Bulgaria – National embedment

1. RI definition	
In which points does the National Roadmap deviate from the ESFRI Roadmap?	
Categories	**National Roadmap**
Funding	
Categorisation of RI	
Access to RI	
Organisation within national procedure	
Research Infrastructure are facilities, resources, and related services, used by the scientific community to conduct high-level scientific research in the relevant areas, and cover large-scale research facilities, integrated small research facilities, and high-speed communication networks with high capacity, distributed high-performance computing systems such as Grid, computing systems networks, etc.; knowledge-based resources such as collections, databases, archives, and other types of structured scientific information. Centres of Competence that provide services to the wider research community, as well as every other object with a unique nature of great significance for achieving excellence in research. (MES, 2017, p. 3)	

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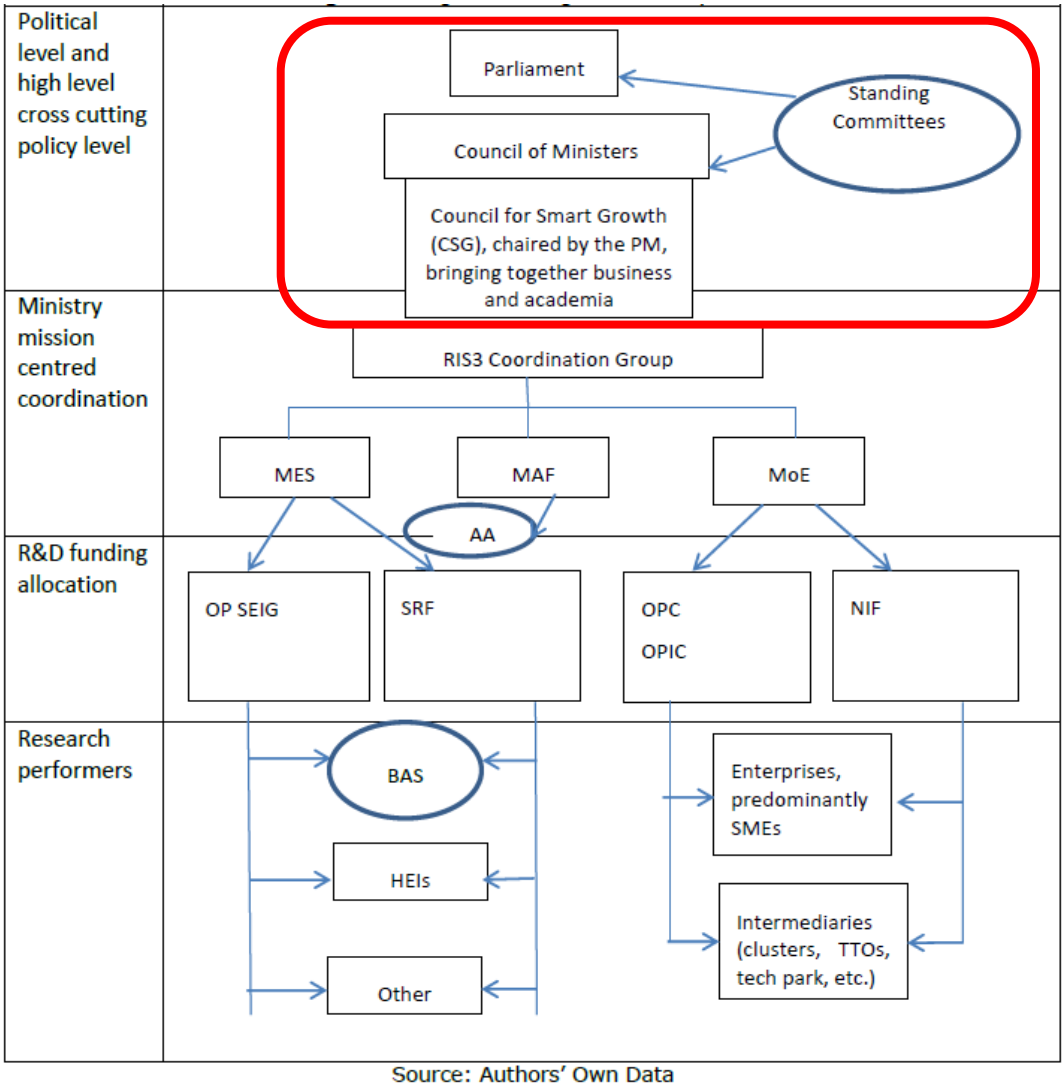
2. RI players in the national R&I system

The RI players within the R&I system are displayed in figure 2.



Source: Authors' Own Data

Figure 1: Organisational chart of the R&I system of Bulgaria (Todorova and Slavcheva, 2016, p. 27). Red colour indicates the bodies with the main decision power regarding RI.

Abbreviations

AA: Agricultural Academy, **BAS:** Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, **HEIs:** Higher Education Institution, **MAF**: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, **MoE**: Ministry of Economy, **MES**: Ministry of Education and Science, **NIF**: National Innovation Fund, **OPC**: Operational Programme "Competitiveness", **OPIC:** Operational Programme "Innovation and Competitiveness", **SRF**: Scientific Research Fund, **TTOs**: Technology Transfer Offices.

National relevance of RI

For Bulgaria it is important that their researchers have access to state-of-the-art scientific facilities to conduct competitive research at international level. The access to modern infrastructure is an important factor in attracting and retaining the researchers. Moreover RI serve as centres for knowledge, innovation and technology transfer from research organisations to industry. Improving RI should lead to a significant increase of the capacity of Bulgarian scientists for conducting high quality scientific research and will directly impact the development of high tech industry in Bulgaria. National Roadmaps for development of RI are the key instruments for implementing the national research strategies and they also reflect upon the priorities of European Union. (MES, 2017, p. 5)

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Embedding of RI in the national R&I system

The Minister for Education, Youth and Science (MES) formed a coordination council for the implementation and monitoring of the National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures (MES, 2010, p. 1).

3. RI in the National R&I System

The highest policy-making body in Bulgaria is the National Parliament which exercises its power mainly through the state budget and its distribution. The Bulgarian Council of Ministers approves the most important strategic documents. **The Ministry of Economy defines national innovation policy and provides national funding**. The Ministry of Education, Youth and Science designs and carries out national science and scientific research policy and oversees the functioning of the main public research funding instrument and is mainly responsible for developing and implementing the Bulgarian National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures. Other ministries support policy-making with respect to their specific field of competences. **Bulgaria has two national budget funds for funding R&I: The National Innovation Fund (NIF) and the Scientific Research Fund (SRF)** which have comparably limited resources, but are managed independently and have autonomous objectives and targets, without any mechanism in place for coordination. The largest research performing institutions in Bulgaria are the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS), the Agricultural Academy (AA), i.e. public research institutions and some of the Bulgarian universities. (Todorova and Slavcheva, 2016, pp. 26-29)

4. Major national strategies for international cooperation in R&I and strategic integration of RI

The "Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization" (RIS³) provides the basis for the current Bulgarian research policy. It has been developed in accordance with the objectives of the current European framework strategy "Europe 2020". Europe 2020 is the ten-year European Union growth and employment strategy from 2010. RIS³ is complemented by the two strategies "National Reform Program of the Republic of Bulgaria 2011-2015 for the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy" and "National Development Program Bulgaria 2020". Other important strategies in place are the "Bulgarian Smart Specialisation Strategy" and the "Higher Education Strategy and Scientific Research Strategy 2017-2030". (Todorova and Slavcheva, 2017, p. 16)

References

- Ministry of Education and Science (2010) Bulgarian Roadmap for Research Infrastructures. <http://www.mon.bg/?h=downloadFile&fileId=1976> [Last access: 09/2017].
- Ministry of Education and Science (2017) BULGARIA NATIONAL ROADMAP FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE 2017-2023. <https://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/roadmaps/bulgaria_national_roadmap_2017_en.pdf#view=fit&pagemode=none> [Last access: 09/2017].
- Todorova, A. and M. Slavcheva (2016) RIO COUNTRY REPORT 2015: Bulgaria. <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/file/9376/download?token=Stexfl-7> [Last access: 09/2017].
- Todorova, A. and M. Slavcheva (2017) RIO COUNTRY REPORT 2016: Bulgaria. <https://rio.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/file/10746/download?token=Xq8XYVkA> [Last access: 09/2017].

Further links

- Diagnostic review. Mapping of research infrastructures and equipment in Bulgaria. <http://www.mon.bg/?h=downloadFile&fileId=12260> [Last access: 09/2017].

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