

Press Release

InRoad Validation Workshop

Brussels, 03. October 2018

On 01. and 02. October 2018, the [InRoad Validation Workshop](#) took place in Brussels, where 73 Research Infrastructure (RI) stakeholders from 21 different countries participated.

InRoad aims to deliver recommendations and benchmarks for a better coordination of RI policies and funding mechanisms in Europe. To achieve this, a set of preliminary policy insights and findings have been developed in a [Briefing note](#) and were discussed during the Validation Workshop. The Workshop took place as InRoad reached the very last phase of the project. It was therefore the ideal moment to take stock of what had been achieved so far and to trigger the project into its concluding phase. The key objectives of the Workshop were to:

- 1) Interactively discuss, review and validate the project's preliminary findings, insights and good practices;
- 2) Identify missing elements and gaps in the current findings to be addressed in the final report;
- 3) Discuss challenges linked to the implementation of the project's findings.

The event offered a balanced [programme](#) with presentations from external RI stakeholder as well as table discussions in groups on the project preliminary insights.

First, external speakers invited by InRoad contributed with their expertise. Firstly, Peter **Fletcher**, InRoad Advisory Board member, underlined why coordination matter especially for researchers and for the rationalisation of costs. He also mentioned the importance for researchers to work on common objectives, for agencies to be clear on their requirements and for policy-makers to work together on standards to favour coordination. Philippe **Froissard**, Deputy Head of Unit Research Infrastructures at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation gave a presentation on the European context towards long-term sustainability of RI. He underlined the essential contribution of InRoad in this context and that the inputs provided by the project must be used for the next steps, in line with the [May Council Conclusions](#) and the [recommendations](#) of Sofia Conference. **Froissard** called on InRoad to formulate bolder recommendations in order to advance more efficiently on the long-term sustainability agenda. For the closing key notes, InRoad was happy to count on the presence of Andrew **Smith**, Head of External Relations – Elixir on day 1 and on Gabriela **Pastori**, Head of International Relations – BBSRC on day 2. Andrew **Smith** talked about the perspectives of a distributed RI on the limits and benefits of coordination of RI policies and funding. Finally, Gabriela **Pastori** mentioned the importance of roadmapping to identify and prioritise research and innovation capability and to plan investment accordingly. Moreover, she underlined the importance of coordination of RI at European scale and the value of the ESFRI joint strategy to enable it.

Secondly, interactive discussions took place during table discussions on each thematic areas respectively:

- #1 Coordination between national and European roadmapping processes;
- #2 Embedding RI roadmap processes in national research and innovation systems;
- #3 Higher degree of coordination between regional, national and European funding framework;



#4 Towards best practices and common standards for RI business planning.

The Workshop's fruitful discussions broadly validated the project preliminary findings and policy insights developed in the [Briefing Note](#). The outputs of the discussions now enable the project to refine the preliminary insights. Furthermore, the identified gaps were identified and will be tackled as well as compiled in a final report, which will be released during our final Conference in December 2018.

The presentations and discussions will be summarised in a Workshop report and the refined insights will be developed in a policy brief. Both documents will be released shortly.

The road ahead

SAVE-THE-DATE for InRoad final Conference, which will be held on Wednesday, 12. December 2018 in Brussels. More information will be available shortly.

Contact

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

