EMPOWERING THE E-INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIPS IN ERA

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Setting the scene: partnerships

- “(We think) this is taken care of” – someone else does this, and pays for it; it should be there for us to use it.
- A partnership can be understood as a means for ‘taking care of things’.
- A partnership is agreed on a hierarchical level such that the levels below are not bothered (on a daily basis): => things are taken care of
- Decreases the amount of ad-hoc, possibly fragmentation; increases transparency, possibly focussing resources
- There is no free lunch – compare with paying taxes.
- A partnership should clarify the value case, including what is left un-catered for
- A partnership should cater for adapting the content of the arrangement on a regular-but-non-daily basis: => change (& run), tech- and use-inspired dialogue, road mapping

Source: OECD, 2017
A (MS) view on the state of affairs in the Netherlands

- Focus on two types of partnerships:
  - “horizontal”: between national & regional/local e-infrastructure facilities, resources and services
  - “vertical”: between e-infrastructure facilities, resources and services & scientific user communities

- (Recent new) building blocks:
  - Digital of data competence centres (university- and inter-university-based):
    - Landing site for software originating from projects (own personnel, Netherlands eScience Center); goal is to maintain and publish (=> FAIR)
    - (Local) expertise and advice centre for FAIR data and software
    - Expertise and advice centre for local ICT-infrastructure
    - Node in a federated network for data, computing and expertise
  - Roadmap for Large-scale Research Infrastructure

Source: Traag, Waltman and Van Eck, 2019 (CWTS).
Building a NOSC

- Building blocks allow to construct a first version of a NOSC (national open science cloud), with clear links (‘edges’) to a European / international network
  - Many research infrastructures on the roadmap serve as national node in a European research infrastructure (=> connection to ESFRI).
  - National e-infrastructure serves as national node in a number of European federations (GÉANT, PRACE, EGI, EUDAT, ...)
- Building blocks receive semi-structural funding: 5 year
  - Next step: develop process to evaluate and to decide on tapering-off-or-continue
- Agenda for partnerships: specific focus on ‘glue’ between partners that should build trust
  - Horizontal: (change) joint projects to develop new services, (run) operating a federated facility with central node and edge nodes
  - Vertical: (change) joint projects to build data standards and a service catalogue, (run) joint application for big (societal/scientific) challenge-projects

Source: Van Eck and Waltman, 2017 (blog, CWTS).
Concluding challenges

- Can we build an EOSC on different NOSC flavours?
  - Can we decide on minimum interoperability “standards”?
    - “Standards” include compatibility of business models!
- Can we build a first version of an EOSC that is forward-compatible?
  - Challenge: do not try to cater for everything in the first version!
- Balancing change and run; deciding on pace for developing partnership
  - Regular (non-daily!) re-thinking partnerships is necessary to continue to build trust
Driving innovation together