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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Annual reports on cross-fertilization context and opportunities between Research Infrastructures and Societal Challenge Pillar / Industrial Leadership Pillar / Excellence Pillar* provide updates on the continuous efforts developed by the RICH project towards developing synergies with other NCP network projects.

On this first report, we present the approach followed to establish structured collaborations between RICH and each of the other NCP network projects, report on *ad hoc* collaboration initiatives and on the planning for the implementation of targeted actions with each of the partner NCP networks.

During the first 18 months of the RICH project (December 2014 – May 2016) productive collaboration with almost all NCP Networks has been established. The table below summarizes the collaborative actions already implemented (black boxes) and planned activities (grey boxes) agreed for the next period.

Table 1: Types of activities planned (grey cells) or already carried out (black cells) in collaboration with partner networks.

Network	Activities							
	Webinar (TNA and/or ESFRI)	RICH presentation at network event	RICH at Network Meeting	RICH info in Newsletter and/or Social Media	Information sharing (general)	Collaboration at brokerage events	Network co-promotion (booth sharing)	ID thematic opportunities in RI WP
Net4Mobility								
ideal-ist								
NMP TeAm 3								
COSMOS								
HNN 2.0								
BIOHORIZON								
C-Energy								
ETNA								
NCPs CaRE								
Net4Society								
SEREN3								
NCP_WIDE.NET								
SiS.net								

The activities carried out under task 2.3 are benefiting from other tasks within the RICH project and, through a close coordination within the consortium, are helping to maximize the impact of the project, through the dissemination of information and training beyond the beneficiaries and extended network, throughout the whole NCP ecosystem.

2. INTRODUCTION

The European Research Infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures) Programme encompasses all scientific and innovation fields.

In order to maximize the dissemination of Research Infrastructures opportunities to the relevant stakeholders, the RICH project contemplates a specific task (2.3) for connecting RICH with other NCP Networks.

Under the project's Grant Agreement, the general outline of the task has been defined and it includes **1)** the establishment of a structured collaboration with other thematic NCP networks with the aim of identifying cross-cutting synergies; **2)** the Co-organization and/or representation of the RI dimension in other NCP network events; and **3)** the development of a report on Cross-cutting opportunities for Research Infrastructures on a bi-annual basis.

This report details the actions carried out by the relevant RICH partners (APRE, DLR, FFG, IPPT-PAN, ISCIII and FCT) towards the implementation of points 1 and 2 of Task 2.3.

The establishment of the structured collaboration with each of the networks was started by sending a letter of intent from the RICH coordinator (**Annex 1**) to each of the other NCP networks' coordinators. Each letter was sent by the partner responsible for the communication in early March 2016, according to **Table 2**, and it included a short presentation of the RICH network; the expression of interest in establishing a collaboration; suggestions of possible topics for the collaboration, with an emphasis on the dissemination of opportunities for Transnational and Virtual Access to Research Infrastructures; and the indication of the contact person on the RICH side.

From this starting point, the dialogue was carried out independently by each partner, while a common document was maintained online, for progress reporting. As a result of this outreach activity, the communication channel was established for almost every network, with contact persons identified for most, as depicted in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Map of contact points on the RICH and partner networks sides. For those networks where a contact person has not been identified, communication has been conducted through the respective coordinator.

Partner Networks			RICH partner		
Network	Coordinator	Contact Person	Name	Institution	Contact established (Y/N)
Net4Mobility	Juliane Sauer	Smadar Hirsh	Wieslaw Studencki	IPPT PAN	Y
ideal-ist	Aviv Zeevi	Daniela Hackl	Marit van der Zee	FFG	y
NMP TeAm 3	Apostolos Dimitriadis		Daniela Mercurio	APRE	Y
COSMOS	Adrian Klein	Adrian Klein	Christoph Peschke	DLR	Y
HEALTH-NCP-NET 2.0	Marta Barrionuevo Hafner	Marta Barrionuevo Hafner	Gloria Villar Acevedo	ISCI III	Y
BIOHORIZON	Bozena Podlaska	Serena Borgna	Gloria Villar Acevedo	ISCI III	Y
C-Energy	Enrico Mazzon		Daniela Mercurio	APRE	Y
ETNA	Valentina Tegas		Daniela Mercurio	APRE	Y
NCPs CaRE	Shilpi Saxena		René Siffrin	DLR	N
Net4Society	Nina Berweger	Nina Braun	René Siffrin	DLR	Y
SEREN3	Benedetta Cerbini		Daniela Mercurio	APRE	Y
NCP_WIDE.NET	Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk	Francesco Ferlaino	José Antão	FCT	Y
SiS.net	Aðalheiður Jónsdóttir	Pascale Van Dinter	José Antão	FCT	Y

The depth of the implementation of collaboration activities has so far varied according to the particular interest of each network in the offer presented by RICH and on the timing of consortia meetings. The networks which held consortia meetings right after receiving the RICH invitation had a better opportunity of discussing the contents of the collaboration in more detail; networks whose meetings are going to occur later will

discuss the specific activities then. Below, we present a summary of collaboration/synergy activities which have been planned or carried out within the reporting period. These include activities which occurred prior to the official invitation letter for collaboration being sent to the networks' coordinators, and which were deemed relevant by RICH and the respective partner networks.

Net4Mobility

Activities carried out: Net4Mobility has committed to disseminating RICH activities and RI opportunities through their communication channels: LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter (**Figure 2**).

Planned activities: the network has discussed the collaboration with RICH at their consortium meeting (April 6th, 2016), after having received the invitation to collaborate from RICH. They agreed in the general interest of establishing it.

Partners have identified the provision of RI information relevant for MSCA stakeholders as a main area for collaboration and have suggested 2 topics (in addition to TNA) on which more information would be welcome: ESFRI Roadmap and the MERIL-2 project.

Ideal-ist

Activities carried out: RICH representatives shared the Ideal-ist booth during the ICT Conference 2015 held in Lisbon on October 20th-22nd, 2015. On that occasion, 5 RICH partners had the possibility to give advice to stakeholders interested in the Research Infrastructure Programme. In addition, the RICH services have been presented during the "e-infrastructure - Integration and Consolidation of e-Infrastructure Platforms and International Cooperation" work programme session organized by the EC.

Planned activities: Collaboration has existed since previous NCP network projects. The e-Infrastructure part of the RI programme is naturally of great relevance for the ICT NCPs and communication between the respective contact persons – both at FFG – will facilitate the exchange of information, namely on ICT-relevant RI calls. When appropriate, RICH materials will be included in the Ideal-ist Newsletter and Ideal-ist services slides provided and presented by RICH partners as needed.

RICH will be present, together with Ideal-ist, at the ICT Proposer Day organized by the EC – DG Connect on September 26th-27th, 2016 in Bratislava.

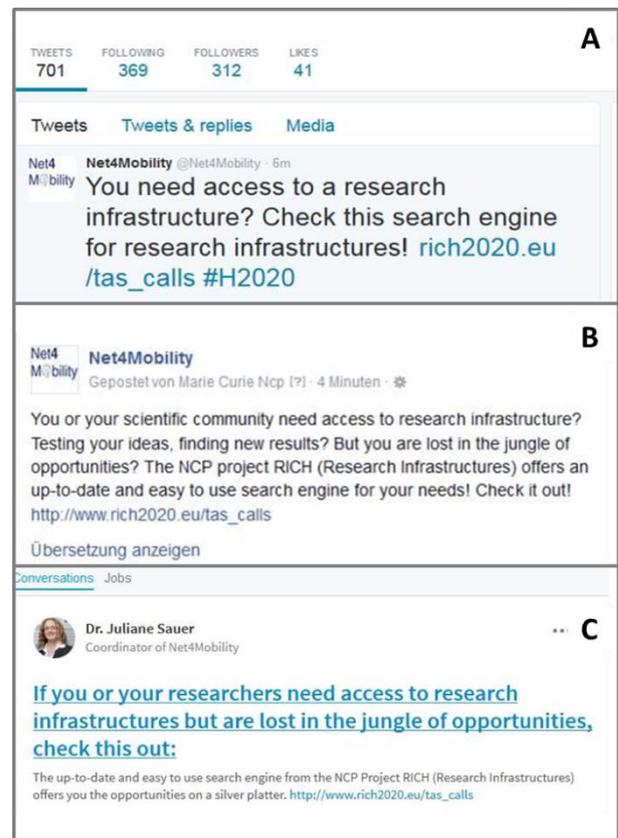


Figure 2: Twitter (A), Facebook (B) and LinkedIn (C) captions of posts by the Net4Mobility network or its coordinator, advertising the RICH TNA/VA opportunities search tool.

NMP TeAm 3

Activities carried out: Through the direct interaction between the APRE coordinators of RICH and the APRE partners in NMP TeAM 3, TAS opportunities relevant for the NMPB community, such as at NFFA (<http://www.nffa.eu/>) have been disseminated.

Planned activities: The NMPB NCP network has expressed their interest in a Webinar on TNA. Plans for the production of this activity will be conducted by the leaders of Tasks 2.3 (FCT) and 4.5 – Promotion of Trans National Access and Services (STIS).

COSMOS

Planned activities: COSMOS has expressed interest in exchanging relevant information, namely on access to Research Infrastructures for the Space domain stakeholders. Collaboration will also involve the production of relevant texts to be included in the COSMOS newsletter. The Network will have their consortium meeting in September 2016, at which point they will discuss other possibilities and specific actions for collaboration with RICH.

HEALTH-NCP-NET

Planned activities: The HNN 2.0 network's coordinator has discussed synergies with the Research Infrastructures programme directly with RICH. The form of collaboration that emerged from this discussion involved the identification of specific opportunities for the SC1 domain in the RI WP 2018-2020, the collaboration with HNN 2.0 in Brokerage events and other network events, or the organization of synergy events, and the production of webinars on TNA and the ESFRI Roadmap for Health NCPs. For the latter, ISCIII, FCT and STIS will carry out plans for the production of the webinars.

BIOHORIZON

Planned activities: The SC2 domain is a potential heavy user of Research Infrastructures, from both the Environment and the Life Sciences domains. Contacts between RICH and BIOHORIZON identified 2 possibilities for collaboration in 2016: 1) a presentation from RICH at a BIOHORIZON training event in Bratislava, as a side event to the BBEC2016 Bioeconomy Conference (October 17th); and 2) the production of a webinar on TNA.

C-Energy

Planned activities: The SC3 domain is another obvious user of the European Research Infrastructure, potentially benefiting from the multiple TNA opportunities for this community. The communication channel has been established with the C-Energy network and a discussion of concrete synergy actions was planned for the Autumn 2016, at the consortium meeting.

ETNA

Planned activities: As with C-Energy, the definition of specific joint actions was planned for the consortium meeting in the Autumn 2016.

NCPs CaRE

Activities carried out: *ad hoc* collaboration initiatives between RICH and NCPs CaRE had already been carried out prior to the formal invitation for collaboration was sent out by RICH. These included 2 presentations on TNA/VA opportunities at the NCPs CaRE kick-off meeting (June 10th, 2015 in Berlin, by Monique Bossi, APRE) and at a consortium meeting (February 11th, 2016 in Rome, by Elena Maffia, APRE). NCPs CaRE have also benefitted from targeted dissemination of Research Infrastructures opportunities, focused of TNA, during a staff exchange promoted by APRE, on May 25th, 2016. 3 SC5 NCPs have benefitted.

Planned activities: A structured collaboration with the SC5 NCP network was not established by the time of this reporting, due to ongoing restructuring in the coordination of the network (DLR).

Net4Society

Planned activities: The Social Sciences and Humanities field is one of the areas where European Research Infrastructure has been developing recently. There is also a push for permeating all H2020 areas with SC6 dimensions, namely through the RRI principles. Access to and development of Research Infrastructure is, thus, a very relevant theme for the SC6 NCPs. The structured collaboration of RICH with this network has started, through the involvement of the DLR partners in both networks and a definition of specific actions is planned for June 2016.

SEREN3

Planned activities: As with C-Energy and ETNA, the definition of specific joint actions was planned for the consortium meeting in the Autumn 2016.

NCP WIDE.NET

Activities carried out: Prior to the structured collaboration proposal from RICH, *ad hoc* collaboration had already been carried out between RICH and NCP_WIDE.NET, namely through 2 presentations on TNA/VA opportunities at NCP_WIDE.NET events: a workshop integrated in the WIRE 2015 week (June 3rd, 2015 in Riga, by Elena Maffia, APRE) and a consortium meeting (October 20th, 2015 in Brussels, by Laura Mohedano, ISCIII).

In the context of a coherent European Research Area, opportunities for research, including access to Research Infrastructures need to be strengthened across all member states, including LPCs. One of the main concerns for the NCP_WIDE.NET community is the funding of

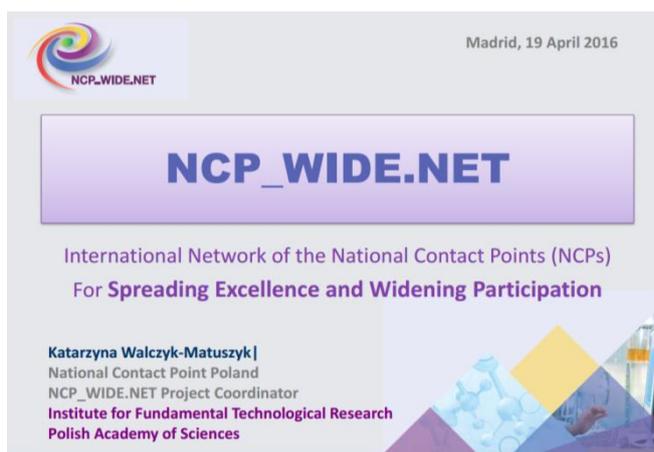


Figure 3: Opening slide of the presentation by the NCP_WIDE.NET (Katarzyna Walczyk-Matuszyk) at the RICH Symposium on funding instruments for Research Infrastructures (April 19th, 2016, Madrid)

research and national Research Infrastructures. As such, the coordinator of NCP_WIDE.NET was invited to present the network at the RICH Symposium (task 3.1) on funding of Research Infrastructures (Madrid, April 19th, 2016; **Figure 3**).

Planned activities: As a follow-up to the findings from the Symposium on funding of Research Infrastructures, RICH (through FCT and ISCII partners) engaged in a collaboration with the NCP_WIDE.NET project, assisting with the organization of a workshop on funding synergies for the WIDENING projects, focused on the TEAMING calls beneficiaries. This workshop will be organized on October 11th, 2016, in Brussels.

SiS.net

Planned activities: The SiS.net project was invited to be present in the RICH booth at the ESOF 2016 conference in Manchester, on July 26th. On the side of this participation, concrete joint actions will be discussed, with a few common interest topics in the agenda: EURAXESS, Open Science and the social impact of Research Infrastructures. The participation of RICH on a SiS.net consortium meeting in late 2016 was suggested.

Besides the actions described above, the RICH project has maintained a continued dialogue with the NCP Academy. This has included the mutual information exchange on common interest topics, such as "Open Science", which was the topic of a RICH Expert Seminar (Task 2.4) on April 20th, 2016 and "Open Access", which was the theme for a NCP Academy workshop on March 15th, 2016. Earlier, RICH had already collaborated with the NCP Academy, through a presentation made by Monique Bossi (APRE) and Gloria Villar (ISCIII) at a NCP academy workshop on synergies between ESIF and Horizon 2020 (February 17th, 2016 in Brussels).

Table 1 (in the Executive Summary of this report) summarizes the types of collaborative activities suggested so far by the partner NCP networks, towards which the RICH partners in Task 2.3, with the support from Tasks 3.1 and 4.5 are working.

The proposal for cooperation in the initial letter sent out to partner network coordinators (**Annex 1**) proposed 3 types of activities: i) the identification of Research Infrastructures opportunities for the specific network domain, with a particular focus on the dissemination of information on offered services and transnational access procedures; ii) the dissemination of RICH activities which are relevant to the partner network; and iii) the organization of synergy events or other dissemination activities.

Through the dialogue with the other networks, specific actions have been identified, some of which not falling directly under any of the 3 classes of activities, but all in line with the description of activities in the task 2.3 section of the RICH 2020 Grant Agreement. These include the possibility for participation of RICH partners at brokerage events, or the identification of sectoral opportunities in the European Research Infrastructures Work Programmes (**Table 1**).

4. CONCLUSIONS

The European Research Infrastructures programme is placed under the Scientific Excellence pillar of Horizon 2020. It is relevant for all areas of the Framework Programme and thus engagement of NCPs from all domains of Horizon 2020 in the opportunities offered through this programme is important to maximize its impact.

As such, the RICH project has pro-actively engaged all other NCP networks in a dialogue about the main opportunities as identified by RICH partners, but also – and importantly – on the knowledge gaps and information needs identified by the partner networks themselves. A few common themes have emerged from this dialogue, such as TNA/VA opportunities, funding schemes or the ESFRI Roadmap. Synergy actions have been planned, namely through cross-dissemination of information to stakeholders, through newsletters and social media, or the participation of RICH partners in workshops from other NCP networks. Also, the requests from other networks have created a need for RICH to articulate internally and to create synergies within the project itself. This has been the case of Task 3.1 (Research Infrastructures EU Symposia), the outcome of which is serving as a module for support to the NCP_WIDE.NET need on funding schemes for TEAMING projects, to be incorporated in a workshop; and also for Task 4.5 (Promotion of Trans National Access and Services), with which Task 2.3 is coordinating the production of Webinars to serve the needs of several networks.

At the end of this reporting period, RICH has successfully established several productive collaborations with its partners. The extent and depth of planned actions varies, due to the partner networks' own expressed interest and their internal timings and decision-making procedures. After the initiative taken by RICH of engaging the other networks and bringing forward our offer for assistance, the project will let its partners take the lead in shaping the collaboration according to their respective needs. This will not preclude a pro-active approach whenever opportunities for synergy are identified by the RICH partners, as well as a more active engagement with the HNN 2.0, NCPs CARE and Net4Society networks, identified as priority partners at the RICH extended network meeting of April 20th, 2016.

5. ANNEX 1

Example of letter sent by the RICH coordinator to the coordinator of a partner network (HNN 2.0)

Monique Bossi
Coordinator of RICH
APRE
bossi@apre.it

Marta Barrionuevo Hafner
Coordinator of HEALTH-NCP-NET 2.0
Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)
mbarrionuevo@eu-isciii.es

Dear Ms. Barrionuevo:

I am contacting you on behalf of the RICH project (<http://www.rich2020.eu/>), the Network of National Contact Points for the Research Infrastructures (RI) Programme in Horizon 2020. RICH aims at facilitating transnational cooperation between NCPs, promoting the effective implementation of the H2020 RI programme, supporting transnational and virtual access to RIs and highlighting the opportunities offered by Research Infrastructures - at the European and international levels. The Network builds on the experience of previous networks of National Contact Points for the Research Infrastructures programmes (EuroRIs-Net and EuroRIs-Net⁺).

The RI Programme has a broad scope and covers all scientific themes in Horizon 2020, including the Societal Challenge 1 (SC1). We believe that a thorough understanding of opportunities for the Health research community in the RI programme can be important for the SC1 NCPs. I would thus like to propose an official collaboration between our two networks, with a view to open more research opportunities to our shared scientific community.

The most important information we would like to make your network aware of through this collaboration is the opportunity for **free Transnational Access (TNA) to European Research Infrastructures**, which can be very relevant for the Health stakeholders. Furthermore, the collaboration might include organizing thematic events and other activities, such as:

- i) the identification of Research Infrastructures opportunities for the Health domain, with a particular focus on the dissemination of information on offered services and transnational access procedures;
- ii) the dissemination of RICH activities which are relevant to your NCP Network;
- iii) the organization of synergy events or other dissemination activities.



I encourage you to visit a dedicated section of the RICH website on TNA opportunities (http://www.rich2020.eu/tas_calls), where you can find updated information on open calls, organized by research area. On the website, you can also find a new section with animations explaining the work of RICH NCPs and the concept of TNA (<http://www.rich2020.eu/rich-videos>).

The RICH contact for the purpose of establishing this collaboration with your network is Gloria Villar Acevedo from the Institute of Health Carlos III at Madrid, ISCIII (gvillar@eu-isciii.es).

I hope you will find interest in our proposal for cooperation between the two networks and we look forward to receiving your opinion and feedback on the initiative.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Best regards,

Monique Bossi

