



Romania – Evaluation and monitoring procedure

1. Ex-ante Impact Assessment

1.1. Methodology and procedures conducted (if applicable)

The new Romanian National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures aims to highlight the volume, quality, utilization of the RDI equipment, installations and laboratories of RDI with significant relevance for their fields, developed by national and / or European programmes.

A particular aspect is the participation of the Romanian scientific community in pan-European ESFRI projects as one of the essential sources of identification of national research infrastructures, in line with the provisions of the National Strategy for Research and Development 2014-2020 (SNCDI 2014-2020).

The first Romanian Committee for Research Infrastructures (CRIC) was constituted both as a scientific advisory council of ANCS for the implementation of the programme "Capacities" of the 2nd National RDI Plan (PN II), and a strategic forum, that will draw up reports and will make recommendations for the allocation of resources necessary to create, develop and use the research infrastructure, important to the Romanian scientific community. In these circumstances, CRIC acted the years 2007 and 2008. Its final report can be found at:

http://www.research.gov.ro/uploads/imported/1242293614cric_eng.pdf [Last access: 07/2017.].

The new CRIC was established by the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCSI) President's Decision no.9311 of August 5, 2016 with the mission to update the national roadmap for research infrastructure according to the guidelines of the National RDI Strategy (2014-2020).

In the second semester of 2016, CRIC developed the Strategy Report on Infrastructure in Romania, which was approved by ANCSI in December 2016, as a result of the debates and analyses carried out in order to prioritise public investments for research infrastructures:

<http://www.research.gov.ro/uploads/cric/skm-bizhubc16121415560-v2.pdf> [Last access: 07/2017.].

The report made strategic recommendations on the implementation of the roadmap, activity funded through the SIPOCA 27 project of the Operational Capacity Programme - Administrative Office (POCA), in progress. It also provided a timetable for the road map completion activities based on a working methodology by the end of 2017.

The main mission of the new CRIC is to establish the national priorities for research infrastructures and to draw up a report regarding the stages to be followed in their construction and operation (Roadmap). This report addresses as main issues: purpose, definitions, categories, priorities, special potential fields.

The Intermediate Report on research infrastructures from Romania is preface by a quotation from the minister of the new Ministry of Research and Innovation underlining "... that the interconnection of Romanian and European infrastructures will bring value to both Romania and the European Union as a whole, and our efforts will be an important impetus for the Romanian economy."

In establishing the priorities, the following categories of infrastructures have been considered:

- **National:**
 - Research facilities of national interest, such as the National Network for Education and Research (RoEduNet), high-complexity laboratories and equipment
 - Large scientific and documentary databases for research, developed in Romania or for which it is necessary to purchase access licences (ISI databases, libraries);
- **International:**
 - Infrastructures constructed or operated under international co-operation on the basis of agreements or within organizations and projects where Romania participates, like
 1. ESA, CERN, ITER, IUCN Dubna;
 2. projects from the list of pan-European research infrastructures established by ESFRI;
 - Other infrastructures developed under national and / or international partnership.
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According to the SIPOCA 27 Report on the Research Infrastructures in Romania, September 2017 (<http://sipoca27.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/RAPORT-FINAL-ROADMAP.pdf> [Last access: 07/2017.]) the methodology to identify research infrastructures took into account the



implementation and use of good practices to ensure excellence in research (excellence, transparency, equal and fair treatment) and to respond to the smart specialisation priorities addressed by the SNCDI 2014-2020 and other Regional Strategies, as well as to address the major societal challenges and to correlate with the ESFRI Roadmap:

1. Energy, Environment and Climate Change (SNCDI Smart Field of Specialisation)
- correlated with ESFRI's "Energy" and "Environment" domains)
2. Bioeconomics (field of specialisation SNCDI related to the field ESFRI 'Health and Nutrition');
3. Eco-nano-technologies and advanced materials (intelligent field of specialisation SNCDI, correlated with ESFRI's "Physics and Engineering" field);
4. Information and Communication Technology, Space and Security (domain of intelligent SNCDI specialisation, correlated with ESFRI's "E-Infrastructures");
5. Health (domain of public interest in the current SNCDI strategic cycle, correlated with the Health and Nutrition field of the Road map ESFRI);
6. Social and Cultural Patrimony (domain of public interest in the current SNCDI strategic cycle, correlated with ESFRI's "Social and Cultural Innovation" domain);
7. New and Emerging Technologies (domain of public interest in the current SNCDI strategic cycle, correlated with ESFRI's "Physics and Engineering" field).

2. Procedure for selection of the research infrastructures to be included in the roadmap

2.1. Objectives of the evaluation

MCI will approve, beginning of 2018, the final Research Infrastructure Report (National Roadmap) on the basis of the proposal submitted by CRIC and based on the following criteria:

- be included in the ESFRI European Roadmap;
- be included in the National RDI Strategy;
- promote the development and implementation of excellence in science;
- avoid unnecessary duplication of equipment - uniquely designed research facilities with high operational costs;
- ensure a high degree of openness (use and free, but controlled access) to interested users;
- Ensure a balanced distribution of the thematic domains of SNCDI 2014-2020 at institutional and regional level.

2.2. Eligibility conditions

The projects that will be included in the roadmap are characterized by:

- Very high costs (at least, Euro 600000).
- Long period of development that requires expertise and a stable sustainable institutional framework.

Additionally, these projects should present the following characteristics:

- Providing socioeconomic benefits at national level.
- Being harmonized with the common interests of the national scientific community.
- Having a strategic impact in top scientific fields.
- Being interoperable and competitive at international level.
- Being used at full capacity on a multi-disciplinary basis and of free access for all interested researchers.
- Valorising the expertise existing in the field, in a co-operative manner.
- Having long term impact on the quality of people's life.
- Stimulating the interest of young people and attract them in the research career.
- Having a determinant role in training new generations of researchers.
- Stimulating the transfer of knowledge and technology.



2.3. Evaluation criteria for the selection of the RI to be included in the RI national roadmap

To substantiate the priorities regarding the investment projects for developing research infrastructures of national interest, the Romanian Committee for Research Infrastructures (CRIC) has used the following criteria and sub-criteria of assessment:

1. Relevance

- 1.1. Interest that the project represents at a national, regional level (SNCDI 2014-2020)
- 1.2. Concordance with the international projects in the field, external compatibility (e.g. ESFRI)
- 1.3. Orientation towards leading edge research (PN III, H2020)

2. Potential of use

- 2.1. Existence of a critical mass of potential users / beneficiaries
- 2.2. Potential of increasing the number of users / beneficiaries (connection with the national system of training of the human resources)

1. Proportionality of the investment in relation with:

- a. Relevance of infrastructure
- b. Potential of its use

2. Coordination of the achievement, use and future development of the infrastructure

- a. The solution of co-ordination: ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium) Research Institution/ Initiative Group, Consortium of institutions/ Professional Association / Organism of co-ordination at national level
- b. Ensuring the long-term vision: scientific, technical (administration, specialized human resource), financial

3. Quality of the implementation environment

- a. Valorisation of the expertise in the field
- b. Existence of the conditions of implementation: logistics, utilities, administration staff, financial support for the following period (min. 3 years)
- c. Availability of data regarding the infrastructure's use

4. Access to infrastructure

- a. Type of access: local, distributed, virtual
- b. Existence of a policy and associated technical solutions for granting access priorities for the mass of users

5. Interoperability

- a. Logical / functional connection with other research infrastructure components. Technical compatibility with similar infrastructures on an international plan

2.4. Evaluation method and procedures conducted (organisation in charge, timing, selection of reviewers, configuration of panels, indicators, etc.) for the selection of the RI to be included in the RI national roadmap

Until the approval of a new procedure in the competition related to the investment of projects for the development of public research infrastructures, the Romanian Committee for Research Infrastructures – CRIC, which is consisted of 5 representatives of the scientific community and 4 representatives of financing agencies (ministries involved in research financing), is part of the competition's Selection Committee involved in the following tasks:

- Approval of the preliminary report of evaluation
- Appointment of the Commission for Claims
- Delimitation of the projects that got the same scoring
- Implementation of selection-specific rules
- Drawing up the final assessment report and the list with proposals selected for financing and their submitting for approval to the MCI's minister.

The evaluation of the projects proposals will be made by well recognised scientists.

2.5. Proposals evaluated and selected (available statistics)

Pages 15-19 at: <http://sipoca27.ro/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/RAPORT-FINAL-ROADMAP.pdf> and <https://erris.gov.ro/index.php> [Last access: 07/2017.].



3. Update / Monitoring and ex-post Evaluation of RI Roadmap	
3.1. Objective of the monitoring of the RI national roadmap as a whole	
CRIC recommends revising the national roadmap every three years by doing a complete analysis of existing and new RI by:	
a) Keep in the roadmap those RIs that show real progress;	
b) repositioning in the roadmap according to the fulfilling of the indicators of the operational plan;	
c) Exclusion from the roadmap of those RI that do not show progress (according to the operational plan) or do not prove viability.	
3.2. Periodicity of the RI national roadmap monitoring actions (if applicable)	
CRIC recommends revising the national roadmap every three years. In 2020 a monitoring action should be envisaged.	
3.3 Methodology and procedures conducted (timing, approach, indicators, etc.) for monitoring the RI national roadmap	
Not applicable.	
3.4 Methodology and procedures conducted (timing, approach, indicators, etc.) for monitoring the individual RI included in the RI national roadmap	
Not applicable.	
3.5 Methodology and procedures conducted in the case that an ex-post evaluation of the RI national roadmap is planned or has been implemented	
Not applicable.	

