EFG) (or its successor), including possible models to redefine and broaden criteria for membership
- ETO-led approach for strategic positioning of ET at European and global level, including dedicated public affairs and communication activities.

General reflections for a strong ET-bid

Considering the previous reflections and the tight budget of **M€1 to M€1,5 (max)**, Work Packages and Tasks were prioritised based on:

- Urgency
- Impact
- Feasibility.

Moreover, we chose for **a two-year project period** to be able to use ET-COMPASS as a catalyst for the much-needed progress ETO is aiming to achieve for ET.

Budget allocation also follows these principles

ET-COMPASS: WP structure, partners contributions and roles

Overview of WPs and Taks, incl. ETO roles

WP1: Management of ET-COMPASS project (Lead: INFN)

- T1.1: ET- COMPASS Management
- T1.2: ET-COMPASS Communication and Dissemination
- T1.3: Development of ET-COMPASS Data Management Plan and FAIR-Aligned Guidelines for ET

WP2: Establishing ETO as a functional and effective organisation (Lead: Nikhef, Co-Lead: A. Variola/ETO PO, INFN)

- T2.1: Developing ET-wide and ETO-led management structure (**Co-lead: P. Lubrano/ETO Directorate, INFN**)
- T2.2: Designing and testing of an in-kind personnel contribution framework for ETO
- T2.3: Development of ETO rules and procedures for the preparation of ET project cost
- T2.4: Building resources and organizational structures towards ETO becoming an efficient entity

WP3: Membership Enlargement and Partnership Engagement for ETO (Lead: KU Leuven, Co-Lead: D. Trani/ETO Dir, Nikhef)

- T3.1: Evolution and strengthening of international funding and commitment to ETO through BGR and EFG
- T3.2: Positioning of the ET project at European and global level
- T3.3: Communication and dissemination for widening participation

ET-COMPASS' Project Coordination and Management

- Mauro Morandin (INFN) is the Project Coordinator
- Federico Ferrini (INFN) is the Deputy Project Coordinator
- Alessandro Variola (ETO Project Office/INFN) is co-lead of WP2 (led by Nikhef)
- Daniela Trani (ETO Directorate/Nikhef) is co-lead of WP3 (led by KULeuven)
- Trani and Variola are members of the ET-COMPASS Management Team
- ETO Directors and Heads of Depts are *ex-officio* members of the ET-COMPASS Management Team

All work will be under ETO's responsibility and fully in line with ETO Work Plan and new ETO mandate

ET-COMPASS deliverables: contributions to the ETO Work Plan

ETO mission for the ET project

ETO's mission for the ET project is two-fold:

1. Establishing and managing the organisational framework

- Build the structures, processes and competences required to design, plan, organise and manage the Einstein Telescope as a strategic large-scale European research infrastructure.

2. Delivering key elements of the Design and Preparation Phase

- Coordinate and execute specific work packages and deliverables assigned to ETO during Preparation Phase 1, ensuring readiness for the next stages of the ET project.

ET-COMPASS outputs will provide valuable contributions to several of these aims and deliverables.

ET-COMPASS resources: contribution to ETO funding

New ETO Funding Proposal – in preparation

ETO is working on a new funding proposal meant to fully fund ETO for ET success. We aim at a document that:

- Is a phased, time-bound, deliverable-driven request, covering:
 - **Project-based activities** → for example, to enable the Geometry Comparison Report
 - **Cross-cutting Organisational & Communication activities** → for example, to build the future ET entity
 - **Project management & engineering activities** → essential but not directly linked to geometry decision
- Ensures (next to enabling the Geometry Comparison Report):
 - the implementation of the full ETO Work Plan 2025-2028
 - ET's long-term success.

The new ETO Funding Proposal will take into account the possible ET-COMPASS resources supporting the relevant ETO Work Plan activities and deliverables.

ET-COMPASS: conclusions

If funded, ET-COMPASS will contribute to progress and act as a catalyst in the following key areas:

- ET project management
- Costing
- ETO organizational and capacity development
- Enlargement and inclusiveness of the ETO membership
- Strategic positioning of the ET project at European and global level
- Effective use of external/European funding to achieve ET project deliverables, within the ETO Work Plan and Mandate.

By contributing to the ET project early implementation, ET-COMPASS will positively impact and further enable the ET scientific community and partnership.

...next update in Spring 2026...and hopefully a positive one!
Thank you!