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2008 REPORT of the ESFRI REGIONAL ISSUES WG

Conference Research Infrastructures and the Regional Dimension of ERA Prague
Congress Center
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ESFRI Work Methods and the ESFRI Regional WG

- Presence of positive personalities in ESFRI, Chairs: Hans Chang, John Wood and Carlo Rizzuto – the founding fathers of ERA of RIs
- •The ability to identify and face challenges
- •The atmosphere of acceptance and freedom leading to the possibility of improvement
- •Jure Marn the first chair of the Regional Issues WG, mapping the situation
- During our work -learning by analysing the current situation and sharing experience



Structure of the 2008 Report

General Importance of RIs for the Competitiveness of Regions

Training Grounds

Natural Knowledge Triangles

- Motivation of Researchers
- Relationship to the Ljubljana Process

Meta - Regions of Europe: Central European, Black Sea, Baltic States, Nordic States experience

Practical Issues

Project Finance and Financial Sustainability

Criteria for the Assessment and Evaluation of RIs

Bottlenecks

Next steps

Annex - Examples of the Existing Infrastructures

Self- actualization
Generally: Creativity,
interesting work, freedom
to decide | Research: the
possibility to lead a team, decide
the matter of research; measure
at the EU level - ERC

Esteem and ego: Generally: Advancement,
photographs in research magazines, prestigious
name of position, positive feedback | Research:
the same as above – being esteemed by the research
community, being invited to speak at a conference, interviews
in a scientific magazine; measure at EU level – researchers' night

Social needs, acceptance: Generally: Belonging to a social club, social events, open communication, belonging to a good name company Research: belonging to the research community, being a part of the researchers working at CERN; measure at EU level – "Charter and Code", networking projects

Safety needs: Generally: Free health care, retirement plans, safety rules at the working place, long term work contracts | Research: social security and free health care for PhD. students; measure at EU level – transferability of pension schemes, Directive on the employment of third country researchers

Basic and physiological needs: Generally: Good working conditions, attractive salary, subsidies for catering, company car | Research: research infrastructure, higher salaries providing conditions for work (chemicals, space); measures at EU level – building research pan European infrastructures of high quality, EC studies of researchers' remuneration in Europe



The lack of interest in research infrastructures is slowly diminishing as Member States realize the importance of their existence in the frame of their research and development policies. **Things are improving.**

BOTTLENECKS

General

o weak professional management, insufficient data management, e - infrastructure

Related to Legal Issues

- o a definition of RI is often missing or inadequate within the national legislation
- o RIs are not always separate legal entities, which makes their management difficult

Related to Financial Issues

- o lack of funding, non existence of an adequate tool
- o weak coordination between research and regional development policies; criteria for the choice of an excellent RI are in conflict with the criteria for the choice of SF

Related to Governance Issues

o Member States do not always have an RI committee to ensure the meeting of the bottom up and top down approach in a transparent way



Recommendations to ESFRI for Next 5 Years

With the full knowledge that the following ideas are more part of an ERA in 2020, when a community financing tool for the development of RIs could be established, we proclaim:

During the next 5 years ESFRI should devote a considerable amount of its know – how and resources to the formation of a pan- European policy for the development of RIs. In addition to this, under the umbrella of the implementation of the ESFRI Roadmap a special focus should be given to the involvement of less research intensive regions (countries) especially in distributed facilities and also to support the development of Regional partner facilities.

Policy Issues

- o Monitor the implementation of the ESFRI Roadmap under the regional and meta regional point of view
- o Include Regional partner facilities into this policy
- o Use the method of foresight to identify future needs taking into account the differences and strengths of Member States, and national roadmaps
- o Encourage the Member States to review the legal status of their RIs, consider ERIC as legal base for the new ones



Recommendations to ESFRI for Next 5 Years - Continuation

Governance and Financial Issues

- o Encourage the formation of national coordination bodies for the development of RIs, and related policies in connection with the European ones
- o Encourage the Member States to develop long term financial tools for RIs, and their connections to the pan European ones
- o To engage in formulating the evaluation criteria for RIs interacting through ERA, and taking into account regional aspects

CONCLUSION

Europe has a long tradition of policy making based on the principle of balancing national interests in the field of research coordination. We think that time has come to have a different approach. Maybe it is time to replace the 'raison d'état' by the 'raison d'Europe', maybe it is time to walk towards a common vision of ERA in the spirit of the founding fathers of the EU, the spirit of peace through cooperation.

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