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EPOS the European Plate Observing System, a new platform for coordinating solid Earth research infrastructures at pan-European level

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EPOS (European Plate Observing System) has been recently included in the European roadmap for research infrastructures after positive evaluation by ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures). EPOS will foster and support research on earthquakes, volcanoes, surface dynamics and tectonics, and will complement similar initiatives in satellite Earth observing systems and ocean sciences. EPOS' main aim is to create a coherent Research Infrastructure enabling the next generation of scientists to pursue innovative and challenging solid Earth science research in Europe and in the Mediterranean regions. The vision is to integrate real time observations from permanent national and regional geophysical networks, with the observations from "in-situ" experiments and temporary monitoring experiments through a cyber-infrastructure for data mining and assimilation, and facilities for data integration, archiving and exchange. Making observations of solid Earth dynamic processes controlling natural phenomena immediately available and promoting their comparison with experimental observations from cutting-edge laboratory experiments and their interpretation through theoretical analyses and numerical simulations will represent a multidisciplinary platform for discoveries which will foster scientific excellence in solid Earth research. The presentation will focus on the current and initial activities of EPOS.