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Recommendations of the Expert Group
“DEVELOPING WORLD CLASS RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURES”
(THE FUTURE OF S&T IN EUROPE)

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Expert group on Research Infrastructures (RIs)

- Set up in July 2007
 - To provide an overview of recent initiatives, current challenges and existing trends regarding RIs
 - To analyse the issues identified in the Green paper regarding RIs and propose a number of policy options
- Preliminary results  today's presentation
- Final report  31 December





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BASELINE (1)

- Major role for European Strategy Forum (**ESFRI**) together with the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group in the development of an EU RI-policy;
- **ESFRI-roadmap**: significant step forward towards a coherent European policy approach for large RIs but need for implementation policy;
- **EU Framework Programme**: to promote use and development of existing RIs and support development of new pan-European RIs



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BASELINE (2)

- **World class RIs**, in all fields of S&T, are key elements for the strength and competitiveness of European R&D;
 - ☞ *understanding of the benefits to society*
- RIs are increasingly becoming more complex and expensive, which place them beyond the reach of an individual nation or even continent;
 - ☞ *European policy to be strengthened*
- Short (2 years), mid (FP7 and long term (FP8 and after) **goals** have to be defined.



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FIELDS OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

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





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a. GOVERNANCE (1)

Short to Mid term:

- Coordination of ESFRI-type activities at national/regional level
- Broader approach for pan-European RIs: explore idea of satellite facilities to facilitate member states/regional involvement
- Larger role of Structural Funds in RI construction
- Stimulate industrial participation in the planning, construction and operation phases of RIs



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a. GOVERNANCE (2)

Long term (FP8):

- Increase level of EU funding to stimulate the development of new large RIs (in co-operation with Member States)
- New financing mechanisms for construction of new RIs (e.g. tax credits for private investment, public procurement mechanisms, etc.)





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b. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Short to medium term:

- Develop an EC regulation providing a legal frame for new pan European RIs, using article 171 EC as a legal base (skeleton)
- Stimulate the use of article 169 mechanisms (e.g. for distributed RIs)





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C. MANAGEMENT / ACCESS

Short term:

- Better use of ERA-NET mechanisms
- Develop guidelines for RI management

Mid term:

- Develop general criteria to implement access policy to RIs

Long term:

- Investigate value of a pan-European “research service market” for large RIs





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d. e-INFRASTRUCTURE

Short (to long) term:

- Better cooperation / integration between scientific and e-infrastructure communities;
- Stimulation of "virtual communities of research";
- Meet the needs: GEANT, HPC provision, etc.
- Joining, coordinating and supporting research data repositories; open, free access to metadata and scientific publications (with moratorium time) to compensate the time paradox;



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e. RIs OF GLOBAL INTEREST

Short term:

- RIs to be put in the agenda of international S&T agreements;
- Legal: „Associated Entity“ (EU ↔ third countries);
- Special mobility schemes for international RIs;
- One European voice: Appropriate (global) forum;

Mid term:

- Strategic guidelines for EU interests in global RIs

**A long term policy vision
on the position of RIs within ERA
is essential**



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