

České předsednictví
Evropské unie

Czech Presidency
of the European Union

Présidence tchèque
de l'Union européenne

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Synthesis of the first plenary sessions

Scope of the conference:
what has been the progress since
the Brdo conference (one year
ago)?

Effects of regions?

Remaining bottlenecks?

Main issues? Way forward?

Governance, evaluation, access,
sustainability, mobility, ERICs,
initiatives, etc...

Tuesday morning:

- RIs not only at the root but also the future of Europe,
- The current situation is forcing Europe to quickly advance on research investments, which is twice virtuous (support to research, support to industry)
- The benefits of RIs should be offered to everyone, not just few Member States
- Structural funds are a tool to help MS developing facilities, but need to be used wisely, i.e. placing new RIs in a favourable environment,
- Networking spirit is a European strength, but cross country is a challenge to be faced
 - A new way of managing research is emerging; this is a major challenge, not only scientific but mainly political

Tuesday afternoon

- Confirms RIs and the fifth freedom (knowledge) for socio-economic development of Europe,
- However Europe suffers from fragmentation, therefore networking and integration is the way for Europe,
- More than half of the ESFRI facilities are of distributed nature, which gives opportunities for regions, small & less research intensive countries to participate in joint investments or RPFs. Will regions/ MS consider these opportunities ? Some do like the RA region;
- Attractiveness of regions is also a key factor for research investments,
- e-infrastructures are key to avoid digital divide as well as to share / federate distributed computing & data resources