

# EU2009.CZ

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2009



**OUTCOMES OF THE RIC** - Conference  
Research Infrastructures and the  
Regional Dimension of ERA  
Prague

e-IRG Workshop  
14-15 May, 2009, Prague  
Nada Witzanyová  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports  
[witzanyovan@msmt.cz](mailto:witzanyovan@msmt.cz)

## The CZ PRES activities in the field of RIs

### THREE MAIN AREAS

1. Research infrastructures and the regional dimension of ERA – Council Conclusions
2. The ERIC proposal – political agreement
3. The Implementation of the ERA Vision 2020 – Council Conclusions; Progress Report

## Objective of the conference and organization

- Held in the Prague Congress Center on 24 – 25 March 2009
- The objective of the conference was to help policy makers and project coordinators to develop together a strategic and consistent approach in the field of RIS, to motivate MS and their regions to coordinate their policies, and to show the activities in the field of RIs
- Organized with the EC and international programme committee
- Attendance: over 300 participants

## Outcomes – on general competitiveness

1. The research infrastructures are not only at the root, but also the future of the competitiveness of Europe. RIs being effective knowledge triangles are a component of building ERA, and contribute to the fifth freedom and socio - economic development of regions.

2. The current situation of economy can be reversed by advancing the investments in research and development; the investments in RIs being a part of these investments with long term and short term benefits for the European economy. In this context RIC stresses the need for a quick implementation of the ESFRI Roadmap update. In the case of research infrastructures it is twice virtuous; investments in building new research infrastructures include short term qualified support to industry, as well as longer term benefits for the development of the regions and the EU competitiveness in research and technology.

## Outcomes – balanced development of ERA

3. The importance of balanced distribution of RIs throughout Europe is crucial, contributes to reversing brain drain into brain circulation, alleviates unemployment in regions, and promotes European cohesion. Where there is expertise, new MS are actively involved in all the relevant research infrastructures domains.

4. Europe suffers from fragmentation, therefore networking and integration is a way for Europe. Distributed infrastructures contribute robustly to the integration of Europe, giving opportunity to regions and smaller or less research intensive countries to participate in the ERA. In addition to this, the Member States are called to develop Regional Partner Facilities where possible.

## Outcomes – e-infrastructures

5. RIC welcomes the Report of the European Commission on e – Infrastructures, and acknowledges the growing importance of e- infrastructures for the efficient operation of research infrastructures, data storage, and grid computing along with data communication thorough networks.

6. In this context, it is important to underline that e – infrastructures are a key factor to overcome fragmentation and the digital divide of Europe, and can lead to scientific excellence throughout Europe. Data and computing oriented infrastructures can be strong assets for a region too. Their potential harnesses the collective power of European scientific resources, irrespectively from their geographic location.

*Draft CCs: WELCOMES the Commission communication entitled "ICT infrastructures for e-Science", which puts emphasis on the growing importance of e-Infrastructures for research excellence, innovation and efficient operation of research infrastructures, and UNDERLINES that e-Infrastructures are a key factor in overcoming fragmentation and the digital divide in Europe, with their potential to harness the collective power of European scientific resources regardless of their geographical location.*

*Doc. 7432/09.*





## Outcomes – legal frame

**7. The adoption of the legal frame for pan- European research infrastructures – ERIC becomes a priority, as the demand for a legal status of ESFRI Roadmap projects is growing.**

- VAT committee meeting on the 22nd of April
- the CZ PRES proposed a compromise text on the basis of the fact that the VAT committee unanimously agreed that ERIC would qualify as an international body
- negotiations on the level of COREPER



## Outcomes – human resources development

8. **Talent becomes the most sought-after asset for regions, countries and the world**; research infrastructures form the basis to bring these talents into research and attract them to the region. Competition inside Europe for talents must be replaced by European collaborative efforts in educating and training a new generation of young scientists. **RIC stresses the importance of RIs and the network of world class RI that covers most of the Europe either physically or virtually as a cornerstone for the attraction, nurturing and circulation of researchers throughout Europe.**

9. The success of training and knowledge production at both regional and European level depends on how RIs are organized. One of the major factors in this regard is the operational model of RIs that includes both the training programs and access to the instruments and resources. Challenge must be met of achieving maximum available use of research infrastructure for education and training. **RIC emphasises the importance of RIs for the intersectoral mobility and involvement of industry to the education process of researchers, and calls on the Member States to develop special training programs in collaboration between Universities, RIs and industry.**

## Outcomes – links

10. The international dimension was shown to play a crucial role for the small countries (regions) in their aspirations to become major players in knowledge generation. The national (regional) authorities must be advised to make the investments into their RI after serious considerations of international environment as well as possibilities that are offered by cooperation at regional and European level. **Imminent becomes the need to link regional and national RIs to the pan - European ones, in order to strengthen the ERA.**

11. Research infrastructures provide important opportunities in terms of innovation such as: the various opportunities that are allowed by the technology development required by these infrastructures, the possibility to develop industrial R&D using the measuring capacities, or of the downstream services that can live on the infrastructure. **Undisputable is the contribution of RIs for the efficient use of research investment for innovation and entrepreneurship and as a driver of the knowledge and innovation chain in the regions.**

12. The experience with using the concept of **joint programming** within the frame of already existing infrastructures was explored, and a further investigation of the possible synergies between JP and RIs is recommended.



## Outcomes – evaluation

13. It is a major European work to identify the main criteria on the basis of which existing and future regional RIs could be evaluated and recognized in terms of pan-European interest. There are three major and classical criteria **E**, Excellence, **M**, Management and implementation, and **I**, Impacts. There seems to be no difference for the evaluation of Regional Partner Facilities or of large Research Infrastructures. **RIC calls on the Member States and the Commission to develop in partnership a common set of criteria for the evaluation of RIs both on European and national levels.**

14. **The necessity for international cooperation**, not only from financial perspectives but also according to the necessary personnel. Secure the financial resources, and solutions should be found for the different legal aspects (*legal frame, taxation, access, IPR*). **There is a need to develop international partnerships for RIs throughout Europe.**

## The Ljubljana Process – Implementation of the Vision 2020

Work of the trio of presidencies and of the six presidencies; result of a discussion with Member States and the EC, GSC – the progres report.

*Draft CCs :HIGHLIGHTS the importance of the development of joint visions for research infrastructures at European level, and ACKNOWLEDGES the fact that the ESFRI Roadmap has acted as a catalyst for national roadmaps and/or programmes, in many cases. In this context, STRESSES the need to analyse the level of financing of networking activities and ~~open~~ access to the research infrastructures at European level **and to reflect on their potential strengthening.** ~~including the possibility to strengthen the open access to these facilities.~~*



