



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

# **THE FUTURE OF S&T IN EUROPE**

**Conclusions of the debate on the Green Paper  
“The European Research Area: New Perspectives”**

**RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES**

**Bart Laethem**

**LISBON, 2007.10.09**





EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

## • STATE OF THE FIELD

- World class RIs, in all fields of S&T, are key building blocks of the ERA;
- Due to their increasing complexity and cost a common approach is needed, with leadership at EU-level (questionnaire: > 82% agree);
- ESFRI-roadmap is a significant step forward towards a coherent European policy approach for large RIs but need for implementation policy;





EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

# FIELDS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

- a. Governance**
- b. Legal framework**
- c. Management and access**
- d. e-infrastructure**
- e. Research instruments of global interest**





EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

- **NEED FOR A LEGAL FRAMEWORK/GUIDELINES FOR NEW RIs (including involvement of third countries)**
  - EC frame (e.g. based on art.171) vs. intergovernmental or national approach.
- **DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL ACCESS POLICY CRITERIA**
  - Better use of ERA-NET mechanisms;
  - Investigate value of a pan-European “research service market” for large RIs.





EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

- **RI's OF GLOBAL INTEREST**

- RI's are on the agenda of international S&T agreements;
- Appropriate global forum (common European voice);
- Strategic guidelines for EU interests in global RI's;
- Special mobility schemes for international RI's;





EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

- **INCREASE LEVEL OF FUNDING AT EU LEVEL**

- Use new financing mechanisms (EIB, PPPs, tax incentives, public procurement, ...);
- Larger role for Structural Funds in RI construction;
- Increased EC FP funding;
- Long term financial support of the operation phase connected with a systematic evaluation;
- Stimulate the use of article 169 mechanisms.





EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

## • **SPECIFIC ROLE FOR e-INFRASTRUCTURES in ERA**

- e-Is are vectors of cooperation;
- Stimulation of “virtual communities of research”;
- Meet the needs: GEANT, HPC provision, etc.;
- Challenges for research data (repositories, open free access to metadata, scientific publications, long term preservation, ...);
- *Better cooperation/integration between scientific and e-infrastructure communities needed and should be science/policy driven*



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Community research

- **NEED FOR A COHERENT DECISION MAKING PROCESS (governance)**
  - Further improve coordination of ESFRI-type activities at national/regional level;
  - Stimulate industrial participation from the planning to the operational phase of RIs
  - Explore idea of satellite facilities to improve dimension of ERA;
  - *Set up an evaluation procedure (ex-ante / post);*
  - *Improve decision making mechanisms (priorities, funding, body (dedicated agency?), timing).*