The role of national Research Funding Organizations in approaching the principles of strategic authonomy

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Background:

The (e)infrastructures are presented form the
aspect of research funders

In conclusion the effort on open access to scientific publications and data
performed by research funders is stressed

Discussion: from souveregnity to authonomy and (nevertheless) the
impartiality (research / societal aspect / feasibility).

Introduction: The Research Funding Organisations

From EUROHORCS and ESF to Science Europe

2.1 Science Europe: The association of National Organisations

(a) Active Advocacy (to be a recognised and respected voice in the European Research Area, alongside national governments and the European Commission, and contribute to improving the political, legislative, and financial conditions of scientific research in Europe), and
(b) Collaboration (to promote exchange and cooperation between our Member Organisations in terms of both policy and activities, with the aim of improving performance and the impact).

2.2 National Research Funding Organisations

(a) Have a substantial and significant impact on their national research system and budget
(b) Funded primarily through national public funding
(c) Have substantial operating independence from their national government
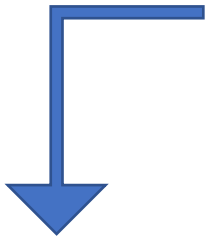
Two notions of sustainability in research:

- Achieving the UN SDG's

- To build and operate a sustainable research (e)infrastructure

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), consensually adopted by United Nations Member States in 2015, clearly marked the goal-setting development strategies for next decade - of individual administrations, NGO's, nevertheless the science, education and the economy stressing the need for innovation, addressing the goals of this agenda.

United Nations | **Department of Economic and Social Affairs**
Sustainable Development

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THE 17 GOALS

169 Targets   **3042** Events   **1278** Publications   **5420** Actions
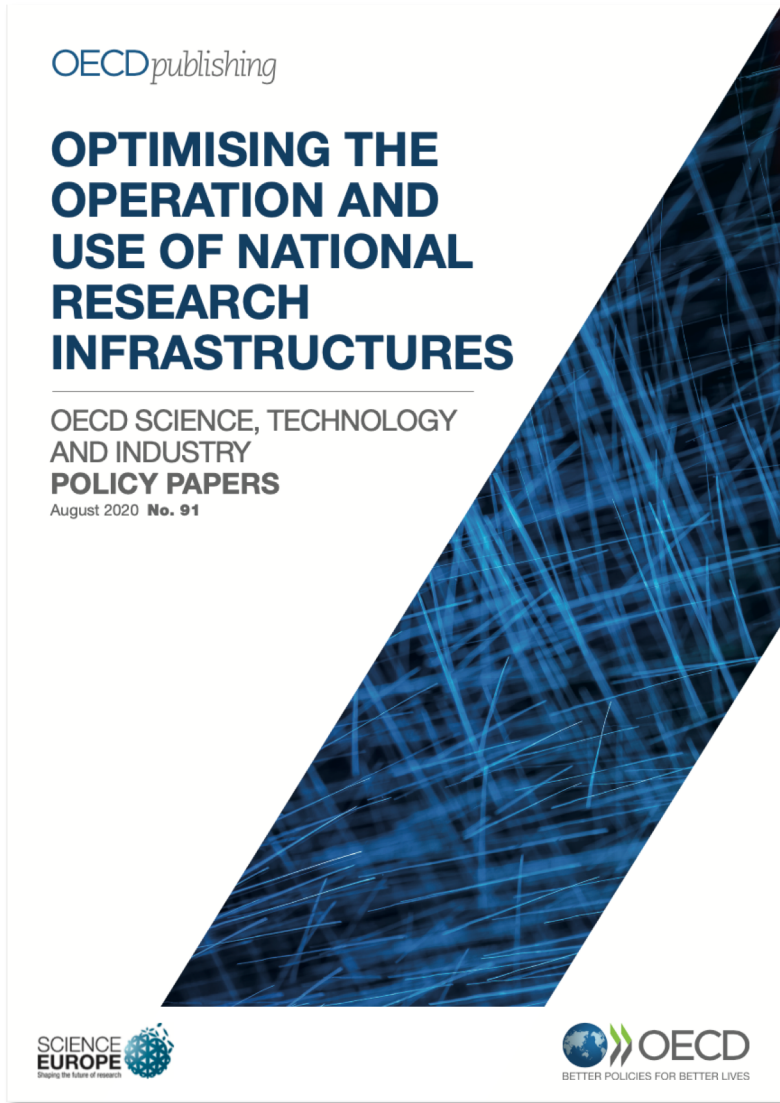
- Achieving the UN SDG's

The possible tension of the global orientation of SDG's and the national policies - the sovereignty might be a very specific politically influenced challenge (research priorities?)

Addressing the e-infrastructures, the observations and the goals of the European documents on digital sovereignty are crucial in setting the ground for the new system even *going beyond* of the internet governance (*burning topic two decades ago*).

The European Parliament pinned its strong concerns »**raised over the economic and social influence of non-EU technology companies**« in its briefing in July 2020 stressing the need for new »notion of European leadership and strategic autonomy in the digital field« (Digital sovereignty for Europe).

To build and operate a sustainable research (e)infrastructure

"... it includes two guiding models, one for portfolio management and one for user-base optimisation."

Type of RIs

National	International	Distributed	Single-sited	e-Infrastructure
26	8	8	11	6

Disciplinary scope of responding RIs

Social Sciences and Humanities	Health/ Biology	Environment	Material Sciences/ Engineering	Physics/ Astronomy	Information and Communication Technology
5	16	14	19	21	9

The main mission of the responding RIs

Service-driven	User facility	Data-driven	Other
15	27	10	9

Source: Science Europe

→ To build and operate a sustainable research (e)infrastructure

An illustration of public funding of (e) research infrastructures in Slovenia:

Dual funding: the ministry and the (autonomous) RFO;

The ministry: large infrastructures and decision on ESFRI participations, funded by RFO;

The RFO:

- Research infrastructure programmes
  (long term „lumpsum" funding of research infrastructures based on 6 year evaluation period)

- Infrastructure costs as eligible financial element in funding of research projects, programmes and other instruments

A Guiding Model for RI portfolio management is needed!

Further discussion:

- Research funding – the aspect of research infrastructures; the role of national research funders, regional and European organisations for research funding; evaluation and decision making.

- Already achieved and ongoing activities of open access to scientific publications and data – performed by the research funders (the case of national strategies: Open Access/Plan S; EOSC).

- The impact of autonomy and sovereignty as settled by politics (the ministries) to the science – notions of openness and autonomy; rethinking of the role of government and the use of strategic research infrastructure(s).