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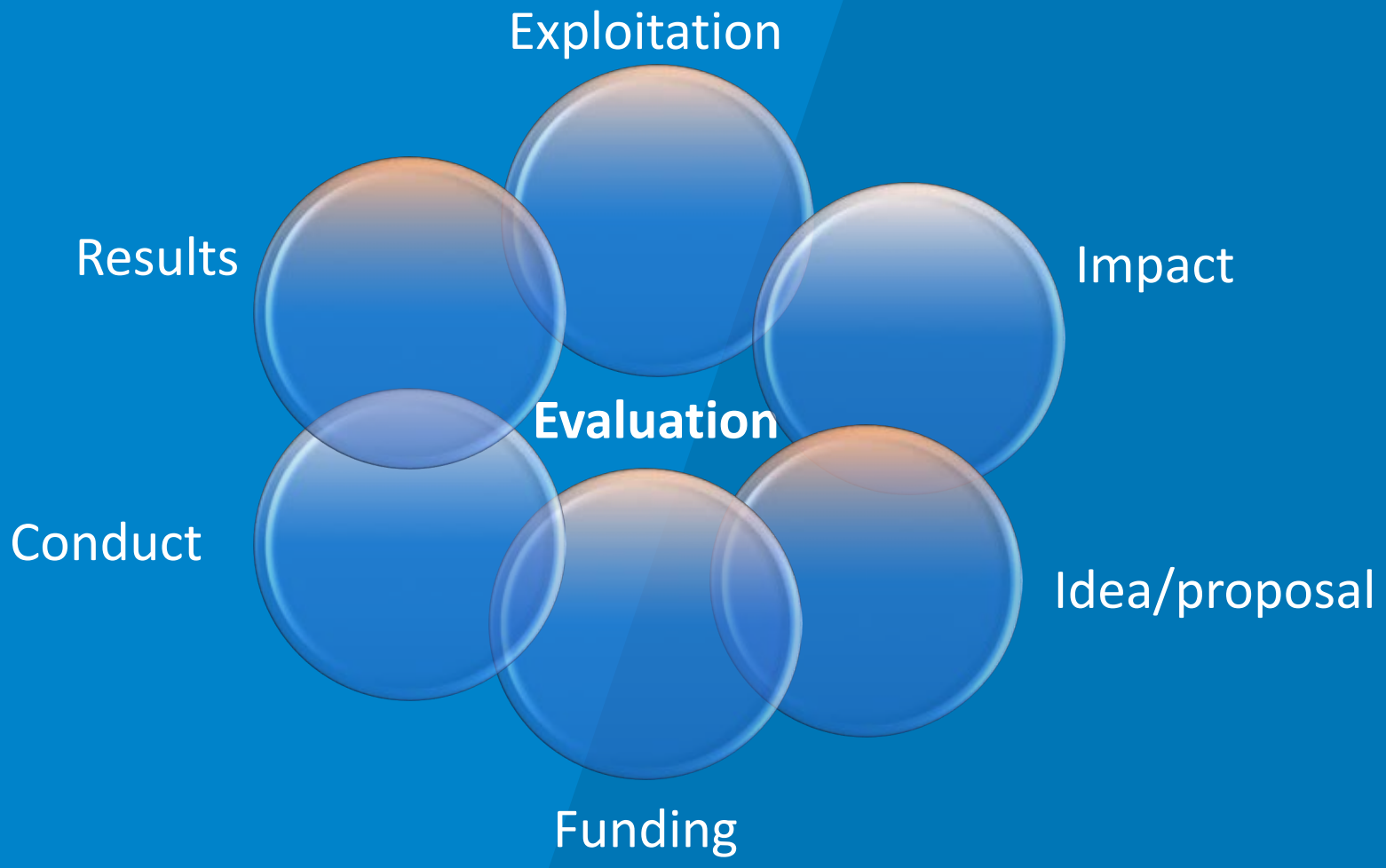
Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives
European Research Infrastructure Consortium

Long-term sustainability of RIs - CESSDA ERIC

Ivana Ilijašić Veršić

CESSDA widening event

Milano, 5 June 2018



The focus within sustainability - evaluation systems for RIs.

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Sustainability issues

- Funding (long-term);
- Viable business models – generating revenues;
- Organisational (including procedural) issues;
- Technical requirements;
- Legal frameworks (governance, IPR, procurement…);
- Certification as contribution to reliability and durability;
- …….

Current funding models – annual fees (RC, ministries), EC.

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ESFRI Long-term sustainability of RIs

- ESFRI WG 35 recommendations in 7 key areas (June 2017);
- EC Working document (September 2017) with 42 recommendations.

1. Scientific excellence;
2. Human capital;
3. Data;
4. Innovation;
5. Socio-economic impact;
6. Governance and funding;
7. European and national coordination.

https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/ri_policy_swd-infrastructures_2017.pdf

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Scripta Volume II: 'Long-Term Sustainability of Research Infrastructures' main recommendations:

1. Establish and maintain excellence;
2. Ensure that RI's have the right people in the right place;
3. Harmonise and integrate a vision for convergent operation of RIs and e-Infrastructures;
4. Fully exploit the potential of RI's as innovation hubs;
5. Set up effective means of determining economic and wider social value of RI's;
6. Establish conditions for effective governance and sustainable long-term funding for RI's at every stage in their lifecycle;
7. Foster broader coordination at national and European levels;

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1. Establish and maintain excellence

- An ERIC should attract funding, best users and staff to enable excellent science (independent technical review, stabile funding, facilitation open access, international cooperation, knowledge transfer, evaluating impact, supporting multidisciplinarity)

2. The right people in the right place

- Human capital – the best RI asset;
- Selection of best possible staff, with unique skills; 5-10 years of dedication to organisation;
- Incentives (competitive salaries, challenging working environment, advancements in training, improvements and mobility).
- Includes users – awareness, training, OA policy, networking…

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3. Harmonise and integrate the operation of RIs and e-Is

- Bigger and more complex data emerging – no traditional use (individuals scientists or groups);
- Coordinated approach across RIs needed (clusters); new culture and skills to optimise use, re-use, and multiple use of data across disciplines;
- Develop stable, robust and certified repositories for data preservation following FAIR principles;
- Data management plans as an integral part of the business plan for the entire lifecycle of RIs (part of evaluations).

Discussed in other documents – i.e. EC SWD Roadmap for EOSC.

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4. Fully exploit the potential of RI's as innovation hubs;

- User services – establish a culture at RIs where innovation is encouraged and rewarded, with means to support it and enable it;
- Technology developments – set up mechanisms to enable partnerships wide range of stakeholders;
- Innovation ecosystem with industry and academia.

No distinction between single site (and mostly high tech, data producing) RIs and distributed RIs. No current industry links.

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5. **Set up effective means of determining economic and wider social value of RI's**

- Increasing requirements from funders to prove the economic and wider benefits to society of RIs;
- Direct economic impact (construction, operations, decommissioning…salaries, building and service contracts…);
- Indirect impact (of science on society and economy – delayed and hard to measure);
- Develop KPI, applicable as possible to enable comparison across domains;
- Funders should be explicit about the role SEI will play in strategic and funding decisions;
- RIs should build SEI into business models, plan SEI studies.

SEI working group in ERIC Forum – CESSDA part of it.

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6. **Establish conditions for effective governance and sustainable long-term funding for RI's at every stage in their lifecycle**

- Clear vision, strategy and delivery plans to be agreed between RI and stakeholders for all stages of lifecycle;
- Sharing of best-practice and know-how between RIs (ERIC Network);
- European and national initiatives to develop business models in areas of specific concerns (OA and innovation…);
- Improvement of ERIC Regulation (VAT exemption, human mobility, legal obligations...);

Developing viable Business Models and ensuring long-term funding (contradictory).

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7. Foster broader coordination at national and European levels

- Harmonisation and synchronisation of national investment strategies for RIs (ESFRI roadmaps);
- Encourage interaction between RIs (ESFRI, EIROForum, or community initiatives e.g. LEAPS);
- RIs should take initiative to communicate between themselves more efficiently (ERIC Forum).
- Improve international outreach – engage in international fora and add international dimension in landscape and roadmap exercises.

MS and EC to align plans and policies for RI's.

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Coordination of RI's policies and evaluation plans

OECD Global Science Forum Expert Group meeting on “Reference Framework for assessing the socio-economic impact of RI's” (Paris, 19-20 March 2018):

1. Connect impact more closely with KPIs. Couple the strategy (vision/mission) with the stakeholders (e.g. demands and the priorities of the RI).
2. Main categories: performance, impact, time.

The same indicators used to monitor strategic goals (KPIs) should be used by funders to assess RI's impact:

a) develop core KPIs for looking at **performance** and monitor the activities of the RI;

b) deal with the Core Impact Indicators (CII) which should have little or no value in measuring performance, but do indicate levels of **impact;**

c) overall list of indicators, which are open and mostly meaningful in **comparison over time** in an RI.

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For all three approaches, there should be:

- limited list of indicators,
- indicators must be meaningful (and explainable),
- all indicators should relate to objectives.

Identified issues:

- "European Added-Value" (i.e., coordination) - not easily measurable,
- position in life-cycle,
- social responsibility,
- environmental and ethical impacts…

The major focus in this discussion is on large-scale RIs – usually physical and usually places where researchers can do experiments.

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CESSDA Approach

For distributed RIs like CESSDA, it is not about publishing ourselves, or to develop patents. It is about serving the scientific community, and about serving society.

- A number of tools and policies on standards and evaluation (i.e. CDM, CMM, Data Access, PID…);
- Annex 2 of Statutes with SP's obligations/requirements (+ national evaluations);
- Ongoing CTS certification – CESSDA as a trusted repository;
- Evaluation of CESSDA by:

a) Members/General Assembly,

b) ESFRI/EC,

c) other parties.

Focus on the value provided by CESSDA as a consortium.

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Thanks for your attention!

ivana.versic@cessda.eu Chief Operations Officer

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