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Project no. 212879



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■ Editorial

This **special issue** is implemented in order to better support the visibility of RIs, given the forthcoming ECRI 2010 conference. Further mobilization of RI stakeholders for an open dialogue on the exploration of RI services towards the user communities is vital. Our network is aiming to broadly support the dissemination of the RI programme and sustain this dialogue, through the organisation of special events (you will find relevant information herein) and the synergy with other NCP networks.

Our Network also contributes to communication with both ESFRI and e-IRG, so you will find relevant information on e-IRG activities as well.

Find out about newly generated articles, as well as the latest news about planned RI events organised by EuroRISNET. EuroRISNET will be present at the ECRI 2010 event, to be held in Barcelona, 23rd – 24th March 2010. Finally, we would like to highlight some of the previously funded RI projects that were completed successfully at the end of 2009. Useful news and summary information are hereby presented.

■ Project News and Events

1. Significant outputs from the 2nd EuroRISNET training

- **Risk-Sharing Finance Facility, Warsaw, October 2009**

Among other topics, the Risk-Sharing Finance Facility was presented at the 2nd training of the EuroRISNET, held in Warsaw, IPPT-PAN, last October. The Risk-Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) is a fairly new financing instrument supported by the 7th Framework Programme (FP7). RSFF is an innovative debt-based facility, developed by the European Commission (EC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) that will create more and better funding for R&D projects.

For complete article, see http://www.euroris-net.eu/Events/euroris_project_events/

Additional information, including project examples, is available on the following websites:

EC: www.ec.europa.eu/invest-in-research/funding/funding02_en.htm

EIB: www.eib.org/rsff

- **Synergies and Complementarities of the Framework Programme, CIP and Structural Funds**

For complete article, see http://www.euroris-net.eu/Events/euroris_project_events/

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2. Workshop “St. Gallen - Crossing Borders: Research Infrastructures in FP7”

On 14th and 15th June 2010, the major interregional event "St. Gallen - Crossing Borders: Research Infrastructures in FP7" will take place in the run-up to the 2010 Research Infrastructures Call for Proposals. This conference is organised by the three EuroRIs-Net Partners DLR (Germany), Euresearch (Switzerland) and FFG (Austria) and is targeted at newcomers and experienced Research Infrastructure consortia alike. It is the first event of its kind and is designed to foster participation and cooperation of regions under-represented in the FP7 Research Infrastructures Programme.

Highlights are the Commission's key note speeches, a speaker's corner for presenting new project ideas and instantly finding suitable collaboration partners, insights into the evaluation process and a panel discussion regarding the different views on a work programme. On day two there will be the possibility to get a hands-on training on the Integrating Activities funding scheme or to discuss the new ERIC legal framework. Of course there will also be many opportunities for networking.

The event has no entrance fees, and will be delivered in English. Because of its high value for the RI community, this event is supported by EuroRIs-Net.

Details can be found at:

[http://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=11&tx_seminars_pi1\[showUid\]=730](http://www.euresearch.ch/index.php?id=11&tx_seminars_pi1[showUid]=730)

3. Preannouncement of International Conference on RIs, Italy, September 2010

In close collaboration with the European Commission and the Italian Ministry of Research, EuroRIsNet project consortium has been organizing an international conference on **Research Infrastructures**, which will be held in Rome, on 28th September 2010.

The first session will aim to illustrate European and national strategies and actions on Research Infrastructures (RIs), therefore some representatives of the European Commission- DG Research, ESFRI, e-IRG, RIs Delegates and successful RIs proposers will take part. The second session will be dedicated to a round table entitled “A vision of the socio-economic benefits of research infrastructures at international level”, in which, additionally to mentioned representatives, speakers from the Third Countries such as Canada, USA, Australia, India, South Africa will also attend in order to provide their own experience.

More information on the event will be available at the EuroRIsNet project website (www.euroris-net.eu) soon.

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■ RI News and Events

1. Following ten (10) RI projects were completed at the last trimester of 2009:

1. **SHARE-PREP** (<http://www.share-project.org/>)
 - i. Check for Summary results in all SHARE languages (<http://www.share-project.org/t3/share/index.php?id=68>)
2. **CESSDA-ppp** (<http://www.cessda.org/>)
 - i. See the link <http://www.cessda.org/project/outputs/index.html> for project outputs and publications
 - ii. Recent news: Hans Jørgen Marker named President of CESSDA. Hans Jørgen Marker, the Director of the Swedish National Data Service, has been appointed President of CESSDA, effective 3rd March, 2010. He replaces Professor Kevin Schürer, who will be leaving the directorship of the UK Data Archive and ESDS in order to take up an appointment at the University of Leicester as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research.
3. **E-ELT** (<http://www.eso.org/public/teles-instr/e-elt/index.html>)
 - i. E-ELT handouts, Eso press releases on E-ELT are available at: <http://www.eso.org/public/outreach/products/handouts/index.html>
 - ii. Extremely Large Telescopes are considered worldwide as one of the highest priorities in ground-based astronomy. They will vastly advance astrophysical knowledge, allowing detailed studies of subjects including planets around other stars, the first objects in the Universe, super-massive black holes, and the nature and distribution of the dark matter and dark energy which dominate the Universe. Since the end of 2005 ESO has been working together with its user community of European astronomers and astrophysicists to define the new giant telescope needed by the middle of the next decade. More than 100 astronomers from all European countries have been involved throughout 2006, helping the ESO Project Offices to produce a novel concept, in which performance, cost, schedule and risk were carefully evaluated. Dubbed **E-ELT** for **European Extremely Large Telescope**, this revolutionary new ground-based telescope concept will be 42 metres in diameter and will be **the world's biggest eye on the sky**. With the start of operations planned for 2018, the E-ELT will tackle the biggest scientific challenges of our time, and aim for a number of notable firsts, including tracking down Earth-like planets around other stars in the "habitable zones" where life could exist — one of the Holy Grails of modern observational astronomy. It will also perform "stellar archaeology" in nearby galaxies, as well as make fundamental contributions to cosmology by measuring the properties of the first stars and galaxies and probing the nature of dark matter and dark energy. On top of this astronomers are also planning for the unexpected — new and unforeseeable questions will surely arise from the new discoveries made with the E-ELT.

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4. PRACE (<http://www.prace-project.eu/>)
 - i. Useful documents, such as workshop presentations, public deliverables and newsletters, can be found on the PRACE site (<http://www.prace-project.eu/documents>)
 - ii. DEISA, the Distributed European Infrastructure for Supercomputing Applications, and PRACE, the Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe are organizing a second **major European event** in High Performance Computing: the **DEISA PRACE Symposium 2010**. This symposium will take place from 10th May to 12th in Barcelona, Spain. It will be hosted by the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC) at the famous Casa Milà, also known as “La Pedrera”.
5. D4Science (www.d4science.eu/)
 - i. From <http://www.d4science.eu/digitallibrary> you can link to the **BELIEF Digital Library**. The BELIEF Digital Library serves the needs of the BELIEF Community and its e-infrastructure researchers and industrial users that wish to keep up to date on existing projects, products and services and on the latest developments in e-infrastructures. The Digital Library offers users many advanced services, accessible in one place, such as multimedia documentation (e.g. deliverables, event reports, presentations, videos, manuals, on-line tutorials) and the very latest details in e-infrastructure related projects, initiatives and events.
 - ii. Visit http://www.d4science.eu/files/d4science-II_pressrelease16102009_en.pdf for the latest **press release** of the project
6. DRIVER II (www.driver-community.eu/)
 - i. Considered the largest initiative of its kind in helping to enhance repository development worldwide, DRIVER was a multi-phase effort which created a cohesive, robust and flexible, pan-European infrastructure for digital repositories, offering sophisticated services and functionalities for researchers, administrators and the general public. DRIVER has established a network of relevant experts and Open Access repositories with a fully functional, state-of-the art service, extending the network to a larger confederation of repositories. The current [DRIVER portal](#) is working on a 24x7 basis, with 250 participating repositories (more in the queue) from 33 countries, providing more than 2,500,000 Open Access documents to the research world. National consortia have taken up the [D-NET software toolkit](#), developed during the lifetime of the project, to set up national scientific publication aggregators and portals: Spain (Consortio Madrono), Slovenia (National and University Library of Ljubljana) and Belgium (University Library of Ghent). DRIVER has succeeded in securing a high profile as well as awareness among the international Open Access community and the targeted stakeholder groups. Through the establishment of an international organization, [Confederation of Open Access Repositories](#) (COAR), it aims to continue the groundwork and enhance greater visibility and application of research outputs through global networks of Open Access digital repositories. Moreover, combined with the uptake by subject-based communities, DRIVER’s continuous studies on interoperability and technological issues examine practices performed in similar environments stretching across European boundaries, propelling academic scholarship towards the envisioned Knowledge Society. Based, among others, on software services of the D-NET package (DRIVER and DRIVER-II projects), the recently started project OpenAIRE ([OpenAIRE portal](#)) will deliver “an electronic infrastructure and supporting mechanisms for the identification, deposition,

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access, and monitoring of FP7 and ERC funded articles". See short description at the end of this section.

7. LINKSCHEEM (www.linksceem.eu)

- i. Visit http://www.linksceem.eu/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=42&Itemid=64 for LinkScheem Reports
- ii. The entire Section 1 of the **LinkSCEEM-2** Proposal in response to INFRA-2010-1.2.3: Virtual Research Communities can be found at: <http://www.linksceem.eu/LinkSCEEM-2/LinkSCEEM-2%20Short.pdf>

8. EGI_DS (<http://web.eu-egi.eu>)

- i. Visit <http://web.eu-egi.eu/documents/> for Project Papers, Public deliverables, etc.

9. NMDB

- i. Check paper entitled: The real-time **Neutron Monitor database** on WWW.NMDB.EU (<http://www.srl.utu.fi/AuxDOC/kocharov/ICRC2009/pdf/icrc1333.pdf>)

10. LIVING Lab (www.livinglabproject.org)

- i. The invitation-only **LIVING LAB Summit** was held in Brussels on Tuesday, 2nd March 2010. Europe's top research institutes and companies have together worked on the creation of a European research infrastructure that will study human interaction and the adoption of sustainable, smart and healthy innovations around the home: LIVING LAB. More information can be found on the project's website.

Important notes:

EDGES (www.edges-grid.eu) was due to be completed by the end 2009. There is a prolongation of 3 months and on 29th/30th March 2010 a major Desktop Grid event will take place in Almere, The Netherlands. More info: edges-grid.eu/web/userforum/4thtraining

OpenAIRE (<http://www.openaire.eu>) will deliver "an electronic infrastructure and supporting mechanisms for the identification, deposition, access, and monitoring of FP7 and ERC funded articles". Articles will be deposited directly by authors either to OpenAIRE's own repository, established to host the so-called repository-orphan publications, or to existing institutional/thematic repositories, which will be subsequently harvested into the OpenAIRE information space. Thematically, OpenAIRE focuses on peer-reviewed publications (primarily, journal articles in final or pre-print form, but also conference articles, when considered important). Geographically, however, it has a definitive "European footprint" by covering the entire European Union.

All deposited articles and data will be freely accessible worldwide through the [OpenAIRE portal](#), as products of EU-funded research, connecting research input (project contracts) with research output (publications and data). Document and usage monitoring tools will provide statistically-significant trends and measure the impact of OA and the FP7 pilot. The electronic infrastructure built by the project is based on software services of the D-NET package (DRIVER and DRIVER-II projects) and the Invenio digital repository software (produced by CERN). These will be further enhanced and complemented with services developed within OpenAIRE.

OpenAIRE will establish support structures to assist researchers in complying with the pilot through a European Helpdesk System, reaching out to almost all EC member states with the establishment of National Open Access

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Desks. Finally, OpenAIRE will explore the requirements, practices, incentives, workflows, data models, and technologies to deposit, access, and otherwise manipulate research datasets from five scientific disciplines.

2. Other RI projects news:

- a. The **INSTRUCT** meets Technological Industries meeting will be held on **30th March (welcome dinner) and 31st March (workshop), 2010** at Schloss Hohenkammer (<http://www.schlosshohenkammer.de/>) near Munich.

As INSTRUCT will have a direct impact on technology development one important aspect of INSTRUCT is its outreach to industry. Therefore, the aim of this workshop is to establish contacts, discuss technological needs, challenges and advancements and to explore opportunities and modalities for further interactions and possible collaborations between the INSTRUCT partners and equipment manufacturers.

Location: Munich

Contact: instruct@biochem.mpg.de

- b. **EU-IndiaGrid Launch** - 11 January, 2010



The official EU-IndiaGrid launch took place at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, 11th January, 2010. Joining the consortium was Dr R Chidabaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, and the EC e-Infrastructure delegation to India led by Kostas Glinos, Head of Unit, European Commission, Information Society and Media Directorate-General, GEANT & e-Infrastructures. See more at <http://www.euindiagrid.eu/>

- c. **Finland invests €1.85 million in pan-European infrastructure for biomedical research**

Hinxton and Helsinki, 3rd February 2010 - Finland has made its first specific commitment to the development of European biomedical research infrastructures (BMS ESFRIs) by supporting a joint pilot infrastructure project in bioinformatics (ELIXIR), biobanking (BBMRI) and translational research (EATRIS). The initial commitment of 1.85 M€ is to support preparation and pilot studies in 2010. The purpose of the funding is to ensure Finland's commitment to the building of these European infrastructures. The level of funding in future years was left open as this depends on the outcome and on the structures that will be developed in the pilot phase.

For more information, check **press release** on http://www.euroris-net.eu/News/ris_news/

- d. **Enabling Grids for E-science (EGEE) 5th User Forum**

The city of Uppsala, Sweden is host to EGEE's final major event, both a celebration and a farewell: the 5th User Forum, April 12-15th 2010. Visit the event website (egee-uf5.eu-egee.org) for more registration, speaker,

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sponsor and programme details. Further news can be found at **EGEE Newsletter Spring 2010**, available at EuroRISNET site: http://www.euroris-net.eu/News/ris_news/

■ EU News and Events

EU News

1. Latest Calls news

The latest RI Calls 6 and 7 closed on 3rd December 2009 and 24th November 2009, respectively.

More specifically:

Call 6 - FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-1: 179 proposals have been received, covering all topics in the call (targeted approach): 50 for Integrating Activities, 11 for Preparatory Phase and 18 for support to Policy and Programme Implementation. The evaluation of proposals by independent external experts started on 18th December 2009, first with a remote phase of individual assessments, and then via on-site consensus and panel discussions in Brussels from 8th to 12th February 2010. Information letters to the applicants are expected to be sent in March 2010 and the negotiation sessions for the successful proposals should be launched in May 2010. Check [Useful documents](#) for this call.

Call 7 - FP7-INFRASTRUCTURES-2010-2: See below *timetable* for evaluation procedure

Evaluation of proposals	December 2009 - February 2010
Invitation letter to coordinators to appear before the evaluation panel together with member of the consortium ("hearings")	End January 2010
Hearings	February 2010
Evaluation Summary Reports sent to proposal coordinators	March 2010
Invitation letter to successful coordinators to launch contract negotiations with Commission services	March 2010
Letter to unsuccessful applicants	June 2010
Signature of first contracts	Mid 2010

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Information on the distribution of the submitted proposals:

Topics called	Funding scheme(s)	Proposals
INFRA-2010-1.2.1: Distributed computing infrastructure (DCI)	CP-CSA	18
INFRA-2010-1.2.2: Simulation software and services	CP-CSA	15
INFRA-2010-1.2.3: Virtual Research Communities	CP-CSA	43
INFRA-2010-2.3.1: First implementation phase of the European High Performance Computing (HPC) service PRACE	CP-CSA	1
INFRA-2010-3.3: Coordination actions, conferences and studies supporting policy development, including international cooperation, for e-infrastructures	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA-CA or CSA-SA)	30

2. ESFRI news

The new elected chair for ESFRI is Dr. **Beatrix Vierkorn Rudolph**. In September 2010, she will take over the ESFRI Chair which was unanimously agreed by the ESFRI Forum in December 2009 in Stockholm. For more information and her CV: <http://ecri2010.es/es/content/ponentes?q=node/144>

3. e-IRG news

e-IRG Data Management Task Force: Final report and recommendations endorsed by e-IRG and ESFRI

In 2008, the e-IRG decided to launch a task force to investigate the numerous European activities related to the management of scientific data, and to contribute to the definition of common and shared policies in this field. After months of intensive discussion and work, the task force released its final report investigating the issue in a comprehensive way, and setting a few recommendations. The final report and the recommendations were jointly endorsed by the e-IRG, on 30th November, and by ESFRI, on 11th December 2009.

More: http://www.e-irg.eu/index.php?option=com_dpnews&Itemid=22&cid=241

The Data Management Task Force Report can be downloaded [here](#).

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New e-IRG Roadmap 2009 on e-Infrastructure

The e-IRG periodically produces a roadmap document providing a longer-term view of the technical, administrative and socioeconomic issues related to e-Infrastructures. The document contains several recommendations aimed at maximising the positive socioeconomic impact of the new opportunities in innovation that are emerging. This important document entered its public consultation phase that lasted until the end of January 2010. The e-IRG welcomed all comments from the key stakeholders, including the general public, to stimulate discussion both within the e-IRG and among the e-Infrastructure stakeholder community. The final document will be published, when available, at www.e-irg.eu

ERA 2009 (Working together to strengthen research in Europe), 21-23 October 2009, Brussels

This first major conference on the European Research Area (ERA) since the 2007 ERA Green Paper consultation, aimed to contribute to the development of key ERA policy initiatives dealing with researchers, joint programming, knowledge transfer, infrastructures and international cooperation. It also addressed issues such as open access, S & T specialization, funding of research institutions, progress indicators, etc. as well considered how to strengthen research and research policies in the medium to long-term. 606 people attended the conference. See more at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/era2009/index_en.htm

Presentations, videos and photos of the conference available on the documentation page are available at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/era2009/documentation/documentation_en.htm

Check conclusions for Sessions:

- 1.2 What are the next steps in developing world-class **research infrastructures** in Europe? and
- 1.5 **Open access** and preservation: how can knowledge sharing be improved in ERA?

at http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2009/era2009/documentation/conclusions_en.htm

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EU Events / Other project events

1. Forthcoming RI events

1.1. ECRI 2010 Conference, 23rd – 24th, March, 2010, Barcelona, Spain

ECRI 2010: the Sixth European Conference on Research Infrastructures co-organized by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the European Commission will take place in Barcelona under the Spanish Presidency, on 23rd- 24th March 2010. The objectives of the conference are to promote discussions on the European strategy for research infrastructures (RIs) and on the decision making process to enable the implementation of the ESFRI roadmap. Management and financial issues, as well as the governance structures of these RIs within the ERA, will be addressed. There will also be a specific session devoted to e-infrastructure for science that will deal with key challenges for the future

For more information, please visit: www.ecri2010.es

The main conclusions of the event will be published both on the ECRI site and on our website (www.euroris-net.eu, under **RI news**)

1.2. Week of innovative regions in Europe, 15th – 17th March 2010, Granada, Spain

The efficient use of the resources devoted to R&D, especially the Structural Funds (SF) and their potential synergy with the Framework Programme of RTD (FP) and with the Innovation and Competitiveness Program (CIP), will be examined thoroughly during the "European Week of Innovative Regions", organized under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2010, in March, in Granada, Spain.

Three different conferences will be thus tackling the aforementioned issue, namely:

- a) **Conference on the efficient and effective use of budget earmarked in the Structural Funds for RTD and Innovation**, including their synergies with the FP and the CIP.
- b) **"Research Potential" conference**, which focuses on the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the Research Potential (REGPOT) calls within the FP7 Capacities Programme, aimed at increasing the research capabilities of the best research centres of the European regions, with a special emphasis on Convergence and Outermost regions.
- c) **"Regions of Knowledge" conference**, which deals with the assessment of the results and the identification of best practices of the Regions of Knowledge (REGIONS) calls within the FP7 Capacities Programme, aimed at fostering regional cooperation through "research-driven clusters" by means of a comparison of the different regional strategies and joint action plans defined.

For more information, please visit: <http://wire.fecyt.es/publico/Inicio/index.aspx?idioma=en>

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1.3. e-IRG workshop, 21-22 April, 2010, in Barcelona, Spain

The next e-IRG open workshop will be held in Barcelona, Spain, on 21st-22nd April 2010. The workshop will be organized by the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, under the auspices of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union.

The first day of the workshop will present the current status of e-Infrastructures in Europe and highlight the challenges they face.

The new way initiated for EGI and PRACE, how to afford the needs of ESFRI projects, as well as models for the sustainability of NGIs will be discussed. It will also address the topic of e-Science and e-Infrastructures in other regions beyond Europe, such as Latin America, the Mediterranean region, and Australia, the developments achieved and the expected changes.

On the second day, users and uses of the e-Infrastructure will be the main focus. The way to increase the use of e-Infrastructures and awareness about them, the role of the dissemination specialized projects will be discussed, and cases using the e-Infrastructures, from a biological reserve to an installation to capture cosmic rays will be presented. The workshop will end with a discussion of the plans for the future of e-Infrastructures: the management, funding models and the ideas for the news calls of FP7.

Please visit the e-IRG website to access the agenda and to register for the event:

<http://www.e-irg.eu/open-e-irg-workshop-barcelona.html>

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RI Projects funded under RTD Framework Programmes

Support for Research Infrastructures is open to infrastructures across the fields of science and technology. The overall objective of the RI part of the FP7 Capacities Programme is to optimise the use and development of the best existing RIs in Europe, as well as to help create new facilities which best meet the needs of researchers and support their achievements.

The activities being supported are identified under three main lines of action:

- Support for **existing research infrastructures**
- Support for **new research infrastructures (or major upgrades of existing ones)**
- Support for **policy development and programme implementation**, including support for emerging needs

Click on the relevant link in the table below to access **information** on **RI funded projects**:

Existing infrastructures	New infrastructures
Integrating activities : Networks of RIs <u>FP7 - FP6</u>	Design studies <u>FP7 – FP6</u>
<u>ICT-based e-Infrastructures</u>	Construction FP7 : - <u>Preparatory phase</u> - <u>Construction phase</u>
Policy development / Programme implementation <u>ERANETs and other support actions</u>	

Other useful links:

- **Why Research Infrastructures are so important?**
Video from [EuroRIS-Net](http://www.euroris-net.eu/), network of National Contact Points dealing with the Research Infrastructures action of the 7th Framework Programme available at Europe RI website:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=what
- **New publication:** [A vision for strengthening world-class research infrastructures in the ERA](#)
High-level experts developed a vision for 2020 on the status, role and scientific impact of RIs in relation to the evolution of the European Research Area.
- ✓ Download Research infrastructures **project factsheets**: Whole presentation of [Integrating Activities](#) and separate factsheets at http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=ri_projects
- ✓ For analytical information on RI projects, you can also consult our **Structured List** (EuroRISNET link: <http://euroris-net.eu/>, select: [Looking for access to Infrastructures transnational access](#))
- ✓ For **e-Infrastructure projects**, please visit the **Belief II** project website, at: http://www.beliefproject.org/about-e-infrastructures/list_related-projects