

Short summary:

Preamble:

With an ambitious action plan ESFRI¹ will help to implement as much of the top level Research Infrastructures on the ESFRI Roadmap as possible to contribute to the European 2020 strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative. A major tool thus is the interaction and coordination between established, new ESFRI roadmap projects and such under implementation. This helps to exchange experiences and best practise between senior experts and newcomers to overcome barriers or avoid time consuming learning curves. **CoPoRI**² has committed to offer this interaction (during an interim phase) in continuing the very successful former initiative EPP-CC³ amongst the preparatory phase projects (PP). In this respect **CoPoRI** will encourage and facilitate discussions and share best practices between ESFRI projects on issues of common interest (e.g. the setting up of an ERIC as legal entity for ESFRI projects, trans national access policy, pre-commercial procurement rules, etc.). In a medium term perspective **CoPoRI** will evaluate the possibilities for a sustainable strong collaboration between ESFRI Roadmap projects in a form of a “*club of ESFRI projects*”. Thus **CoPoRI** is a service tool for ESFRI to enhance communication and policy development for Research Infrastructures in Europe and support ESFRI in labour intensive activities.

The 1st **CoPoRI** Exchange of experience workshop is the start-up of a series of **CoPoRI** workshop. The discussion was focused on:

- The interim phase between EC funded preparatory phase and implementation
- The learning curve: challenges we discovered since the beginning of the implementation phase
- Business models/Potential Funding schemes in HORIZON 2020 such like, pre-commercial procurement or for transnational access of different types of RIs

Major findings were:

The interim phase between the EC funded preparatory phase and the implementation phase of an European RI is a very critical phase which can lead to a significant delay of implementation due to a missing structure, budget and clear leadership as well as change of faces etc.

Therefore, within PP a sufficient preparation of the management issues for the interim phase as well as the one for the implementation/operation phase should be aspired and a few key persons should be kept to preserve the European project idea.

The requirements for the PP shall be adapted on the exigencies of the interim phase and more political support is needed during this phase. An extension of the PP is not a solution in many cases.

A template of ERIC including appropriate questions to be addressed on the hosting of the legal entity would accelerate the preparation work.

In-kind contribution of the partners is often the survival component. The availability of funding which differs from country to country is a critical challenge for the start of a European RI.

¹ ESFRI: European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures

² CoPoRI: Communication and policy development for pan-European Research Infrastructures

³ EPP-CC: ESFRI Preparatory Phase Coordination Committee

Strong overlap and presence of governmental representatives in the boards of PP and interim phase or strong “parents” of the “child” European RI is good pre-condition for success.

The transnational access funding scheme is a valuable tool but it should be opened to a more flexible funding scheme e.g. for training activities for potential users or fellowships for scholars at libraries or to finance archiving.

The detailed exchange of experiences and solutions via this kind of workshops is very effective and should be extended towards the scientific domains.