

Press Release

InRoad at ESOF 2018, Toulouse

Brussels, 16 July 2018

InRoad was proud to present a panel discussion at the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF) in Toulouse the 12 July 2018. Indeed, four outstanding speakers with high levels of expertise on research infrastructures (RI) were invited to discuss the following topic: 'Towards better alignment of policies and funding for RI in Europe'. Indeed, the need to develop policies that support the long-term sustainability of RI is crucial for European research, as underlined by the [European Commission](#), the [OECD](#), [ESFRI](#), the [Bulgarian Presidency](#) and the [Competitiveness Council](#), among others. The aim was for each panellist to give their perspective on RI policies and ways to better coordinate them or align them, whenever it is relevant.

Barbara Haering, member of the ETH Board, introduced the concept roadmaps for research infrastructures and illustrated the complexity of the process that already exists at the national level. She emphasized the need for continuity and the relevance of InRoad in contributing achieve common criteria and procedures at the European level.

Frédéric Sgard, project administrator at the Global Science Forum (GSF) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been involved in many of the Forum's projects on research infrastructures, such as the 2017 report on RI long-term sustainability. This allowed him to present the audience with roadmap examples from outside Europe, such as South Africa, Australia and Canada, to show how better coordination is possible in practice. He highlighted the important purpose of RI roadmaps in providing stability in the planning beyond annual funding cycles, as well as the visibility that RI receive through the roadmap process.

Milena Žic-Fuchs, professor of Linguistics at the University of Zagreb, gained extensive experience with RI through her participation in various expert fora. During her intervention, she underlined the large diversity in the understanding of RI roadmaps and the misconception of difference between soft and hard sciences. Therefore, she urged that roadmap processes need to understand the nature of RI in the social sciences and humanities. Furthermore, a roadmap is an important tool to assure transparency, particularly in the EU-15 countries, where clear policies for research infrastructures are still lacking and very much needed.

David Bohmert, Secretary General of the Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER) and member of the executive board of ESFRI, finally introduced the ecosystem approach. He illustrated how the alignment of national roadmap processes is already happening and roadmaps are gaining momentum in Europe. Moreover, he emphasized current challenges the RI landscape in Europe is facing, such as the strong bias toward single-sited 'big machines', the concentration of large RI in the same location and the definition of RI which is based on a linear innovation model.

At the outset of the discussion, it was clear that coherent and transparent policies for RI are very much needed from the policy point of view, from the strategic point of view, and from the point of view of researchers. InRoad has a key role to play in defining key minimal requirements for roadmap processes and identifying good practices that can lead to better coordination and should engage in missionary work to make sure to disseminate the project results effectively.



The road ahead

In September, InRoad will be present at ICRI 2018 during a satellite event. Then, in October, a Validation Workshop will be held in Brussels to validate the project recommendations based on the consultation report, the Regional Workshops and the case studies/interviews. Finally, InRoad will present its results at a final conference in December.

More information

- [InRoad session](#) at ESOF 2018.
- [Validation Workshop](#).

Contact

For questions or requests, please contact info@inroad.eu.

