

INFODAY – Research Infrastructures

**Utilizing the full Potential of Research
Infrastructures for Strengthening the ERA**

Sept 2009 – Maria Douka, European Commission





Basics of the development of the European Research Area

The ERA concept combines:

- a European "internal market" for research, where researchers, technology and knowledge freely circulate;
- an effective European-level coordination of national and regional research activities, programmes and policies;
- initiatives implemented and funded jointly.



Ljubljana Process

as discussed under the SI Presidency , mid 2008

We need to develop a well-organised partnership between the Member States, Associated States and the Commission to exchange information and to steer all initiatives in a coherent way.

- A common **long-term vision** for the future of ERA as the basis for future actions & initiatives
- Better **governance**, notably with better political steering at ministerial level, is needed

Research Infrastructures (incl. e-infrastructures) are:

- Facilities, resources, and related services used by the scientific community for
 - Conducting leading-edge research
 - Knowledge transmission, exchange and preservation
- Today Research Infrastructures include
 - Major scientific equipment, scientific collections, structured information, ICT-based infrastructures, and
 - Unique experimental sites opened to researchers



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Towards an 'eco-system' of Research Infrastructures within ERA

- a) Large single-sited facilities
- b) Distributed European Facilities
- c) Network of national facilities

Based on

- a) a consistent roadmap
from the European stakeholders
- b) Links with universities & schools
- c) Network of industrial suppliers / users



CAPACITIES



Response to challenges

- Cost-wise efficient research services,
- Optimisation of existing Research Infrastructures,
- (ESFRI roadmap for) new Infrastructures
- An improved working environment (e.g. new Community legal frameworks)

Next steps:

- Real implementation of foreseen actions
- A real EU Research Infrastructures policy

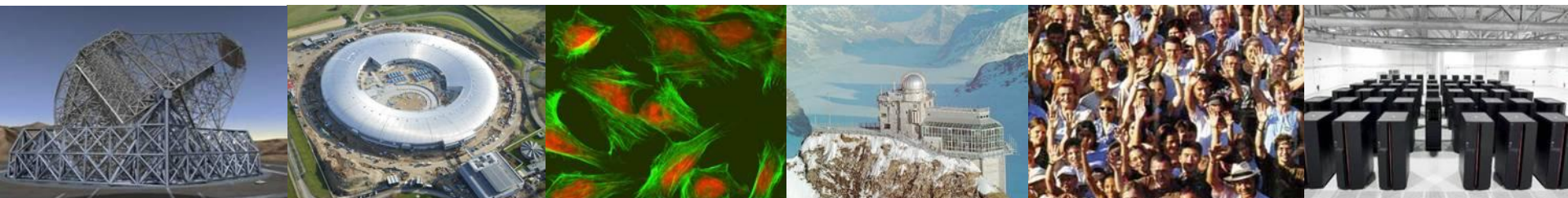


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FP7 Research Infrastructures Call for proposals

FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1

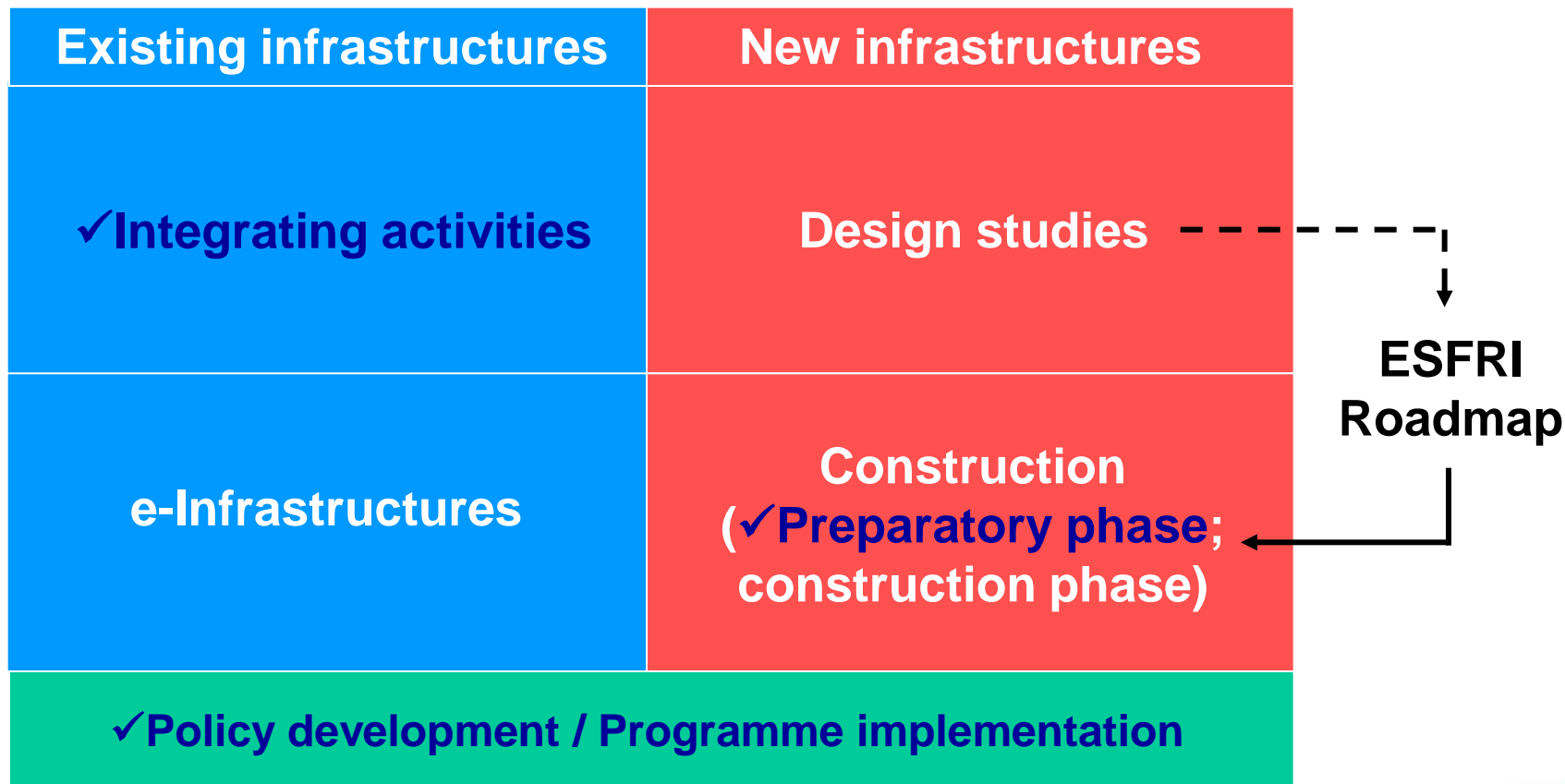




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FP7 Research Infrastructures action



(✓ call FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1)



Call budget

FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1

Indicative total budget: **EUR 217 million** (M€)

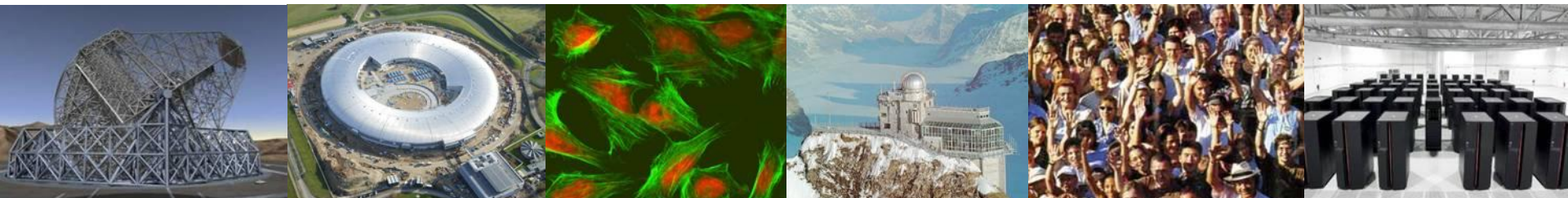
1.1 Support to existing research infrastructures	
1.1.1 Integrating activities	~ 162 M€
1.2 Support to new research infrastructures	
1.2.2 Construction of new infrastructures (or major upgrades) – Preparatory phase	~ 45 M€
1.3 Support to policy development and programme implementation	~ 10 M€



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Integrating activities





Integrating Activity in FP7

- Continuation of the FP6 instrument “I3”
- Collaboration of **existing research infrastructures**
 - ➔ Normally all major RI’s in Europe in one field
- Three types of obligatory activities
 - ➔ *Networking Activities*
 - ➔ *Trans-national Access and/or Service Activities*
 - ➔ *Joint Research Activities*

2,5% of EU needs
About 300 RIs
supported under FP



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Integrating activities

Targeted approach

- This call addresses **35 defined topics**, focusing on strategic priorities
- With topics for the potential follow-up of projects and with topics for the opening to new communities
- More topics than can be funded to ensure competition (around 20 projects expected to be selected)

Funding scheme: CP-CSA (combination of 'collaborative project' & 'coordination and support actions')





Integrating activities

Eligibility and requirements

- **Eligibility conditions**

- **General** criteria: deadline, completeness, relevance to topics...
- **Min. 3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AC**
- **Max. requested EC funding: 10 M€**
(warning: € 10.000.000,01 → proposal **NOT** eligible!)
- **All 3 types of activities are mandatory:** (1) networking, (2) transnational access and/or service, (3) joint research activities

- **Further requirements**

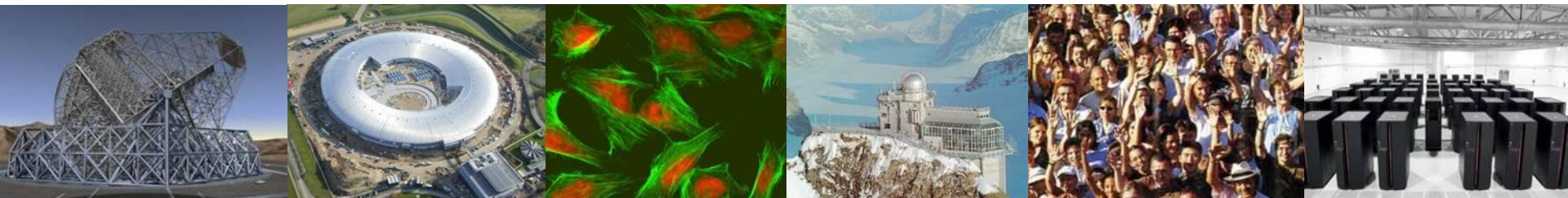
- **Maximum 4 years**
- **One** proposal expected **per topic**, corresponding in general to a **given class** of RI



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Preparatory phase

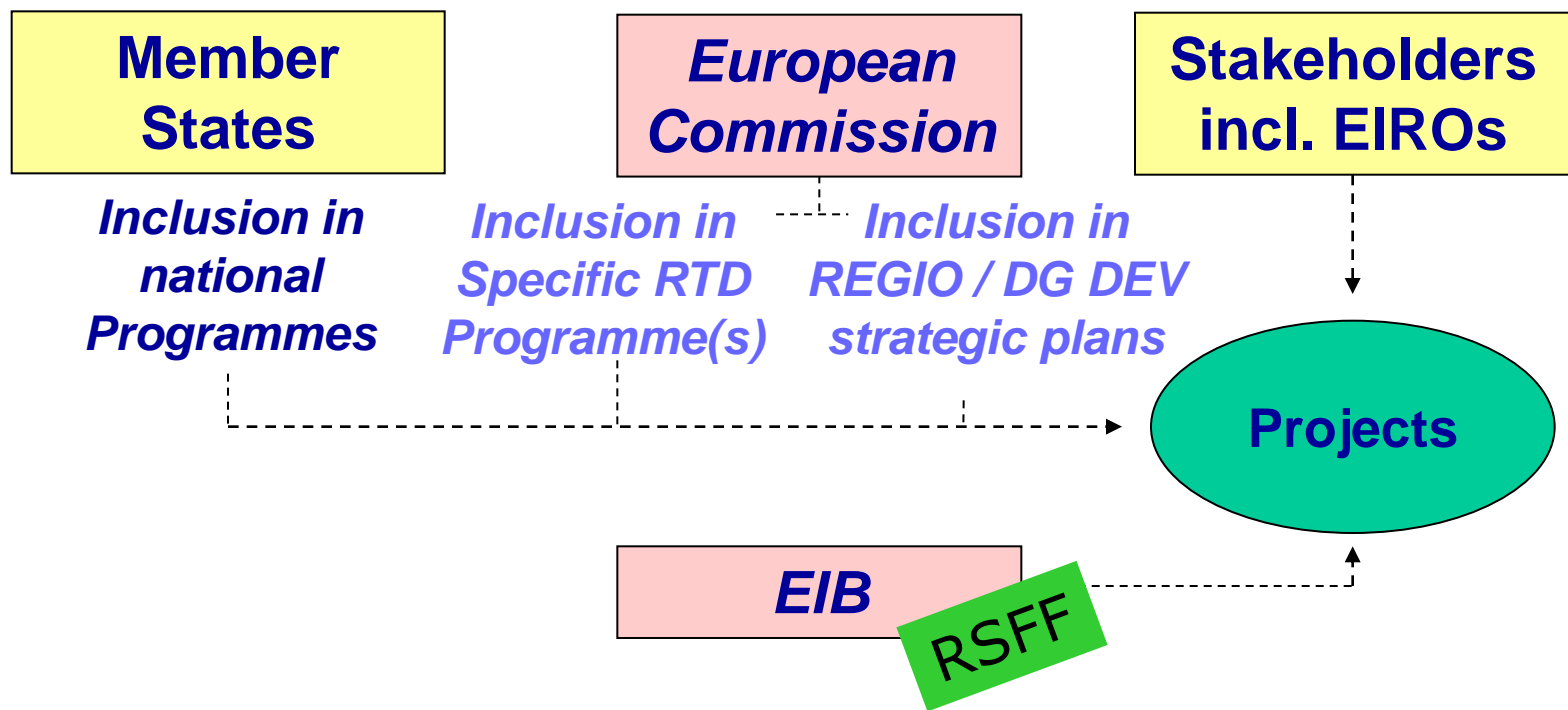




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Preparatory Phase facilitating financial engineering for new research infrastructures



New Projects under the ESFRI 2008 roadmap

Preparatory phase

Objectives and activities

- **Objectives:** to provide **catalytic** and leveraging support for the preparatory phase leading to the construction of new RIs
 - ➔ Building primarily upon the work conducted by ESFRI
 - ➔ Bringing the project to the level of legal and financial maturity
 - ➔ Involving all the necessary stakeholders to make the project move forward, take decision, etc.
- **Activities:** legal work, governance, strategic work, financial work and, if necessary, technical work

Funding scheme: CP-CSA (combination of 'collaborative project' & 'coordination and support actions')



Preparatory phase

Eligibility and requirements

- **Eligibility conditions**

- **General criteria:** deadline, completeness, relevance to topics...
- **Min. 3 independent legal entities from 3 different MS or AC**
- **Max. requested EC funding: 6 M€**
(warning: € 6.000.000,01 → proposal NOT eligible!)

- **Further requirements**

- **Maximum 4 years**
- **EC funding normally from 3 to 6 M€ (max.)**



ERIC: a new Community legal framework

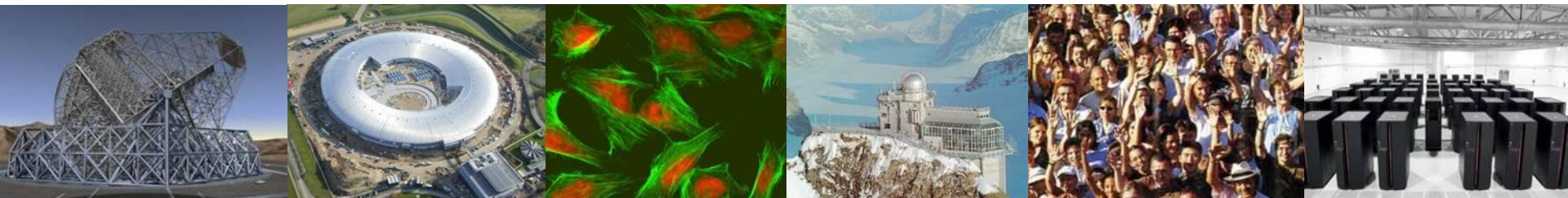
- Recent entry into force (Aug 09)
- Allows the Community to set up European entities necessary for efficient execution of Community RTD programmes (art. 171 EC Treaty)
- The regulation provides an easy-to-use legal tool:
 - ... having legal personality recognized in all MS
 - ... having a spirit of a truly European venture
 - ... being flexible enough (one size doesn't fit all)
 - ... with some privileges / exemptions



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Support to policy





Support to policy

Objectives and topics

- **Objectives:** to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of national and Community research policies, **international cooperation** and the analysis of **emerging needs** in the field of RIs
- **Two topics**
 - ➔ **INFRA-2010-3.1: ERANET** supporting cooperation for RIs in all S&T fields
 - ➔ **INFRA-2010-3.2: Studies, conferences and coordination actions** supporting policy development, including international cooperation in all S&T fields



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ERANET Activities

- **Activities:** (1) information exchange, (2) definition and preparation of joint activities and (3) implementation of joint activities

Funding scheme: CSA-CA ('coordination and support actions – coordination action')





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ERANET

Expected proposals

- **Specific focus on:**
 - ➔ **Structuring** specific science and technology fields not yet fully organised at EU level
 - ➔ The **regional dimension** of RIs (coordination of RIs hosted by regions and/or financed by Structural Funds)
 - ➔ RIs **observatory** at European level.
 - ➔ **International cooperation** (helping Europe to speak with one voice)





Eligibility and requirements

- **Eligibility conditions**

- ➔ **General** criteria: deadline, completeness, relevance to topic

- ➔ **Eligible partners** are legal entities defining, financing or managing publicly funded national or regional programmes and/or policy actions

- ➔ **Minimum 3 eligible partners** established in different MS or AC.

- **Further requirements**

- ➔ Typically **2 to 3 years**

- ➔ EC contribution normally from **1 to 2 M€**

Studies, conferences...

Expected proposals

- **Actions related to the socio-economic impacts of RIs**
 - ➔ Development of new methods and indicators...
 - ➔ Forward-looking, prospective, trends per domain...
- **Development of the “European Portal on RIs’ Services” (as a tool for the scientific community and for policy makers)**
- **Actions fostering a more balanced territorial development and integration of RIs within the ERA (focus on governance and management)**
- **Actions supporting international cooperation and policy initiatives related to RI projects (at global level or with specific interest at international level)**



Studies, conferences...

Eligibility and requirements

- **Eligibility conditions**

- ➔ **General** criteria: deadline, completeness, relevance to topics
- ➔ For CA: **min. 3 independent legal entities** from 3 different MS or AC
- ➔ For SA: **min. 1 independent legal entity**

- **Further requirements**

- ➔ Typically **1 to 3 years**
- ➔ EC contribution normally from **0,2 to 1 M€**



Evaluation

- **Based on three major criteria**

- ➔ **Scientific excellence is the major criteria, but...**

- ➔ **Efficient management of the foreseen action is key for its potential success, and**

Impacts should not only be measurable on scientific grounds, they also have to cover ERA, socio-economic as well as HR issues



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Indicative timetable

→ Date of publication	30 July 2009
→ Deadline	3 December 2009 17:00 (Brussels time)
→ Evaluation	Dec. 2009 – Feb. 2010
→ Evaluation results	March 2010
→ Launch of negotiation	May 2010
→ Signature grant agreements	from autumn 2010
→ Pre-financing	45 days after signature grant agreement
→ Starting date	to be negotiated



Essential documents

- **Work Programme (FP7 'Capacities', Research Infrastructures, 2010) and 'Call fiche'**
- **Guides for applicants**
 - ➔ **Practical information on how to apply (electronic submission of proposals only)**
 - ➔ **Specific to a call and a funding scheme**
 - ➔ **Instructions for completing 'part A' (forms) and drafting 'part B' (text) of the proposal**

(on Cordis web site, along with other useful documents)



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Other relevant information

- **FP7 and Capacities Specific Programme**
 - ➔ <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/>
 - ➔ <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/>
- **Research Infrastructures on Europa website**
 - ➔ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/>
- **ESFRI on CORDIS**
 - ➔ <http://cordis.europa.eu/esfri/>

Thank you!

