

European Network of National Contact Points for Research Infrastructures moving forward

Framework Programme 7 (2007-2013) Research infrastructures projects

Summary: EuroRIs-Net+ will build on the Network of National Contact Points for the Research Infrastructures programme (RIs NCPs) to reinforce and capitalise on the coordination of transnational cooperation among NCPs, to support more effective promotion and implementation of the Research Infrastructures (RIs) programme, identifying synergies and complementarities at national/regional, European and international levels. The RIs NCP Network will undertake **Observatory** actions in relation to European Commission and national Research Infrastructures policies, programmes and initiatives, supported by an efficient dialogue scheme among RIs NCPs and the RIs ecosystem – facilitated through the RIs **Stakeholders' Forum** - and a sustainable and comprehensive RIs **Knowledge Repository**. The repository will aim to be a comprehensive point of reference for European, national and regional RIs projects and initiatives, highlighting the opportunities offered by Research Infrastructures (incl. e-infrastructure) at the European and international level, as well as the complementarities and synergies achieved.

Objectives: EuroRIs-Net+ will reinforce an existing coordination and communication mechanism for strengthening cooperation among RIs NCPs in FP7, in order to provide added-value not only in the quality of RIs NCP services but also for the entire RIs ecosystem, through knowledge leverage activities conducted in an environment of best practice exchange among EC policy bodies, Public Authorities, RIs operators, thus supporting forward-looking activities. This endeavour is expected to contribute to an increase in the transparency of EU research and to ensure equal access to RIs for the whole European R&D community and beyond. This will be accomplished by fulfilling the following key objectives of the project:

- Provision of **high level services** to our **clients** (the scientific communities, industrial players and public stakeholders in RIs) and the **promotion of RIs NCPs' good practices**
- **Increased visibility** of the **RIs programme** among **all thematic areas of FP7**, empowering the scientific and user communities in a balanced way, supporting the bottom-up European Commission approaches for participation in the RIs programme & facilitating the transnational collaboration of RIs NCPs in this direction
- Constructive **dialogue** among “actors” of the **RIs ecosystem**, providing a sustainable platform for **communication** among the policy bodies of the Network, the European Commission and RIs as well as RIs project coordinators and stakeholders, supporting information exchange about national resources and initiatives aiming to support, wherever possible, their integration within the European Research Area.

Action plan: The action plan of the project consists of **a)** the timely and methodical provision of coherent capacity building services to the RIs NCPs, in order to support the “homogeneity” of improved services offered to the national communities, **b)** proactive, systematic and targeted communication with the RIs policy bodies, operators, national programme owners, other NCP networks and RI-related projects, in order to nurture a consistent dialogue with the RIs ecosystem, supported through constant monitoring activities, field surveys and - above all - the RIs Stakeholders' forum which will feed the RIs Knowledge Repository (structured and operational upon feedback / consensus of the RIs stakeholders*) and finally, **c)** broad and targeted dissemination of the RIs programme, with the emphasis on improving the awareness of transnational access opportunities to scientific communities, industry and society so as to provide solid bridges between providers and users of RI resources.

* A workshop will be organized within the first half of the project, in order to discuss and concretize the information services and the communication platform provided, as well as the visualization functionalities offered, in relation to the different RIs stakeholders' interests



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Collaboration with other EC funded projects:

- SEERA_EI
- MERIL
- PAERIP
- e-FISCAL
- eNVENTORY
- FP7 NCP networks



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Coordination AND/OR support activities: The project coordination and support activities are organised in four workpackages which tackle in a specific - but complementary - way the main project objectives. More specifically, the **first** group of activities will target the improvement of RIs NCPs competencies, through best practice exchange and focused capacity building activities. The **second**, distinct group of activities will focus systematically on the shaping of an operational scheme for an efficient dialogue with the RIs ecosystem, by creating open channels and synergies for exchange of information among scientific communities, industry, RI operators and national/regional programme owners, while encouraging recommendations by RIs' policy bodies, and exploiting synergies with other NCP networks, in order to further explore opportunities to target scientific communities in all FP7 themes. International RIs initiatives and opportunities will be monitored as well, providing substantial input to the observable knowledge base of the project. The **third** group of activities will allow the design and implementation of information services for RIs stakeholders through the provision of a well-structured, interoperable and adequately visible RIs Knowledge Repository, whereby high-end partnering activities, in harmony with the CORDIS partner search endeavours, will be supported. Finally, the **fourth** group of activities will focus on transnational awareness of access to RIs and to e-Infrastructure services. It will also feature dissemination activities, primarily through the website platform of the project but also through the participation of RIs NCPs at targeted national, European and International RIs events to promote the Network.

User communities: The **EuroRIs-Net+** project, apart from providing a platform for a coherent **Network of RIs NCPs** (which will primarily exchange and use the information and related services offered), it will also provide services to RIs stakeholders external to the Network through the Knowledge Repository, the Stakeholders' Forum and through the ongoing observation of RIs in Europe and at a global level. According to their interests, the RIs stakeholders will be able to effectively use the platform provided as follows:

- **Scientists, Principal Researchers, Research teams and engineers** will be able to benefit from trans-national access opportunities/services and exchange information on the needs and experiences of existing RIs and future developments
- **National authorities (programme owners and research funding bodies)** will be able to better monitor complementarities, synergies and use successfully RIs usage paradigms to support their strategic planning
- **European Commission and the RIs policy bodies** will be able to better visualise the landscape of national/regional initiatives in relation to the EC agenda on RIs
- **National Programme Committee members and other experts** that work in association with national/regional authorities will be able to monitor the national initiatives in relation to EC policy recommendations and the overall RIs ecosystem

International aspects: International aspects are incorporated into the project's dialogue with the RIs ecosystem through activities specifically targeted at monitoring - and recording in the Knowledge Repository - the international cooperation opportunities and RIs initiatives being developed at international level. Best practices will be examined and highlighted, whereas a database for international RI initiatives and access opportunities will be developed (made available through the project website).

Also synergy aspects can be optimized (thus enhancing the effectiveness of the Observatory) taking into account interests, trends and the state-of-the-art developed at international level, by participating in concertation activities and meetings between projects exploring further cooperation.

