

Deliverable report

D4.5

**FIRST REPORT ON THE USE
OF THE OBSERVATORY**

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Lead Beneficiary:	EKT
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Version	Date	Changes	Author
0.1	14.07.2016	First draft by EKT	Georgia Tzenou, Vasilis Bonis
0.2	26.07.2016	Modified by APRE	Daniela Mercurio



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The RIs Observatory (<http://observatory.rich2020.eu>) aims to become the single entry point for information on Research Infrastructures. The National Contact Points for H2020-RI programme gather, organise and provide access to information on RI projects, transnational access opportunities, policy issues, stakeholders, national and regional initiatives on RIs, etc.

Researchers and policy makers can stay up to date with latest developments on RIs, find opportunities for collaboration, share news and events, contact potential partners, access indicators and best practices. The information covers all countries and all thematic fields.



<http://observatory.euroris-net.eu/>). It has been further developed and is currently supported by H2020-RICH 646713. During the 18-month period, priority was given to revising the structure/sections, cleaning and updating the content, cross-checking the reliability of the content and engaging the NCP community to maintaining/using the tool.

Due to the challenges described in the following section, the progress has been delayed more than originally foreseen. Therefore the dissemination of the Observatory to the wider public has been equally delayed and the current use has been rather low.

The Observatory was initiated under EuroRIs-Net+ project (FP7-283663, originally under

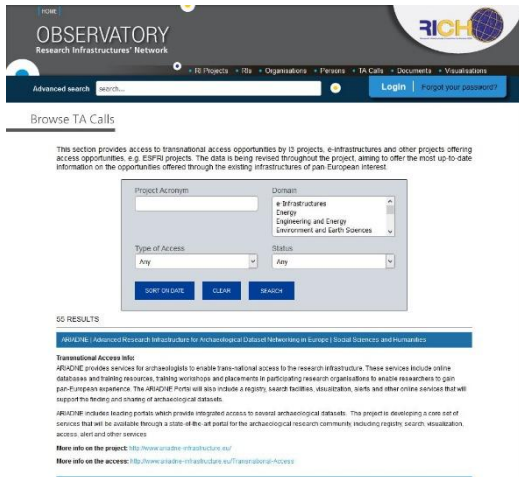
The achievement of the current period is the improvement of the quality data. The goal for the next period is to make the Observatory a useful tool for the daily work of National Contact Points and RI stakeholders.

2. WORK PROGRESS & STATISTICS

During the 18-month period, the RICH2020 RI's Observatory has been upgraded by working in both the available data and the system itself. The database has been extensively restructured thus resulting to new mapping specifications between the available data and the existing data model. This process has been carried out through a stepwise editing of data by using the database's RDBMS, a series of SQL queries and third party tools for data processing. Re-examining the pre-existing informational entities and their relations and removing unnecessary records and adding new, has resulted to a new database.

New business rules, specifications and user needs have driven the process of data restructuring and system upgrade. Regarding the system functionality, the new data and the new structure of data in tandem with the aforementioned rules and specifications, have forced the update of both the back-end (server side) services and the front-end (user interface) functionality. More specifically, there are three main categories

of provided functionality for the front-end that have been altered and/or enriched, browsing pages (list of records), view pages (single record pages) and web forms (user input). The server side retrieval of information and the validation of user input have also been refactored accordingly.



Another new feature that has been implemented and that can be viewed as a separate category is the retrieval of information from a third party system. More specifically, the TA Calls page is produced by retrieving data from the RICH2020 web site. The Observatory's back-end processes the information so as to be transformed to a data structure that it can use and present on the front-end. Changing the content of the database and especially the mapping of information to the logical and physical layer of the database and at the same time keeping the needed system refactoring to a minimum, produced a significant amount of difficulties.

Vice versa, implementing new system functionalities and trying to reduce the restructuring of data in the database has also been a laborious and time-consuming task.

The MERIL-2 project foresees the exchange of data with web based platforms of related themes. To this end, the RICH2020 can provide data in a specific format (XML and/or JSON) through systemic communication pipelines, i.e. APIs and web services. Since the data model that both systems use is based on CERIF, the CERIF API is a prime candidate for this purpose.

The number of single users and number of visits is as follows:

	Single users	Number of visits
18-month-period	11.198	43.013

3. CONTRIBUTION OF NCPS

The structure and content of the Observatory have been discussed at the consortium meetings, and the files of 36 individually countries have been updated, extracted and sent to the NCPs for cross-checking. Feedback has been received by 19 beneficiaries (ongoing process). Based on the feedback, certain changes have been introduced, such as:

- **Category Persons:** the category includes information on the National Contact Points, Programme Committee members, ESFRI & e-IRG delegates, members of the country's Permanent Representation in Brussels. Other types of persons, included in the old version of the Observatory (for example: Project Officers, Projects Members, Coordinators, etc.) are not included anymore, given the difficulties in keeping track of changes/modifications of posts. Changes in NCPs' nominations can be easily tracked through the Coordinator and Liaison officer of the project,

therefore it can be updated by the Task Leader. The same applies to ESFRI and e-IRG members, whose names are published on the respective webpages of the stakeholders' forums. The members of the Programme Committee and the Permanent Representations will be regularly checked by the NCPs, through a concrete "call for update" by the Liaison Officer in the internal newsletter (pulse) of the Network. Information on the date of the last updates has been inserted in the system.



Updating Data on the webpage; the help of all of you is urgently needed

In the last months, our partner Georgia and her team made a huge effort to update the data on our project webpage and in the observatory. Thank you Georgia! There is however one issue in which Georgia really needs the help of the national contact points! On the Observatory information on RI activities per country are listed. Organisations that are active, Projects with partners or coordinators from your country etc. Please have a look at the data on your country and inform Georgia about any changes.

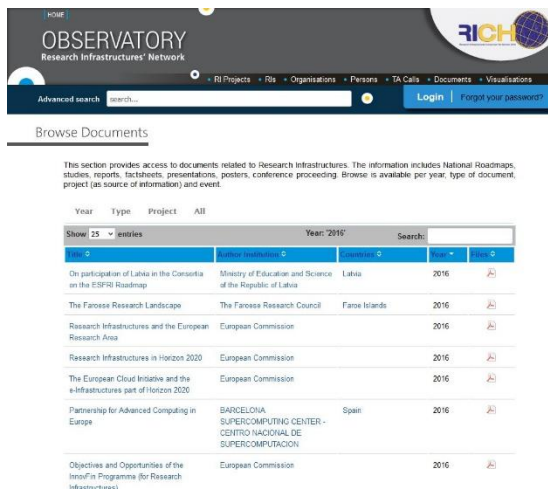
Is this a lot of work? Not really!

Is it hard to find out which information has to be screened? Not at all! Georgia was so kind to make a personalised file for each country, which she will send to you in the next few days. It contains all currently visible information on your country. You can put changes needed in the file and return it to Georgia. If you have a question about the observatory, you can contact Georgia directly tzenou@ekt.gr

Thank you for your cooperation.

Greetings from your liaison officer

Marit van der Zee

Browse Documents

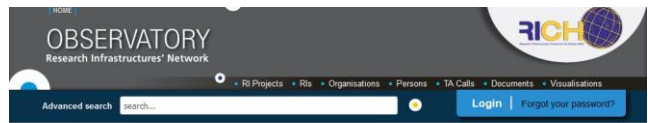
This section provides access to documents related to Research Infrastructures. The information includes National Roadmaps, studies, reports, fact sheets, presentations, posters, conference proceedings. Browse is available per year, type of document, project (as source of information) and event.

Year	Type	Project	All
Show 25 issues Year: 2016 Search:			
On participation of Latvia in the Consortium on the ESFRI Roadmap	Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Latvia	Latvia	2016
The Faroese Research Landscape	The Faroese Research Council	Faroese Islands	2016
Research Infrastructures and the European Research Area	European Commission		2016
Research Infrastructures in Horizon 2020	European Commission		2016
The European Cloud Initiative and the e-Infrastructures part of Horizon 2020	European Commission		2016
Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe	BARCELONA SUPERCOMPUTING CENTER- CENTRO NACIONAL DE SUPERCOMPUTACION	Spain	2016
Objectives and Opportunities of the InroFm Programme for Research Infrastructures	European Commission		2016

• **Category Documents:** NCPs have updated the roadmaps of their countries. Presentations from all RICH activities have been added in this section. The Task Leader is responsible for uploading important documents on RIs (publicly available documents of the European Commission, ESFRI, e-IRG, presentations from related RIs, etc). NCPs are requested by the Liaison Officer to upload additional documents through the internal newsletter (pulse) of the Network. This ensures both the update of the section and the regular contact of NCPs with the Observatory that can provoke more interactions and feedback.

• **Category Projects:** H2020 projects are now included in the database. More information per projects have been inserted, namely the total budget and the EC contribution per partner. The projects have been divided in H2020/FP7 projects. There are still 2 main problems, related to the automatic integration of projects from the C open-data portal to the Observatory:

1) The type of project (instrument) is no longer included in the EC open data portal, therefore there is no consistency in the classification of H2020/FP7 projects, 2) In certain cases, projects open “calls” for new partners. These partners are not included in the EC open data portal at the time of Grant Agreement signature (and, therefore, at the point of insertion of data in the Observatory). To overcome these difficulties, without manual intervention, certain scenarios are currently examined. Information on the date of the last update has been inserted in the system.



Browse Projects

This section provides access to Research Infrastructures that have been funded by the European Commission through the 7th Framework Programme for Research. Browse the projects per scientific domain, type of project, and/or Coordinator's country.

Scientific domain	Type of project	Coordinator country	All
Show 25 entries	All projects		
AARC	Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration (AARC)	2015/05/01 - 2017/04/30	H2020
ACTRIS-2	Aerosols, Clouds, and Trace gases Research InfraStructure	2015/05/01 - 2019/04/30	H2020
ADOPT BBMRI-ERIC	Implementation and Operation of the gateway for health into BBMRI-ERIC	2015/10/01 - 2018/09/30	H2020
AHEAD	Integrated Activities for the High Energy Astrophysics Domain	2015/09/01 - 2019/02/28	H2020
AIDA-2020	Advanced European Infrastructures for Detectors at	2015/05/01 -	H2020

After the first check of the projects by the NCPs (involvement of their counties in projects in FP7 and H2020) and the implementation of their corrections/modifications, the database can be regularly updated (on 4-month basis) by the Task Leader. NCPs will be asked, on annual basis, to double check and provide feedback. Information on the date of the last updates has been inserted in the system.

Wed 31/08/16 6:07 PM
Solveig Flock <sf@forskningsradet.no>
SV: RICH-Observatory-Update for Norway - CORRECTED

From: Georgia Tzenou; Panagiota Farfara
 To: Solveig Flock
 Αναρτήθηκε σε αυτό το μήνυμα στις 01/09/16 3:47 PM.

Μήνυμα [RICH_Observatory_Norway_CHECK.ct.docx \(34 KB\)](#)

Dear Panagiota and Georgia,

Please find attached the RICH Observatory-Update of data for Norway, with a few comments. Our national roadmap was updated in 2016, but the English version is still under preparation. The RIs mentioned under MERL is far from updated, but I guess this will be for the MERL. I hope this reply to your request, if not, please contact us.

Best regards,
Solveig

Tue 23/08/16 2:23 PM
Nicole Wyss <Nicole.Wyss@euresearch.ch>
RE: RICH-Observatory-Update for Switzerland - CORRECTED

Προς: Georgia Tzenou; Panagiota Farfara

Dear Georgia,

Mrs Astrid Vassella
 State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation
Astrid.vassella@sbf.admin.ch

Mr Florenzo Scaroni
 Switch
florenzo.scaroni@switch.ch

Kind regards,
Nicole

Tue 30/08/16 1:32 PM
Jose Antao <Jose.Antao@fct.pt>
RE: RICH-Observatory-Update for Portugal

Προς: Georgia Tzenou
 Κοι: Panagiota Farfara; Cristiana Leandro
 Αναρτήθηκε σε αυτό το μήνυμα στις 30/08/16 11:35 AM.

Μήνυμα [Portuguese_Roadmap_of_Research_Infrastructures.pdf \(5 MB\)](#) [RICH_Observatory_Portugal_CHECK_JA.docx \(34 KB\)](#)

Dear Georgia and Panagiota,

Thank you for the clarification. I do have a lot of projects, although it contains more than what is public, so I just did my own records extraction and made my main doubt is with the amount of financing. You have numbers that are too low for total H2020 participation, but too high to update the former, but let me know if that is not what you intended.

I have also updated the names of the people from PT. I am copying my colleague Cristiana Leandro on this message. She might be able to provide some more info if this is incomplete.

Finally, I am attaching the PT Roadmap. That's all we have to add to the observatory.

I hope that is enough information. Please let me know if you need any extra feedback from our side. I will be looking forward to meeting you in Warsaw.

Cheers
José

Tue 30/08/16 12:36 PM
Priit Tamm <Priit.Tamm@etag.ee>
RE: RICH-Observatory-Update for Estonia - REMINDER

Προς: Georgia Tzenou; Panagiota Farfara

Dear Georgia,

Looks fine! No changes and important documents to add.

Best regards,
Priit

- **Category Organizations:** NCPs cross checked the duplications of organizations and updated renamed ones. A common problem was that, the first FP7 projects had been submitted/signed without PIC codes of organizations. Therefore, there were problems of duplications of organizations that, before the PIC, used a name in English (for example: “National Hellenic Research Foundation”) and, after the PIC, used the name in Greek and Latin characters (for example: “Ethniko Idryma Erevnon”). The information could be checked only by native speakers with knowledge of national organizations / RIs stakeholders. As mentioned in the introductory note of the webpage, the info concerns “organisations that are involved in Research Infrastructures”,

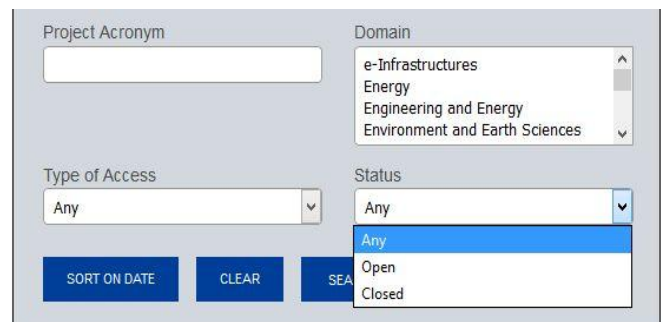
namely: Coordinators/partners in EU RIs projects, Coordinators/partners of national/regional RIs (MERIL data), national stakeholders that act as NCPs, PC members, ESFRI & e-IRG delegates, authors of National Roadmaps on RIs, etc.

The organizations will be updated by the Task Leader through the projects (based on PIC number of funded projects), the affiliations of persons included in the respective section and the organizations involved in important documents uploaded in the section (presentations, reports, roadmaps, etc.). NCPs will be asked to double-check the organizations of their country, together with the persons and projects.

- **Category TAs:** the category is linked to the RICH: http://www.rich2020.eu/tas_calls

Selection per status (open/closed), thematic field/fields (Biological and Medical Sciences, e-Infrastructures, Energy, Environmental Sciences, Material Sciences and Analytical Facilities, Physical Sciences and Engineering, Social Sciences and Humanities), type of access

(transnational, virtual, or both) and project (name of project) is possible.



TAs are regularly updated by Partners 4 and 7.

- **Category RIs:** the section of RIs (based on MERIL information) will be updated in October, when the database of MERIL will be relaunched. The Task Leader responsible for the Observatory is also in charge of the relaunch of MERIL database, so the link will be direct and immediate.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The deviation from the initial plan for immediate relaunch of the Observatory is justified by the need for reliable, cross-checked data. Regarding the operation of the Observatory, the next challenges are:

- Monitoring of changes during the implementation of projects (after the signature of the Grant Agreement and the insertion of the information in the Observatory) and update of the Observatory
- Consistent approach on the types of projects, based on the information that is available (without NCPs' individual assessment)
- Extraction of the reports in pdf format
- Development of new visualizations
- Unification of credentials (single sign on approach) in Observatory, site, helpdesk
- Regular updates and monitoring.

Regarding the dissemination/use of the Observatory, the main challenges are:

- Contacts with ESFRI and e-IRG members, RI Programme Committee members, Beneficiaries of RI projects and national stakeholders and MERIL National Data Intermediaries, etc. for promoting the Observatory
- Gathering feedback for improvements and corrections.