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Project no. 212879



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■ Editorial

The end of this year finds EuroRISNET in quite a mature and productive phase. In the middle of the lifespan of the project, the Consortium has managed to establish a stable pace and become a coherent, interactive human network of NCPs for the Research Infrastructures Programme, already fulfilling most of the goals and objectives of the project itself, supported by new tools and good practices, while at the same time promoting the visibility and efficacy of the RI programme. Twinning visits, training sessions and the extensive usage of the Virtual Help Desk of the project (especially for the last two RI Calls, launched in June 2009) have supported the knowledge base of this network and provided the basis for better services. All RI stakeholders are invited to address our network, for accurate and reliable support and up-to-date information on the RI programme.

The project also performed value-added activities, such as synergy events with other NCP networks, promotion of international cooperation, and exchange of Eols (especially for the last two RI Calls, which closed recently). In this issue, you will have the chance to read the outcomes of our activities during last semester, the achievements and progress of the Programme itself, in relation to the dissemination of latest Calls and the identification of the overall positive synergies being developed.

■ Project News and Events

1. The 2nd EuroRIS-Net Annual Meeting and NCP training on Complementarities of FP7 and other funds, Risk-Sharing Finance Facility, Warsaw, October 2009

“A feeling of responsibility“

This is how Wieslaw Studencki, host of this year's annual meeting and training of EuroRIS-Net, described the atmosphere during the project meeting on Oct. 26th and 27th. Thirty participants from all over Europe – including Daan du Toit from South Africa and Kirill Albokrinov from Russia - came to Warsaw and met at the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research. The goal of the annual meeting: To give each project participant a good overview of last year's activities. We wanted to find out where we should tackle potential difficulties. And of course we were excited to develop our vision for next year.

The smooth management of the project, the training days and the successful twinning actions are - among other activities of course - the highlights of the achievements: The project's website gets more and more hits and is also used as a well-organized archive of the project.

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Whenever NCPs need to share their knowledge, the virtual helpdesk and the FAQ function well and come in handy. Dissemination material such as the Video and the posters help to catch future client's eyes on conferences and workshops.

While the link to other NCP projects and the collaboration with stakeholders such as ESFRI-members or PC members could still be ameliorated, it can be summarized that the project is a great opportunity for knowledge-sharing, the exchange of best practice and networking.

But as the annual meeting was combined with a training workshop the day before, the participants could benefit not only from the exchange with their colleagues, but also from the expertise of the external speakers, e.g. Zygmunt Krasinski on RSFF or Katarzyna Walczyk on the Structural Funds. Case Studies completed the set of instruments a Research Infrastructures NCP should be able to use to help a client in the best possible way.

Wieslaw Studencki sums up the two-day meeting: „The high level of involvement of many partners provided a good, friendly atmosphere and a feeling of responsibility. “



Consortium photo, at the end of the 2nd Annual Meeting

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View from audience, 2nd Training, EuroRIS-NET project

2. EuroRIS-Net networking with other NCP networks: the C-Energy Brokerage Event and the ResPotNet meeting, September - October 2009

C-Energy Brokerage event: Synergy effects with RI programme/EuroRISNET presentation

C-Energy

On behalf of EuroRISNET Ms Francesca Zinni, from the Agency of the Promotion of European Research (APRE), participated in the first training of C-Energy, the network of National Contact Points of FP7 Energy Theme. The event, held in Brussels on 15th of September 2009, was a good opportunity to establish fruitful collaboration between the two networks. During the meeting Ms Zinni made a presentation on EuroRISNET illustrating the aim, services, tools and results of the project. Furthermore there was a part of the speech dedicated to the description of FP7 Capacities' Research Infrastructures Programme and to some topics of the Infra Work Programme 2010 relevant to the energy sector. At the end of the session Energy NCP colleagues asked questions in order to get more information about the mentioned topics and on several activities already performed by EuroRISNET i.e. twinning activities, their organization and methodology. The participation in the training was a good possibility to establish new and direct synergies with other colleagues for future collaborations and to learn more about another NCP network, its organization, purpose, activities and working methodology.

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Brokerage event “B2Match”

During the morning of the same day Mrs Francesca Zinni attended the brokerage event “B2Match”, co- organized by C-Energy and the [Enterprise Europe Network](#) (EEN), in order to give assistance to some Italian Research Infrastructures participating in the event and to distribute some leaflets of EuroRIISNET. There were more than 100 participants whose aim was to find relevant partners to build partnerships for FP7 proposals in the Energy Theme. Each meeting (*see photo attached*) lasted about twenty minutes and gave researchers and companies the opportunity to exchange info at depth. According to participants the brokerage was a successful event thanks to the professionalism and experience of C-Energy partners and members of EEN, the largest network of contact points providing information and advice to EU companies on EU matters, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Launched in 2008 by the European Commission, the Enterprise Europe Network combines the long experience of the former Innovation Relay Centers and Euro Info Centers and offers several services i.e. business partner search within technology and business cooperation databases and fast access to information on funding opportunities, EU programmes and EU law. Another important service is represented by individual and on-site visits to companies in order to assess their needs and a broad range of promotion and information material. Thus the Network offers concrete and useful solutions to companies in more than [40 countries](#): the 27 EU member states, three EU candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey), members of the European Economic Area (EEA) and other participating third countries.

For more information, please visit:

http://www.b2match.com/cenergy2009/index.php?file=home_uk.html



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ResPotNET Annual Forum: Presentation of EuroRISNET & RI Programme

With the aim of stimulating synergies between the NCP networks of Research Infrastructures and Research Potential of Convergence and Ultra-Peripheral Regions, a presentation was made during the Annual Forum of the ResPotNET NCP project, in October 27th, 2009, in Bucharest, Romania. Mr Ricardo MIGUEIS | GPPQ - FP7 Promotion Office (ADI), Portugal, made the presentation on **EuroRISNet with focus on Synergies among NCP Networks, at the Thematic Workshop: "Coordinated use of the FP and the Structural Funds to support RTD in Convergence Regions"** The presentation of the RI programme itself was also delivered, in parallel to the description of the activities undertaken under the EuroRISNET project, in order to identify synergies. The need for more focused dissemination of RI WP topics (namely those related to Integrating Activities) was identified, together with the fact that ResPotNET projects could benefit greatly either by participating in I3 projects, or by accessing specific Research Infrastructure facilities. Another issue discussed was related to the laboratories funded from Research Potential Programme, which could prove their maturity level through integration into RI projects. The dialogue will continue among the two Networks within forthcoming workshops and EU events.

3. The EuroRIS-Net Success Stories

The EuroRIS-Net project website includes information on success stories related to FP6 and FP7 projects, with the aim of increasing stakeholders' understanding of the RI programme, encouraging them to participate, and demonstrating the useful input of NCPs. Three new success stories from Austria, Germany and Italy have been added to the project website:

- ✓ [BBMRI: The Power of many- NCP Austria, November 2009](#)
- ✓ [SHARE: Facing the challenges of Ageing in Europe- NCP Germany, November 2009](#)
- ✓ [EU-ARTECH- Access Research and Technology for the conservation of the European Cultural Heritage- NCP Italy, June 2009](#)

and two more success stories from UK and Greece are under preparation.

For more information please visit: http://www.euroris-net.eu/success_stories

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4. Dissemination of Second International Workshop – Exhibition: *“Strategy of Development of Large-Scale Research Infrastructures of the Russian Federation & Cooperation with the European Union”,* September 7-8, 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark

More than 12 Russian Research Institutions, members of JRCs and a Danish case study, were presented at a targeted event in Copenhagen, aiming to raise awareness of the Research Infrastructure facilities of the Russian Federation and focused on the intention of Russian Institutes to cooperate with the European Union through the RI Programme. The EuroRISNET project was promoted at the event, with special attention on transnational access and international collaboration issues.



For presentations of the event, please visit EuroRISNET website:
http://euroris-net.eu/News/project_news/

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■ EU News and Events

EU News

1. The Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) entered into force

European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

The Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) dates from August 2009 ([Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium \(ERIC\)](#) - Council Regulation n° 723/2009, 25 June 2009): It is designed to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research facilities of European interest.

Setting up an ERIC

- At least three Member States agree to establish and operate together a research infrastructure. Associated countries, third countries and intergovernmental organisations may also be members.
- The members agree on statutes ruling governance, IPR policy, financing, etc.
- The seat has to be in an EU-Member State or in a country associated to the EU Framework programmes.
- The members submit the file to the Commission, which, with the aid of independent experts, examines whether the conditions of the ERIC Regulation are fulfilled. After that, a committee composed of representatives of the EU Member States gives an opinion on the file by a qualified majority, following which the Commission decides on the application.
- The decision to set up an ERIC will be published in the *Official Journal* of the European Union.

More information at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/eric_en.html

For the **Practical Guide for the Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)**, visit our site at:
<http://www.eurois-net.eu/dotAsset/51111.pdf>

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EU Events

1. EuroRISNet at national events of the RI Specific Programme

Additionally to the promotion in Pan-European events and Conferences, supported by the project, the RI National Contact Points in several countries undertook project promotion activities at the national level. In the second year, the EuroRIS-Net project was promoted at as many as 33 info days, workshops and trainings. Among them, 20 were RI national events, 13 were other events related to RIs.

Partners attending these events distributed all possible materials: newsletter, success stories, DVD film, leaflets, and posters.

These activities have quite a substantial complementary effect on Pan-European events: on top of project promotion towards diversified, large public audiences at a few international events, smaller public audiences are targeted in many countries which collectively represent a significant numbers of researchers – potential users and beneficiaries of the RI Programme. In total, the events organized in the 2nd year of the project were attended by ca 1800 participants.



Victoria Damyanova, BG:
Sixth information day on 7FP



Andis Zilans, LV:
10th Anniversary of Latvia's participation
in the EU Framework Programme

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2. The Role of Research Infrastructures for a competitive Knowledge Economy, Workshop, 29-30 June 2009

Developing World Class Research Infrastructures (RIs) is one of the five pillars of an ambitious European Research Area (ERA)-Vision for the future.

Large scale Research Infrastructures act as centres of competence, which are open and attractive to the best world-level researchers. They contribute in a unique way to both social and economic development. The implementation of the ESFRI Roadmap projects for the construction (or major upgrade) of research facilities of pan-European interest has led to increased attention to studies measuring the scientific, social and economic benefits deriving from these infrastructures.

The European Commission organized in June 2009 a workshop that brought together 60 experts from a variety of specialities relating to the role of RIs for a competitive knowledge economy. The aim of the seminar was threefold:

- to take stock of actual & recent innovations stemming from European Research Infrastructures;
- to reflect on the development of best practices to improve the innovation chain where RIs are involved;
- to identify gaps, needs and possible specifications for possible future impact and foresight studies.

For the report of the workshop and the presentations, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/ws_ris_11-09-09.pdf and

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/impact_studies_presentations_en.html

Since many gaps were identified, further studies are expected to be supported in the coming years. This is particularly relevant to specific subjects within the [call N°6 under FP7, research infrastructures](#), specific programme "Capacities", which closed on December 3, 2009.

More information on: http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/impact_studies_en.html

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3. Summary of the Open e-IRG Workshop, 14 - 15 October, 2009, Uppsala, Sweden

e-IRG workshop in Uppsala: Bringing the e-Infrastructure actors together

Around 60 participants attended the open e-IRG Workshop in Uppsala, on 14-15 October 2009. This two-day event was organised by SNIC, the Swedish National Infrastructure for Computing, under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. User involvement in e-Infrastructures, one of the priorities of the Swedish agenda, was the main topic addressed in the workshop. One of the key roles of the e-IRG is to bridge the gap between the providers and the users of e-Infrastructures, and to steer the developments of the e-Infrastructure components in the direction of a seamless service to all users.

More information, as well as the workshop summary report can be found at:
http://www.e-irg.eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=224

4. Forthcoming RI events

4.1. Pre-announcement of the ECRI Conference, 23rd – 24th, March, 2010, Barcelona, Spain

ECRI 2010: the Sixth European Conference on Research Infrastructures will take place in Barcelona under the Spanish Presidency, on *23-24th March 2010*

For more information, please visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.html or

conference website at: www.ecri2010.es

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4.2. 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 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, on March 2010, 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 an 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>

■ Useful Links and Documents

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 actions:

- 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

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

- ✓ Information on **projects** identified for the **construction of new infrastructures** and funded in their **preparatory phase**: [ESFRI Roadmap 2008](http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/esfri_report_20090123.pdf),
http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/esfri_report_20090123.pdf
- ✓ Download Research infrastructures **project factsheets**: [Integrating Activities](#)
- ✓ More: http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/projects_en.html
- ✓ For analytical information on RI projects, you can also consult our **Structured List** (EuroRISNET link: <http://euroris-net.eu/>, option: [Looking for access to Infrastructures transnational access](#))
- ✓ For e-Infrastructure projects, please visit Belief II project website, at: http://www.beliefproject.org/about-e-infrastructures/list_related-projects

For more information on **Support for RI Policy Development and Programme Implementation under FP7**, check new **Europa** site Research Infrastructures pages, at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/eranet_en.html. In this website, you can find information on:

- ✓ **ERA-NET for research infrastructures**
- ✓ **ERA-NET for e-infrastructures**
- ✓ **Network of National Contact Points (EuroRISNET)**

plus further information on Era-Net Actions and other related subjects!