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# Impact of New Member States in FP6 RI programme

**In relation to an Evaluation of the Pertinence and Impact of the EU Support Actions to Research Infrastructures in the 6th Framework Programme**

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# Overview of the presentation

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- Purpose and focus of the presentation
  - Background and methodology
  - Overall study findings
  - Involvement of NMS in EU funded RI support actions
  - Types of RI projects NMS got involved in
  - Role of NMS in impacts of RI programme
  - NMS impact from participation
  - Conclusions
  - Recommendations
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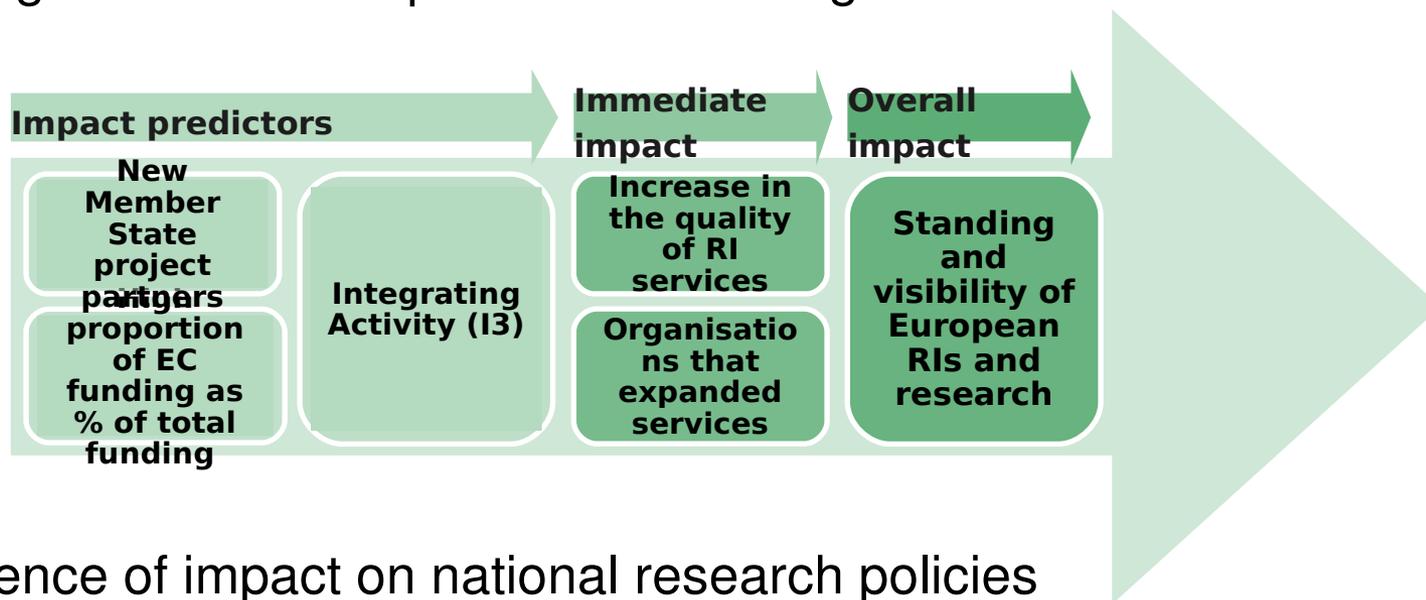
# Background and methodology

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- Impact assessment of the pertinence and impact of EU support Actions to Research Infrastructures (RIs) under FP6 commissioned by DG RTD and DG INFSO
- First ever assessment of European RI funding which will provide a base line for further development of an evidence base
- Mixed-methods approach including:
  - Delphi survey;
  - Participant Survey;
  - Case studies;
  - Impact and Economic Analyses.

# Overview of study findings

- Strong evidence of impact on the improved standing of European RIs and European research
- Strong evidence of impact on networking



- Evidence of impact on national research policies
- Not enough data to analyse properly economic and industrial impacts, as well as wider societal impacts

# Overview of structuring ERA through European Added Value

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- Strong evidence of impact on the structuring of the European Research Area particularly through involvement of New EU Member State RIs in projects and through strengthening existing networks of researchers

## **Role of EAV:**

- A high proportion of EC funding of project budget was linked to an increase in networking, access, training and expansion of services
- The European funding enabled certain activities that would not have been possible otherwise; these had strong focus on enhancing multinational collaboration

## **Impact on ERA:**

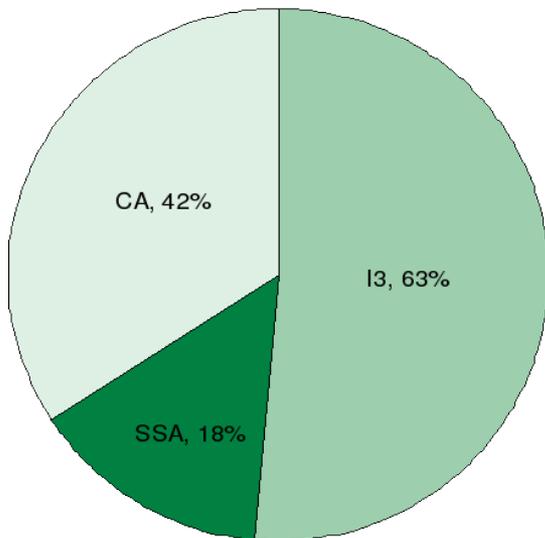
- Overall, strong evidence of capacity building in the form of networking, training, access to facilities, expansion of services and building advances in European research capability
- The Commission funding increased projects' visibility helped to establish the research field at European level
- The inclusion of NMS partners into European RI projects triggered national investment in RIs as their visibility and prestige increased

*The role and contribution of NMS is highlighted throughout this presentation*

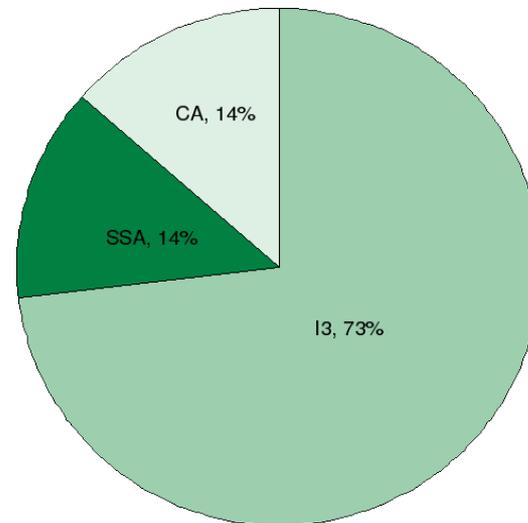
# Involvement of NMS in EU funded RI support actions

- NMS participated in 37 (45%) of the 83 RI FP6 projects.
- NMS tended to be involved in Integrating Activities and e-infrastructure projects
- Participation by instrument was:

NMS participation in overall population by instrument



NMS involvement by instrument



# Types of projects NMS got involved in

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- NMS participated where mostly involved in:
  - High-Energy Physics projects 88.9 % (8 out of 9 projects)
  - E-infrastructures projects 61.5 % (8 out of 13)
- NMS participated where the least involved in:
  - Life-sciences projects 23.1 % (3 out of 13)
  - Astronomy 27.3% (3 out of 11 projects)
- NMS tended to participate in projects with a larger number of partners than the average (27 vs. 19 partners)
- NMS tended to participate in projects with larger budgets (€11.5 million vs. €8.1 million)

# Role of NMS in impacts of RI programme

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- The involvement of New Member States made a significant contribution to the following areas and impacts:

<b>Areas that NMS impacted on</b>	<b>Actual impacts that NMS contributed to</b>
<b>Standing and visibility of European RIs and research</b>	<b>Increase in the quality of RI services as a result of the FP6 project</b>
<b>Data sets, standards and protocols</b>	<b>Increase in the quality of research data as a result of the FP6 project</b>
<b>Attraction, retention and repatriation of scientists and researchers</b>	<b>Increase in the number of young researchers working in partner institutions as a result of the FP6 project</b>

# Impact of participation on NMS

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Qualitative evidence from case studies revealed:

- Strong evidence of NMS researchers being **more involved in European research communities and networks**
- Evidence of **RIs being improved in NMS**, particularly e-infrastructures
- Evidence of **participant organisations** from NMS being able to undertake new, more and better research
- Some evidence of **users** from NMS being able to undertake new, more or better research

# Conclusions

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- The uptake and extension of e-infrastructures into NMS was rapid and impressive.
- The extensive involvement of NMS in e-infrastructures projects was a natural extension of their strength in the High-Energy Physics field.
- Researchers were able to conduct more, better and quicker research where they were given access to RIs via the projects.
- There are examples of projects influencing National Policy in the New Member States (e.g. LitGrid).
- The projects provided opportunities for young researcher in NMS to become involved in wider European networks.

# Recommendations

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## ● In New Member States:

- NMS could support their researchers becoming more internationally competitive by continuing to expand e-infrastructure facilities, enabling also better access to research services, without expensive investment in actual facilities.
- More focus on attracting users to benefiting from access to RIs.
- Support from government would enable researchers to become more involved in feasibility projects such as design studies.

## ● At European level:

- On the back of the success of including NMS under FP6 candidate countries as well as some third countries should be encouraged to participate in future RI projects.