The association of European Research Facilities (ERF)

Presentation

Return of experience

EuroRis·Net

Jean-Pierre Caminade, ERF Executive Secretary

- **ERF: European Association of National Research Facilities Open to International Access**
  - to promote dialogue and concerted actions between national large scale facilities on key common issues in line with the operation of the facilities.

- **The Associates commit to:**
  - **coordinate the development** of forefront facilities for European research;
  - develop **mechanisms and best practices** for international provision of large-scale research facilities;
  - act as a **source of scientific and technical expert opinion** for national and European policy-making;
  - act as a **single voice with decision-makers** (representing a large constituency for large-scale research facilities) ;

o **free association of facility managers funded in 2006**
o **_under transformation in an AISBL (March 2013)_**
o **associates are managing National Labs**
  o offering international open access to facilities and programmes;
  o carrying out research in physical, chemistry, earth, health&life, material, energy, cultural heritage and environmental sciences;
  o providing a large scientific research infrastructure;
  o developing and providing innovative experimental technologies and their application;

  o _mostly single site based;_
  o _largely involved in ESFRI projects: ESS, EuroFEL, XFEL, SPIRAL2, FAIR, ELI, HiPER, EMFL;_
  o _mostly under independent status._

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o **Members (22 running facilities, about 4800 permanent staff)**
  o DESY-Hamburg (Hasylab, PETRA III, FLASH),
  o HZB-Berlin (HMI, BESSY2),
  o STFC-Harwell (DIAMOND, ISIS, CLF),
  o MBI-Berlin *(Laserlab coordinator),*
  o FRM2-Garching,
  o LLB-Saclay,
  o SOLEIL-Saclay,
  o GANIL-Caen,
  o GSI-Darmstadt,
  o LNMI (Toulouse, Grenoble),
  o ELETTRA-Trieste,
  o BNR-Budapest,
  o PSI-Villigen (SLS, SINQ),
  o MAXLab-Lund,
  o Radboud Univ. (Nijmegen).

4 main challenges

- **Challenge 1: Give access to the facility and the data storage**

- **Challenge 2: Maintain the capacity building of the operating staff**

- **Challenge 3: Improve efficient operating activities**

- **Challenge 4: Prepare the future analytical tools that will be used in 2020**

Deliverables

Position papers on relevant questions in relation with the news

> EC Green Paper + I3 future

> ITER funding

> H2020 preparation

> Mobility of RIs' staff (joint position paper with EIROforum)

Annual seminar

> 2009: Access to RIs *(Lund), 110 at.*

> 2010: HR concerns (mobility) *(Villigen, 90 at.)* (joint position paper with EIROforum)

> 2011: Energy management *(Lund, 130 at.)* (jointly with CERN and ESS)

> 2012: Socio-economic relevance of Ris *(DESY-Hamburg 140 at.)* (Summary Report)

Collection of data

> 2 exercises (not very convincing due to the diversity and long-term sustainability)

> WG on harmonization of cost-control practices (2013)

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ERF input in H2020 preparation

- **Open-access is a good value**
  - an equal sharing of the IPRs *(DoE: come for free, publish the « R » but leave the « D »)*
  - the free access = open publications of results *(not of **ALL** results)* => data access policy !
  - independance in evaluation : how to consider experiences funded by external agencies ?

- **Open-access : who does pay for what ?**
  - more an adapted service than a physical access to the facility
  - full cost for all ! need a comparative method for cost calculation
  - how to conciliate fundamental and private uses through excellence criteria ?

- **Invent new ways of collaborating for generating savings and innovations?**
  - joint procurement plans within RIs (energy, basic components) *(scaling effect)*
  - joint development of cutting-edge instrumentations

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How we see the H2020 ?

- **Budget constrains**
  - less money for more and more demanding communities = find elsewhere in H2020 !!!
  - limit the TNA reimbursement to extra-European countries without facilities?
  - separately funding for the services provided: access, expertises, training and researches
  - save money: operational performance (maintenance), in-kind staff against free services ?

- **Legal status evolutions**
  - more and more independent facilities (outsourcing of management concerns)
  - input / output of new shareholders in facilities under exploitation (e.g. member-states?)
  - specific status adapted to regional challenges and personal view of new shareholders
  - more I3 are thinking to adopt an ERIC status (protection of basic operation)

- **New technical challenges**
  - Data (and codes !) management: how to conciliate

  economic efficiency, confidentiality and struggle against misconduct ?

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What major changes (1) ?

- **RIs in « Science for research »**
  - a single governance (PC ?) ?
  - more interactions with ERC (SYNERGY and single grants), MC fellowships and FET
  - joint dedicated calls ? (staff mobility ? shorter stays in facility ? COFUND for all staff ? outgoing fellowship for technicians ?)

- **new role for NCPs ?**
  - more information on OTHER calls of pillar 1
  - more assistance in proposal preparation requires to be informed as early as possible
  - best practices in getting € abroad : a narrative approach ? (putting together our experience)
  - take benefit from the results of the call for interests for I3 topics (Oct.2012)

- **more integrated actions with e-infrastructures**
  - any RI is now an e-infrastructure itself
  - I3 is a success : integrate a 4th topic devoted to e-activities ?

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What major changes (2) ?

- **new relations with industrial companies and universities**
    - consider RI products at their right value (TT, access to the facility)
    - marketing approach : market studies, discount on official selling prices
    - compatibility with non-profit status (tax exemption)?
    - industrial customers: find credible intermediaries (best academics? clusters? start-ups?)
    - more involvement of RIs in training packages (autonomous universities as customers)

- **new partnerships with users**
    - long-term collaborations (hosting projects close to the facilities)
    - platform concept ? with a direct access to the facility ?
    - foundation approach ? sponsorship for environment, patient associations

- **new partnerships with suppliers**
    - better anticipation in procurements (show cases, portal of announcement ?)
    - early involvement in joint development of mass products
    - adopt new methods (pre-procurement, competitive dialogue)

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Thank you for your attention

http://www.europeanresearchfacilities.eu/home.aspx