InRoad Workshop

The role of structural funds in the mix of funding sources for the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures

University Campus of Santiago, Aveiro (Portugal), April 13th 2018

Research infrastructures are «facilities, resources or services of a unique nature that have been identified by European research communities to conduct top-level activities in all fields of science. This definition includes the associated human resources, covers major equipment or sets of instruments, in addition to knowledge-containing resources such as collections, archives and data banks. RI may be located in a single site (for example, large telescopes, Synchrotrons, High Performance Computing) or can be distributed across even large number of sites working jointly (for example, biobanks, archives, marine stations)»

(European Commission 2017, Sustainable European Research Infrastructures – A call for action.)

Questions for discussion in the morning parallel sessions

1. Which funding instruments/sources are being or have been used by your Research Infrastructure? (E.g. national budgets, H2020, ESIF, private businesses, charities) How critical are they in providing stability and excellence of services?

2. What stages of the RI lifecycle are being or have been funded with these instruments? Have ESIF been used to fund the construction/implementation phase? How do you plan to sustain the operational costs in the next ten years? Is there a funding plan for the termination phase of the RI?

3. How do ESIF operate in your country? What were the conditions/requirements involved? What are the implications of using these funds?

4. How did the combination of these funding schemes change over time and what are the perspectives for the future?

5. Which bodies, and eventually which stakeholders, are involved in the different funding decisions (in your country)? What is the rationale behind this, and is this decision-making formalized and/or coordinated with the other funding bodies?

6. What are the links between funding and roadmaps? (E.g. positioning of the RI on the roadmap, the ex-ante conditionality for funding or existing funding as a pre-requisite to be on the roadmap, etc.) From a funding perspective, both the investment/implementation and the operation phases, how important is it for a RI to be on the national Roadmap?

7. How important are your users to sustain your long-term funding? Please provide some examples. What is your access policy for non-national users? (What percentage do these represent?)

8. Are there limitations to industrial investments/user access? What are the implications?

InRoad has been funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No 730928.

Questions for discussion in the afternoon parallel sessions

1. If you could change one thing about the funding landscape to make funding of RI across European borders more efficient, what would it be?

2. What are the challenges/difficulties faced when combining the different funding instruments? E.g. Conflicting rules between funding instruments or difficulties complying with any particular regulations. (Please explain where?)

3. To what extent can the next generation of ESIF and FP9 be aligned to suit RI processes? What parameters would have to be taken into consideration to overcome the identified bottlenecks? Time? Eligibility? National and European regulatory frameworks?

4. Is training necessary to use any of the available funding schemes?

5. Funding of cross-border RI – how does the system deal with it? What are the bottlenecks / issues? How could they be addressed?

6. Timing for funding and road mapping: Any recommendations on that?

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