

## Press Release

### Reaction of InRoad to the Competitiveness Council (28-29 May 2018) conclusions

Brussels, 30 May 2018

From its conception, the InRoad project has contributed to the efforts of the Commission and the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) regarding the long-term sustainability (LTS) of research infrastructures (RI). The 22 and 23 March 2018, the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union (EU) held its [flagship conference](#), 'Research Infrastructures beyond 2020 – sustainable and effective ecosystem for science and society', to address this very topic. The [conclusions](#) of the conference echoed many of the preliminary findings and insights brought forward by InRoad in its [consultation report](#), [policy brief](#), [compendium](#) and various workshops (see our latest workshop report [here](#)). Among other things, the need for alignment of policies and coherent, synergic use of funding sources was rightfully underlined.

The Council of the EU and its presidency have taken up the subject at the last Competitiveness Council, held the 28 and 29 May 2018. In its [conclusions](#), the Council called for further efforts to align decision-making processes to set up and participate in pan-European RI, "by exchanging experience about national roadmaps procedures and their national budget lines practices". InRoad seeks to contribute directly to the European debate by providing minimal key requirements criteria for future national roadmaps for RI beyond national relevance. InRoad second phase of data collection consisting of in-depth case studies aiming at a deeper understanding of policy- and decision-making for RI in Europe will enable the project to extract and provide good practices and contribute to the better alignment of methodologies and processes between national and supranational roadmapping.

The Council also called for better monitoring of the performance of RI. InRoad encourages RI stakeholders to make business plan assessment part of their strategic consideration. This should contain, among others, a set of common indicators to facilitate the initial evaluation, monitoring and follow-up of RI business plans.

Furthermore, the Council underlined the importance of a coherent use of funding (e.g. in the European Structural and Investment Funds). As the wide complexity among the RI funding instruments hampers coordination during the whole lifecycle stage of RIs, InRoad encourages interventions aimed at improving the use of public funding instruments.

Finally, the Council underlined the importance of "common transparent access policies" and called for establishing "cross-border access schemes". InRoad sees the European Charter of Access as a reference to ensure the establishment of a regulated framework. In this sense, InRoad encourages policymakers to improve transnational policies in order to increase the quality of the services as well as the overall impact of RI and extend the availability to a wider range of users on a European and international scale. With a further understanding arising from the second phase of data collection, InRoad will be able to support the regional, national and supranational policies needed to reinforce the LTS of RI. In turn, this will strengthen the European scientific landscape through the provision of evidence and key recommendations in view of a better alignment of RI policies.

InRoad supports the Council conclusions and would like to commend and encourage the Bulgarian and Austrian presidencies, the Council and the Commission in their efforts to promote the LTS of RI at EU level.



## **The road ahead**

On the **12. July 2018**, InRoad will held a session at [ESOF](#), which will address the alignment of policies and funding for RI in Europe.

On the **01. and 02. October**, **InRoad Validation Workshop** will present the project findings and introduce the different policy messages. The results and policy insights will be discussed in order to validate the project conclusions and trigger the project into its concluding phase.

## **More information**

For more information about the project, we invite you to visit our [website](#), our Twitter [page](#), our LinkedIn [page](#), and our Facebook [page](#).

## **Contact**

For questions or requests, please contact [info@inroad.eu](mailto:info@inroad.eu).

