

# EU2009.CZ

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## **2008 REPORT of the ESFRI REGIONAL ISSUES WG**

Conference Research Infrastructures and the Regional Dimension of ERA  
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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



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

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.

- 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.



