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Synchronisation and interoperability of regional, national and European RI funding instruments

The expectations from the workshop

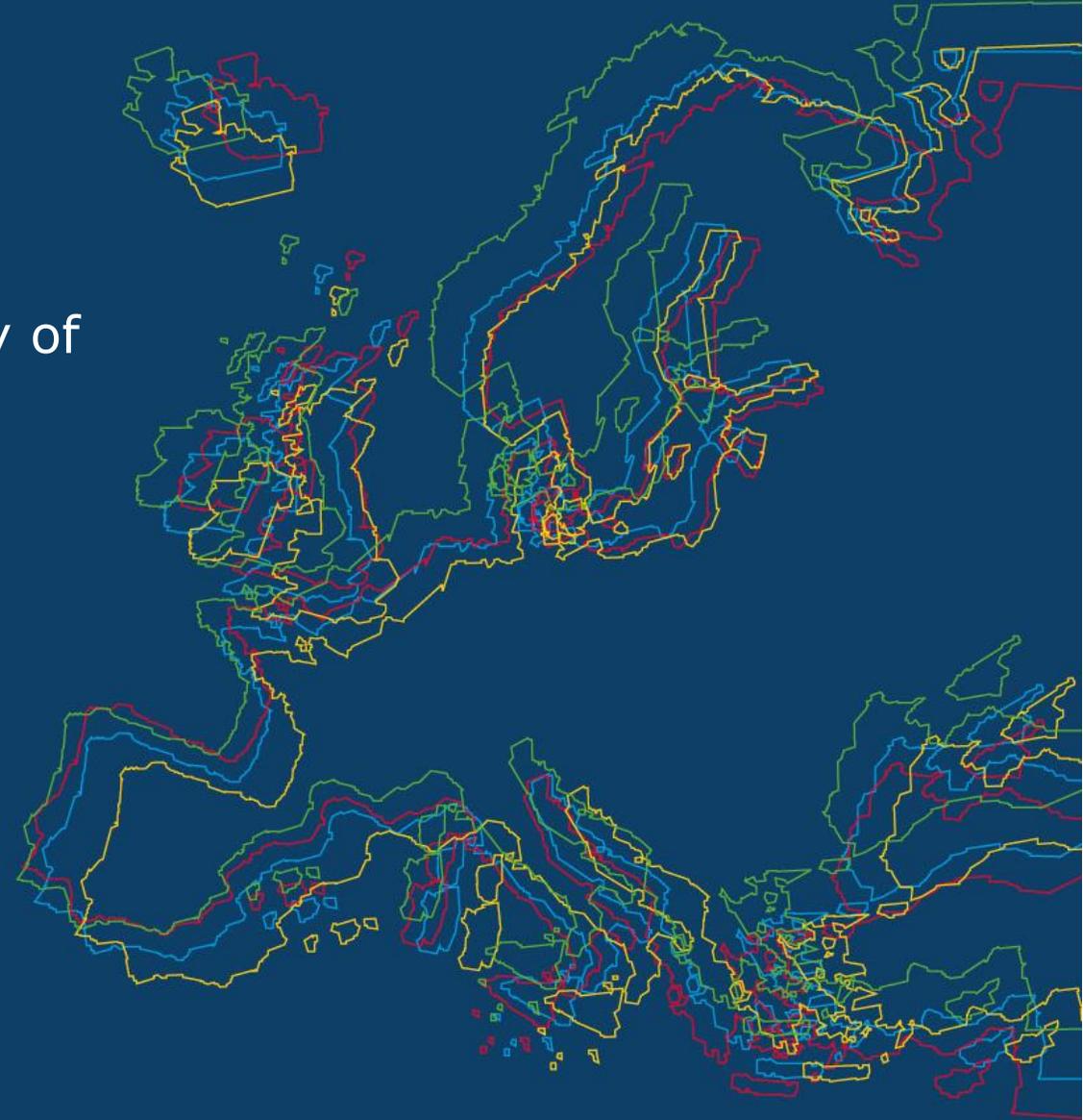
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Development Commission



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synchronising research infrastructure
roadmapping in Europe



Aims

General objective (1/2)

Contribute to the **increase of synchronisation and interoperability amongst RI funding instruments** available at different levels (regional, national and European) through a set of recommendations, considering support needs of RI along their full life cycle.

Aims

Specific objectives (2/2)

1. Assess how the **NRIRMP** are **interlinked** with different **mechanisms for funding RI**
2. Assess the importance of funding schemes regarding the **different life cycle stages** of RI
3. Assess the process of RI **funding decisions** taken at **different levels** by **multiple stakeholders**
4. Assess **difficulties** RI encounter concerning the **short, medium and long term funding**
5. Identify **successful mechanisms for commercial / industrial aspects** of RI funding
6. Identify **good practices** of RI that succeeded in **combining different funding schemes** from EU Member States and/or with European instruments
7. Develop **recommendations** for effective and sustainable funding of RI

Methodology

1. Desk review

2. Consultation

- In coordination with other activities of the project
- Addressed policy makers and funders

3. Regional Workshops

4. Case studies/in-depth interviews

Interim results

InRoad response to the EC Call for Action on Sustainable European Research Infrastructures (1/2)



The EC proposed 42 policy actions for the development of a sustainable RI landscape in Europe

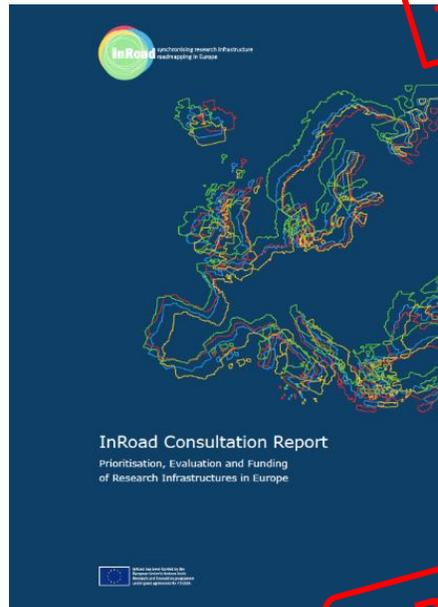
InRoad deals mainly with «**Ensuring effective governance and sustainable life-cycle management**»

Based on the Consultation report, InRoad released a two-page response to the EC action plan



Interim results

InRoad response to the EC Call for Action on Sustainable European Research Infrastructures (2/2)



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The European Commission calls for

Optimising the use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) throughout the whole RI lifecycle by fostering the development of RI business plans and support RI to meet regional / national RIS3 priority objectives (**recommendation 30**)

Optimising the financial planning of RI by facilitating access to EU financial instruments (EFSI, ESIF and InnovFin), namely through the new instrument InnovFin Science targeting RI (**recommendation 31**).

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Encouraging national and regional funding programmes to support cross border access to RI (**recommendation 12**)

Interim results

Regional Workshops (1/5)

- Objective: Provide a **space** for **stakeholders** from different research facilities and public funding organisations to **discuss** and deliver **recommendations** for the improvement of RI funding in the **next** generation of structural funds (**ESIF**) and EU Research and Innovation framework Programme (**FP9**).
- Calendar:
 - Prague (CZ), 8-9 November
 - Rome (IT), 27-28 November
 - Hamburg (DE), 1-2 March
 - Aveiro (PT), 12-13 April
 - Wroclaw (PL), 24-25 May

Interim results

Some findings from the Regional Workshop in Prague (2/5)

- National **pan-European RIs** depend on **national** political **priorities**, and require a combination of regional, national and EU funds that come from different funding instruments such as state budgets, H2020 and ESIF;
- Improving **awareness** of RIs and their **portfolio of services and products** is vital to increase the level of user involvement of those inside and outside the scientific community;
- The **coordination** of **multi-level funding** is crucial for the financial **sustainability** and operability of RIs;
- The creation of a **mobility scheme for short secondments of public civil servants working in RI policy and funding** could contribute to a better understanding of RIs and the factors that determine the use and non-use of specific and non-specific funding instruments as potential sources for RI funding in different countries.

Interim results

Some findings from the Regional Workshop in Rome (3/5)

- **In-kind contributions** could be perceived as valuable, namely through the provision of products and services like technical equipment and secondment of staff; operation, however, is a phase that feeds mainly from cash contributions;
- Designing and investing in a sound marketing strategy that improves the **visibility of a RI** is vital for their long-term sustainability;
- **Socio-economic impact** in some scientific areas are often only measurable after several years and therefore, difficult to demonstrate;
- Connecting research and **private-sector** knowledge through effective models could help break down the silos and foster innovation;
- The inclusion of an **Industry Board** in some RIs can be useful to voice their interests, build networks for collaboration and even make small-scale investments in RIs.

Interim results

Some findings from the Regional Workshop in Hamburg (4/5)

- If anything, an **alignment of the definitions** and terms would be useful to help with the classification of facilities and the application of specific terms.
- Either the simplification of regulations in the current funding mechanisms or the provision of centralized expertise for RI Operators could help navigate this complex regulatory environment.
- Assessing the suitability and the potential of the Interreg scheme as a model for funding of **cross-border activities** in connection to RIs could be of use.
- National governments should consider providing dedicated (national, not institutional) funding lines to cover operational costs of their RIs. In this context, the European Commission should look into its role as **facilitator** of this process.
- **Synergies** between national calls for proposals, ERA-Nets, EJPs and JPIs with RIs could be fostered to cultivate coordinated joint activities in areas of significant strategic value and relevance to the European Research Area.

Interim results

Some findings from the Regional Workshop in Aveiro (5/5)

- Definition of **strategic priorities** at the different levels is crucial for long term planning and funding decisions need to be linked with those priorities and timely adopted.
- RI landscape is very diverse. **Contractual funding** was suggested as a way of meeting the specificities of the different RIs, in a multiannual basis.
- **Tailored** Key Performance Indicators could be defined on top of a common set of basic criteria.
- Structural Funds are recognized as important in the mix of funding mechanisms but should not replace the role of the other sources (namely national budget and institutional funding) that are critical to secure the operational costs of RIs.
- Project based funding hampers the aim of **predictability** and affects the potential for social and economic impact on the ecosystems they are part of.

Case Studies

In-depth interviews (1/3)

- Development of **in-depth interviews**, offering individual micro-perspective on RI funding, to address our main “research problem”:

The diversity of funding instruments used by RI at different levels (regional, national and European) and their lack of suitability for supporting all the needs along the full life cycle represent a challenge to the long term sustainability of Research Infrastructures.

Case Studies

In-depth interviews (2/3)

Master questions/issues:

1. How are funding decisions on RI taken in your country?
2. How has the long-term sustainability of your RI been planned, and how does it enter into the funding decision process (funding instruments along the full life cycle)?
3. What difficulties have you faced in the short, medium and long-term funding of your RI?
4. What recommendations would you make for future funding (instruments and mechanisms) of RI?
5. Why would you propose those recommendations?
6. What would be needed for these recommendations to materialise?

Workshop: Guidelines & Goals

This is an opportunity to propose recommendations for effective and sustainable funding of Research Infrastructures, taking inputs from the presentation of the 3 different Case Studies and the round table discussions.

After each presentation, the participants will have time to join a Q&A session and participate in roundtable discussions to address other issues from their own experience.

The inputs gathered here will feed the recommendations of InRoad, regarding the funding of RI. These insights will be discussed with the European Commission in the framework of the preparation of the next programming period.

NOTE: The discussions will be recorded for the transcription of recommendations.



Thank you for your attention



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