

Sustainability of pan-European RIs

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Context

Competitiveness Council

June 2014 – recognizes the importance of the LTS of RIs

May 2016 - discussion about the ESFRI Roadmap 2016 and LTS issue

*“ (...)underlines the importance of ensuring long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures and invites the Commission to prepare together with ESFRI and relevant stakeholders a **targeted action plan**”*

EC public consultation on long-term and sustainable investments (Dec. 2015) and published 2017 Commission staff working document

ESFRI – WG on LTS 2016/17 „... to analyse the current LTS challenges and will **formulate recommendations on potential policy measures**, which could be implemented at different levels – national, regional, European and International – to respond to these challenges.“

OECD – Science Global forum – Expert Group on LTS 2016



Consultations and contributions

- ESFRI (WG on LTS, June 2016)
- ERA stakeholders & observers
- EIROforum members
- ERIC Committee and Network
- PC members & H2020 RI EAG
- International Organisations (OECD)
- NCPs



Consultations and contributions



ESFRI Report – main recommendations

- **Establish and maintain excellence** through the **entire life cycle of RIs** by all appropriate means, by securing adequate framework conditions, and by opening the RIs up to the world.
- Ensure that RIs have the **right people in the right place at the right time** by strengthening and harmonizing national research and educational systems to make sure that all essential skills are available.
- **Harmonise and integrate a vision for convergent operation of RIs and e-infrastructures** in Europe to ensure cost-effective service provision to the user communities.
- Fully exploit the potential of **RIs as innovation hubs** by incorporating strategies for their development into national and European innovation policies.
- Set up effective means of determining the **economic and wider social value of RIs**, and incorporate these benefits into science-policy-society dialogues.
- Establish adequate framework conditions for **effective governance and sustainable long-term funding for RIs** at every stage in their life-cycle, together with effective management.
- Foster broader **coordination at national and European levels** when designing processes for planning and supporting national and pan European RIs and so enhance their strategic value.



EC Report

EC - COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures - SWD(2017) 323 final Brussels, 26.9.2017

ELEMENTS FOR THE ACTION PLAN

- Ensuring RI at the forefront of scientific excellence,
- Configuring European RI as skills development and mobility actors,
- Unlocking RI Innovation potential and stimulating industry engagement,
- Boosting RI impact, value and benefits of RI,
- Enhancing RI as the pillar for data production and sharing,
- Ensuring effective governance and sustainable life-cycle management,
- Promoting European RI in the international arena.

Policy discussion with the Member States and stakeholders on LTS

Presidency events organized in 2018 – platform for debate

Implementation of the action plan – MFF 2020+



Bulgarian Presidency Flagship Conference

Research Infrastructures beyond 2020 – sustainable and effective ecosystem for science and society

22-23 March 2018, Sofia

Objective: explore and discuss a concrete set of actions to foster sustainability and impact of European Research Infrastructures on industry, policy and society

<http://risofia2018.eu>



- Over 250 participants: Ministers, MPE, policy makers, funding agencies, Research Infrastructure managers, scientists, other stakeholders.

Sessions

- RI Challenges beyond 2020
- European Synchronisation of RI policies
- Exploring Synergies
- Excellence innovators
- European Call for Action on LTS of RIs



Synchronization and alignment of RI policies and investments

When it comes to national roadmaps, full synchronisation is not required for the national facilities, however a greater degree of alignment to ensure a coherent development of the **European Research Infrastructure ecosystem** is needed. Concerning the contributions to **pan-European RIs**, there is a need for central coordination at European level with possibly a common funding mechanism.

The ERIC regulation has had a positive impact in leveraging investments and moving towards more robust financial commitments, however, at **national level, a dedicated specific budget line for pan-European Research Infrastructures would** be a concrete step for ensuring their sustainable operation. Tax interpretation of the ERIC regulation also still needs further clarity and coherent approach.

There is a need for **systematic monitoring of pan-European Research Infrastructures**, based on commonly agreed Key Performance Indicators and impact assessment methodology, in order to ensure continuous update of their scientific and strategic relevance.

There is a high potential of new initiatives coordinating the activities of national and pan-European Research Infrastructures in specific domains aimed at **supporting trans-national access** as well as developing and implementing technology roadmaps.

For RIs where pan-European comparability is required, both full **alignment and synchronization of national policies and funding decisions** is needed. A mechanism ensuring this alignment needs to be developed at European level, including links with national budgets and structural funds.



Develop a more robust and seamless funding landscape for RIs across the lifecycle

The RI **funding landscape is suboptimal due to funding gaps** where neither European nor national or other funding sources are sufficiently available. These are in particular found during the pre-construction and pre-operational phase, but there are also **challenges in funding the operational phase** and the decommissioning phase.

Different rules between funding programs hinder the impact of investments in Research Infrastructures. In particular, simplification in the use of structural funds is very important, especially in the implementation phase. Simplification and alignment of **rules on state aid and public procurement** is also needed.

There is a need for a coherent funding toolbox covering the whole life cycle of Research Infrastructures – developing **one common instrument pooling resources from different funds and sources for covering support to design, preparation, construction and early phase operation** would be a good way forward.

A robust plan for **financing of all life cycle phases** should be made at the outset when decisions to set up Research Infrastructures are taken. Alternative financing models can be used in some stages of the life cycle, such as loans to solve cash-flow irregularities during construction or to develop activities generating revenue.

European Structural and Investment Funds should be used for funding Research Infrastructures in a more strategic, planned and coordinated way.



Improve the impact of Research Infrastructures as knowledge hubs

- A clear message is needed on the **impact of investments in RIs** on citizens. Service orientation and strengthening the role of RI in education and training. **Multidisciplinarity is an important driver of excellence** and an opportunity for broadening the user base and maximizing impact.
- Integrated RI campuses need to be scaled up and structured at a European level. Establish close links with the actors in **regional innovation ecosystems** well integrated into local planning and smart specialisation strategies.
- **RIs engage with industry** in many different ways including direct support with services, training of people, testing and proving technology and collaborating with industry on pre-competitive research.
- RIs have the potential to **foster breakthrough innovation**. Create an appropriate innovation ecosystem and foster collaboration between RIs and industry, there is a need to build mutual trust to adopt a service-driven approach. Co-creation, understood as two-way seeding of scientific excellence to **generate new knowledge between RIs and industry**.
- Targeted outreach activities are important to **increase visibility and awareness** of services and other opportunities provided. **Inter-sectoral mobility** between RIs and industry could help develop a common knowledge in researchers and technical staff, bridging the two worlds.



European Call for Action on Long-term sustainability of RIs

Prioritization of the 42 recommendations

Conference conclusions – **published** www.risofia.bg

Council Conclusions on the proposed Action Plan:

- Council conclusions (**published** 30-May 2018)
- Timetable for reporting on progress and follow-up actions (**still pending**)



Council conclusions 29 May 2018

- Accelerating knowledge circulation -

- Transition towards and Open science system
- Optimal reuse of research data „open as possible, closed as necessary“
- Conclusions BG Flagship conf. „RI beyond 2020 – Towards sustainable and effective RI ecosystem for science and society“
- Underlined the importance of curiosity driven research for the ground breaking science and innovation capital (but also PPP)
- Discussed Openness, dissemination and mobility of researchers
- Comented Framework conditions and synergies between EU programs
- ***Long term sustainability of Ris***
- Need for strengthening and consolidating the landscape of pan-EU RIs
- RIs essential for the advancement and circulation of knowledge



Council conclusions 29 May 2018

- Accelerating knowledge circulation -

- Recognizes RI contribution to high quality data
- Stresses the importance of HR and training as key for RI success
- Strengthening and consolidating the RI landscape in view of LTS
- Need for more service driven approach of RIs
- Better aligned decision making in the pan-EU RI domain including budgeting
- Common approach to monitoring and KPI (on voluntary basis)
- Importance of ESIF for pan-European RIs
- More coherent approach for ESIF use for early stage RI operations
- Development of common RI access policies including co-funded cross-border schemes



Council conclusions 29 May 2018

- EOSC -

- Welcomes the EOSC implementation roadmap published by EC 14 March
- EOSC will federate existing and new data infrastructures (FAIR principle)
- Developing and promoting Data commons
- Reference is made to established practices, to ESFRI and national Ris
- Sound governance and sustainable business model
- Optimal use of ongoing projects, existing experience of ESFRI, GOFAIR...
- Invites MS to jointly explore the creation of RM of data Ris
- EOSC Model – Architecture, Services, Data, Access, Rules, governance
- EC shall make every effort to launch the governance structure in 2018
- Recommends to establish effective coordination with ESFRI



Next

International Conference on RIs – ICRI - 12-14 September 2018, Vienna

Council conclusions (December 2018)

Thank you for the attention

