

Facilitating macro-regional scope and link up to socio-economic actors of Research Infrastructure in the Danube Region - **ResInfra@DR**

www.interreg-danube.eu/resinfra-dr

Duration: January 2017 – June 2019

Budget: 2,154,989.36 €

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Centre for Social Innovation – ZSI Austria

WELCOME

- Tour de table
- Agenda of the meeting
- Expected outputs
- Thanks!



Why are research infrastructures recently a prominent topic?

- Reboot of the science base to enhance competitiveness
- New service oriented approach “user access”
- New diversity in the field (what is on a roadmap is a research infrastructure)
- Link up to regional economy (vs. basic research)
- Increasing importance on policy level (EU priority i.e. by EC and ESFRI)
- EU wide new legal basis i.e. in ERIC consortia
- Support projects on the topic (see list at the end)



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

ResInfra@DR

EU Strategy for the Danube Region



European
Commission



Project objectives

- Project Specific objectives:
 - **Improved knowledge for policy making and delivery of Research Infrastructure investments**
 - **Upgraded strategic intelligence and tools for Research Infrastructure funding decisions**
 - **Enhanced regional socio-economic impact of Research Infrastructure**

The project (next slides)

ResInfra@DR 2017-2019

- Partnership and mix
- Outputs of the project
- Output presentations
- Offers beyond the partnership
- Danube macro-regional networking PA7 TP2
- Other international support projects

Partnership

- 9 x ERDF:
 - LP Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) - AUSTRIA
 - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) - AUSTRIA
 - Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund) - BULGARIA
 - Ministry of Education and Science (MES) - BULGARIA
 - Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MSE) - CROATIA
 - Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, (The Centre for Science, Technology, and Society Studies) (STSSCZ) - CZECH REPUBLIC
 - Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (CERS HAS) - HUNGARY
 - Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (SCSTI) - SLOVAKIA
 - **Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI) - ROMANIA**
- 2 x IPA:
 - Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska (MSC) - BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
 - Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development (MESTD) - SERBIA
- 3 x ASP: *(only travel costs covered by partners)*
 - Central European Initiative Executive Secretariat (CEI) – ITALY
 - National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCSI) – ROMANIA
 - **Academy of Sciences of Moldova (ASM) – MOLDOVA**

Partnership mix

- STI Policy makers/STI programme owners
- STI Policy delivery agencies
- Research infrastructure “host=parent organisation” in AT
- Analytical and methodology support partners

Means to deliver...

- Triggering a **Dialogue**
 - Exploring the tacit knowledge to streamline **capacity building actions**
 - Engaging infrastructure managing experts in **Peer Learning**
 - Establishing useful practice and tested **tools**
- ...and keeping focus on Research Infrastructure

Outputs

- 4+1 Stakeholders dialogue Workshops in 2017+2018
- 3 Guidelines
 - Ex ante Assessment of RI investment;
 - Monitoring guidance for existing ones;
 - Socio-econ. Impact assessment guidelines)
- 2 Recommendations to Research Infrastructure (a) policy makers; (b) practitioners on the establishment, operation and durability
- 3 Trainings for Res. Infrastructure (a) policy makers and (b) potential reviewers (Total 100 trained)
- Reviewers registry (200 qualified profiles)
- Strategy for sustainable Research Infrastructures in the Danube Region
- Pilot action1: Peer learning action (9 existing/to be upgraded RIs);
- Pilot action2: Ex-ante assessments/support (3 planned RIs).

WP3: STRATEGIC DIALOGUE DR RI

WP Lead: CERS HAS
Attila Havas

Five main activities

Act 3.1. Preparatory activities for organising the four workshops and the concluding consultation meeting

Act 3.2. Dialogue workshops

Act 3.3. Preparing three guidance documents

Act 3.4. Concluding consultation meeting and finalising the guidance documents

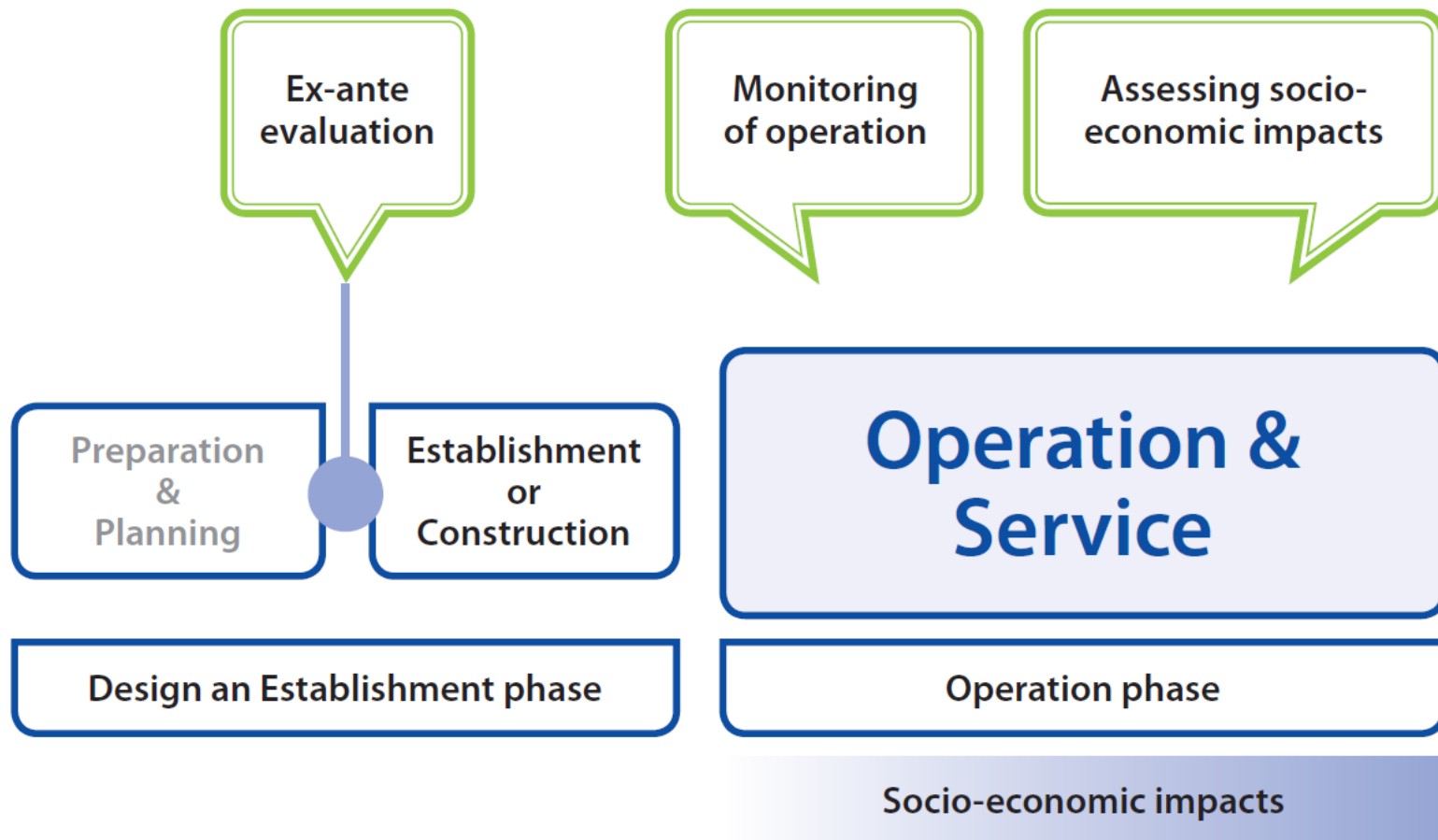
Act 3.5. Facilitating the use/ exploitation of the results

Act 3.2. Dialogue workshops

- DWS1: Learning from EU processes like the ESFRI roadmap and ESF working group, Budapest, 31 Aug 2017
- DWS2: National RI roadmaps and their macro-regional dimension, Sofia, 12 Sept 2017
- DWS3: The needs of business users, their access to RIs operated by PROs, Vienna, 21 Nov 2017
- DWS4: RI issues in the national/ regional smart specialisation strategy documents and EU SF OPs, Zagreb, 8 March 2018
- summarised in WS reports, followed by WP3 meetings to identify major issues for the guidance documents

Act 3.3. Preparing three guidance documents

- Three thematic groups, lead by Ioana Spanache (UEFISCDI, RO), Doris Gangl (BOKU, AT), and Marko Hajdinak (ARC Fund, BG)
- Several physical and virtual meetings



Act 3.4. Concluding consultation meeting and finalising the guidance documents

- 27-28 Nov 2018, Budapest
- Presentations by external experts and project partners to kick-off discussions in four small groups
- Guiding questions for groupwork
- Chairs and rapporteurs at each table to facilitate groupwork and record recommendations to improve the documents

Act 3.5. Facilitating the use/ exploitation of the results

- Internal seminars and other workshops organised by the partner policy delivery organisations to promote the use of the guidance documents
- National workshops for RI practitioners in the partner countries
- Special sessions to discuss the WP3 outputs at national events
- Special sessions to discuss the WP3 outputs at international events

Policy implications

Investing in new research infrastructures, maintaining and upgrading existing ones is a major challenge for RI policy-makers and managers

Ex-ante evaluation, monitoring, and socio-economic impact assessment of RIs can improve

- RI policies, and thus public funds would be spent more effectively and efficiently
- the operation of RIs
- public awareness and acceptance of spending public funds on RIs – and R&D, more generally

Example: Monitoring

Monitoring is the systematic process of collecting, analysing and using relevant information to track the performance of an RI and guide management decisions

RI managers: monitoring can significantly improve the structure, processes and methods of management, and thus help improve operations and performance

Policy-makers: monitoring provides the necessary data for assessing the efficacy of public investments in RIs

Preparatory steps for an adequate monitoring system

- the definition of mission and goals
- the development of an operational framework and a suitable monitoring process
- the collection of baseline data

Monitoring can be performed by a team of internal or external experts

- advantages and disadvantages of these approaches

Example: Monitoring (2)

Guiding principles that can help in designing a relevant a monitoring system

- define key issues and areas to monitor, keeping stakeholders' needs in mind
- decide *which* information is to be collected, *how* it will be collected and recorded
- develop a quality assurance system
- adhere to ethical and data protection regulations
- interpret the collected data correctly and to infer the desired information from these analyses

Methods to collect the required data

- routine collection of performance data
- the use of national databases,
- collection of data in the framework of financial audits and project reports
- manual collection of performance data

Annexes: Commonly used indicators and good practice examples

WP4: CAPACITY BUILDING

WP Lead: ARC FUND

Marko Hajdinjak

Act 4.2. Trainings for RI policy-makers and potential reviewers

- Three training events between February and May 2018
- 166 applicants
- 100 approved for participation in trainings (31 in Sofia, 34 in Banja Luka and 35 in Bucharest):
 - National public authority: 15;
 - Regional public authority: 3;
 - Sectoral agency: 8;
 - Higher education and research: 66;
 - Knowledge driven SMEs: 8.

Act 4.2. Trainings for RI policy-makers and potential reviewers

- Four main modules, preceded by an introductory lecture and followed by a concluding session.
 - ☐ **RI planning and establishment.**
 - ☐ **RI operation and management.**
 - ☐ **Results and impacts of RIs in practice.**
 - ☐ **Long-term sustainability of RIs**
- All four modules consisted of input lecture and practical work in groups.

Access to all training materials:

<http://vrsurveys.com/index.php/384516?lang=en>

ResInfra@DR training materials

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Day 1a - Introduction to ResInfra@DR project and training (Gajdusek and Damianova).pdf

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Day 1c - The relevance of foresight to underpin RI development strategies (Havas).pdf

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Day 2a - Planning and Establishing of RIs (Evgeniev) - group exercise.pdf

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2.1 MB

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Day 2b - Managing operations at RI (Weeks) - group excercises.pdf

1.6 MB

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Act 4.3 Set up a reviewers' registry for RI in the DR

The Call was opened from April to July 2018: 360 applications from 34 different countries.

277 applications were valid and considered by selection commission, 83 were disqualified (incomplete or not fulfilling the requirements).

Evaluation process: each application reviewed by 2 experts => in case of different opinions, a third reviewer made the final decision.

Two rounds of revision, updating and verification of information in the Registry.

195 reviewers in the Registry.

Act 4.3 Set up a reviewers' registry for RI in the DR

Several webinars organised in January 2019 on which the Registry, its purpose and potential use was discussed in more detail.

You can see the recording of the webinar on this link:

<http://vrsurveys.com/index.php/236636?lang=en>

* Please write your name and family name:

* Please write your e-mail:

* I would like to receive the draft version of the Registry and the Feedback form.

Yes	No
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I agree to receive the ResInfra@DR newsletter.

Yes	No
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Information in the Registry

- Name of the reviewer
- Science and technology areas in which reviewer can perform RI evaluation
- Countries in which reviewer can perform RI evaluation
- Previous experience with RI evaluations
- Previous experience with research proposal evaluations
- Previous experience with audits and evaluation of research organisations
- Educational and professional background
- Reviewer's e-mail, telephone number, website, nationality, country of residence, and current (or most recent) employer.

WP5 PILOT ACTIONS

STSS CZ (Academy of Sciences)
&
ZSI

THE AIM OF PILOT ACTIONS

- the project develops a **mutual learning approach**
- tests the guidelines and methodologies in pilot activities to overcome current challenges of RIs,
- provides **practical recommendations** for the involved RIs and their parent organisations.
- The aim is to identify **good practices**, new approaches, and **critical success factors** of RI processes.

OUTCOMES SO FAR

- Guidelines and methodology – identifying RIS in the Danube Region
- Comparative report on framework conditions for RIs in the Danube Macro Region including Country Reports
- List of identified existing and currently planned RIs in the Danube Region
- Methodology Guide for the Peer –Learning Process

THE REALIZATION OF PILOT ACTIONS

- Methodology guideline based on Act.5.1 has been completed
- Kick-Off meeting took place in Prague incl all teams and representatives of the “pilot cases” \cong “hosts”
- ToR for experts/RIs have been established for both PILOT Actions and coordinated to utilize subcontracting
- Call for Experts have been announced and modified in relation to the needs of particular RIs.

THE REALIZATION OF PILOT ACTIONS

- **PILOT ACTIVITY 1**

Peer learning visits are taking place. 6 experts teams work in pairs, 1 single case in AT, two pending

PILOT ACTIVITY 2

- Ex-ante support to planned or to be upgraded RIs in the Danube macro-region. A call was opened and 5 applications for support were received
- Call for single experts or experts teams for preparing recommendations for the participating infrastructures/authorities

Pilot 1

- RO-BG (Microbiology)
- BG-HR (Water related Ris)
- BiH-SK (Technical universities, partly small labs)
- AT (Water hydrology laboratory: monitoring approach)
- HU (pending)
- CZ (pending)

Pilot 2

- SI (regional university)
- RO (large RI and health sector)
- MD (to be started, biobank feasibility) **1 expert...**
- HU (Monitoring approach for support programme)
- **BiH-Roadmap (pending ToR)**

Exchange meeting

Bratislava

22-23 May 2019

Learning from similar challenges in the DR

Joint action plan & policy briefs

Partly sponsored participation

Final meeting

Vienna

12-13 June 2019

Exchange and networking event

Achievements

Follow up to ResInfra@DR

Partly sponsored participation

Offers beyond partnership

- ✓ Invitation to contribute during the Dialogue meetings
- ✓ Reality check of the Guidelines developed (ongoing)
- ✓ Training participation (all countries)
- ✓ Inclusion in the Reviewer Registry
- ✓ Active participation as research organisation in both pilot activities (open call: e.g. MD, SI)
- ✓ Hosting one of the promotion missions
- ✓ Information to projects wherever the topic is relevant
- ✓ Outreach through our mailinglists (newsletter, i.e. events)
- ✓ Involvement in “thematic Capitalisation” of the DTP

Danube macro-region

- PA7 Working Group: EUSDR PA7 Knowledge society
- Thematic Pole 2 - RDI framework support: DTP/ Danube Transnational Cooperation Programm

PA7 Working Group

- EUSDR PA7 Knowledge society
- WG 1: Higher education and mobility
- WG 2: Information and Communication Technologies
- WG 3: Danube Funding Coordination Network (DFCN)
- WG 4: Communication with Joint Research Centre with special emphasize on RIS3
- **WG 5: Research and Innovation**

Projects under DTP TP2 (Framework Support for RDI)

- ✓ **Facilitating macro-regional scope and link up to socio-economic actors of Research Infrastructures in the Danube Region / ResInfra@DR**
 - Lead Partner: Centre for Social Innovation (AT)
 - Thematic fields and topics: Research Infrastructures (RI); Policy steering tools; Peer-review / Ex-ante assessments; Quadruple Helix; Knowledge Transfer / Capacity building / Awareness raising

- ✓ **Embeddedness of high quality research infrastructures in the Danube Region / RI2integrate**
 - Lead Partner: ELI-HU Nonprofit Ltd. (HU)
 - Thematic fields and topics: Research Infrastructures (RI); Innovative tools for policy learning; Quadruple Helix; Knowledge Transfer / Capacity building / Awareness raising

- ✓ **Danube Framework for Responsible Research and Innovation using Socio-Technical Integration / D-STIR**
 - Lead Partner: SOUTH-EAST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (RO)
 - Thematic fields and topics: Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI); STIR Method (Socio-Technical Integration Research); Evaluation; Quadruple Helix; Knowledge Transfer / Capacity building / Awareness raising



3RD CALL: 276 SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED

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THEMATIC POLE 2 - RDI FRAMEWORK SUPPORT

Thematic Pole 2 (TP2), *RDI framework support* is coordinated by the Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna and EUSDR PA7. Its main aim is to contribute to the mission of the DTP and the S.O.1.1 by creating links between the local, regional, national, macro-regional and European levels while looking to improve the framework conditions for research and innovation in the Danube Macro region. Particular focus is put on policy dialog and development of new tools and instruments as well as on knowledge transfer, capacity building and awareness raising within the quadruple helix. The two main thematic fields are related to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Research infrastructures (RI).

POLE LEADER CONTACT DETAILS: project **ResInfra@DR**, Mr. Martin Felix Gajdusek, email: gajdusek@zsi.at and Mr. Maximilian Benner, email: benner@zsi.at, Centre for Social Innovation (AT)



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Support Initiatives

Overview...

- CERIC-ERIC <https://www.ceric-eric.eu>
- RAMIRI (FP7); handbook: <https://www.ceric-eric.eu/project/ramiri-handbook/>
- ACCELERATE <http://www.accelerate2020.eu/>
- Ritrain <http://ritrain.eu/>
- Inroad (completed, H2020) <http://inroad.eu/>
- RI-paths <http://ri-paths.eu/>
- MERIL <https://portal.meril.eu/meril/>
- CatRIS <http://www.esf.org/scientific-support/european-projects-coordination-support/ec-contracts/catris/>
- RICH NCP network H2020 <http://www.rich2020.eu/>
- RI2 integrate <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/ri2integrate>
- EOSC (+6 initiatives)

Thank you for your attention!

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