In this Issue

- **EuroRIs-Net final workshop & EuroRIs-Net+ new services**
  Setting the basis for an open dialogue with the RI ecosystem
- **Research Infrastructures in progress**
  Read latest developments & ERICs
- **ICRI, EGI Community Forum, Industrial Technologies 2012**
  Being active at events in the "heart" of Research Infrastructures
- **Bringing up regional issues and socioeconomic relevance**
  SEERA_EI, ERF, e-IRG workshops open up discussions…

- Editorial
- Project News
- News and Events
- Useful Links and Documents

Editorial

EuroRIs-Net+ The European Network of National Contact Points for Research Infrastructures moves forward
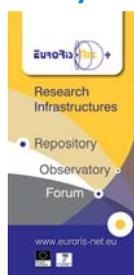
EuroRIs-Net project (the first European network of National Contact Points of Research Infrastructures, as a project funded by DG Research and Innovation) finished last October. The new network – through the **EuroRIs-Net+** project – is being funded by DG INFSO as the "Network of National Contact Points for Research Infrastructures moving forward", which began on 1.10.2011.

During the implementation of the EuroRIs-Net project, the network had the opportunity to open a dialogue with RIs stakeholders and contribute to the implementation and support of the RIs programme. This was in addition to its main goal, namely, to develop a solid and coherent **network** of National Contact Points for the Research Infrastructures Programme.

Bridges to a Research Infrastructures (RIs) ecosystem have been constructed incrementally; both in communication with the RIs policy bodies, with the other NCP networks of the 7th Framework Programme, and through participation in various workshops and dissemination events where different RIs stakeholders participated.

The project organised two workshops, three cross-border events and one international conference on Research Infrastructures, tackling issues such as the role of RIs NCPs in programme implementation, as well as the socio-economic benefits of Research Infrastructures and their international / global scope. During the final project workshop "**Research infrastructures at the heart of the Innovation Union: Current challenges for national & regional stakeholders**", organized on 11th October 2011 in Athens, Greece, current challenges for national & regional stakeholders were analytically discussed with a variety of RIs actors (*more in 2nd page*). You can find out more about the outcomes of those events by visiting our website, at http://www.euroris-net.eu/.

Introduction to EuroRIs-Net+ new activities and services in the RIs ecosystem

EuroRIs-Net+ continues to support RIs stakeholders and communities in advancing transnational access by delivering information on access opportunities. In addition, observatory actions related to the national and regions developments in the Research Infrastructures area will also be supported through the Knowledge Repository and the Stakeholders' Forum, implemented through the project.

Leaflets describing the focus of our project and our new activities are already available and will be disseminated at forthcoming events in which our project will be participating

Project News

EuroRIs-Net final workshop: "Research infrastructures at the heart of the Innovation Union: Current challenges for national & regional stakeholders"

The final **EuroRIs-Net workshop** *"Research infrastructures at the heart of the Innovation Union: Current challenges for national & regional stakeholders"* was organized on 11th October 2011 in Athens, Greece, by the project coordinator, the National Documentation Centre (EKT/NHRF). A poster session was organized in the exhibition area, offering the opportunity to disseminate information on Research Infrastructures (RIs) projects (ESFRI, networks of RIs providing transnational access opportunities and e-infrastructures).

Mr Christos Profilis from the Research Infrastructures Unit of the DG for Research and Innovation made the opening address, stating the principle goals of the workshop. During the event, the outcomes of the EuroRIs-Net project were presented, stressing the added value as well as the emergence of new opportunities for RIs, which have been further promoted through the networking, collaboration and exchanges of good practice among national RIs NCPs. Moreover, an open dialogue was established between RIs (including e-RIs) stakeholders regarding the synergistic and complementary funding of RIs. International experience was also addressed, as was the involvement of industry, through specific paradigms and round table discussions (chaired by Mr Christos Profilis and Mr Wim Jansen, DG INFSO, Geant & e-infrastructures Unit, EuroRIs-Net+ project officer).

The Workshop's presentations and conclusions are available through our project website (www.euroris-net.eu)

The event was attended by over 120 participants from 30 countries, the network of RIs NCPs and other FP7 NCP networks, representatives of national and regional authorities, major research institutions in Europe, international science and technology organisations and associations, research infrastructure operators, the private sector, as well as representatives of broader scientific and engineering communities.

The **EuroRIs-Net+** project (funded by DG INFSO) – a follow-up of the EuroRIs-Net project (end date: 31/10/2011) – will continue the capacity-building activities of European National Contact Points for Research Infrastructures and will develop activities for dialogue with the RIs ecosystem in order to systematically increase awareness of RIs usage opportunities and support partnering activities. Furthermore, the RIs NCP Network will undertake Observatory actions in relation to Research Infrastructures policies, programmes and initiatives at national and EU level. With the RIs Knowledge Repository and Stakeholders' forum being developed, an intensive collaboration between all the stakeholders involved is keenly expected to be a successful and fruitful experience.

This e-newsletter can be downloaded at the following address: EuroRIs-Net+ (GA 283663) is an EU project co-funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO in the 7th FP.

www.euroris-net.eu

Page 2 of 10

EuroRIs-Net+ opens up to the RIs ecosystem

Through the EuroRIs-Net+ initiative, specific measures have been identified to support a productive dialogue and information exchange among RIs' main actors. All RIs stakeholders will be contacted in a coordinated manner, in order **to propose the establishment of a constructive dialogue** which will be very much aim to identify the level of effective coordination among relevant national and EC initiatives. One of the aims of EuroRIs-Net+ is to capitalise on transnational cooperation regarding RIs issues and promote both the exploitation of existing access.

Our network will continue close observation of the ESFRI activities, in line with the new orientation of the project towards the policy level and in order to have general orientation and better inform researchers about RI Programme.

EuroRIs-Net+ has identified collaboration opportunities with a number of other projects (a list of projects is available at: http://www.euroris-net.eu/related-links). It is expected that collaboration activities will contribute to the further development of collaboration practices and information exchange among RIs communities, thoroughly supporting the implementation of the Research Infrastructures' programme opportunities but also the implementation of running projects, supporting and disseminating RIs' policy measures.

Collaborating with thematic NCP networks

Dialogue with other NCP networks represents one of the main pillars of the communication strategy of EuroRIs-Net+. Strategic cooperation with other NCP networks is crucial for the project, in order to broaden the horizontal impact of its activities. A specific project website section for collaboration issues with thematic NCP networks is being implemented.

The NCP systems show a wide variety of architectures – from highly centralised to decentralised networks – and a number of very different actors - from ministries to universities, research centres and special agencies to private consulting companies. The unifying element of the different NCP networks is the possibility of reaching the vast majority of national stakeholders, and supporting specific information and awareness raising activities.

EuroRIs-Net+ will consolidate its collaboration with thematic NCP networks offering specific services and information that can complement the range of information made available by each NCP to the scientific community. All NCP networks have been invited to the final workshop and the closure meeting of EuroRIs-Net+. Indeed, EuroRIs-Net+ representatives have already participated in synergy events of the Energy, Fission, Health, Security and People networks. More information and a calendar of events are available at: http://www.euroris-net.eu/ncp-networks-corner

EuroRIs-Net / EuroRIs-Net+ recent dissemination activities & synergy events

EuroRIs-Net / EuroRIs-Net+ was represented at the following European or international events, as well as at synergy events with other NCP networks:

- **e-Challenges 2011 conference** (Florence, Italy)

A project booth was run by the RIs NCPs from Poland (Mr Wieslaw Studencki), Hungary (Mrs Barbara Vizkelety) and Estonia (Mrs Marika Meltsas). The booth had a standard arrangement: quick screen, posters, DVD on a laptop, success stories, and newsletters. The participants' interest in our booth was substantial.

In particular, the EGI community contacted EuroRIs-Net for an interview (see Mr Wieslaw Studencki's story on the following blog: http://gridtalk-project.blogspot.com/2011/10/euroris-net-one-stop-shop-for-research.html

- **SEERA_EI final workshop,** 14-15 February 2012, Istanbul, Turkey**:** EuroRIs-Net cooperated in the organisation of the round table session entitled: "**Observatory of RI initiatives and policies in Europe and beyond, through dialogue with the RIs ecosystem**" where joint activities and cooperation opportunities among EC funded projects and initiatives were explicitly discussed. More information on the event itself is given in the following section of this e-newsletter.

- POLEKO International Trade Fair of Environmental Protection, Poznań, Poland - http://poleko.mtp.pl/pl/

- Energy and Euratom – Fission NCPs Training – presentation (C-Energy+ / Warsaw)

- People NCP training (Rome, Italy)

- Space NCP training (Brussels, Belgium)

- Security NCPs (SEREN2) plenary meeting (Palma de Mallorca, Spain)

During the plenary meeting of the project SEcurity REsearch Ncp network – phase 2 (SEREN2) which was held on 12th-14th March 2012 in Palma de Mallorca, the project EURORIS NET+ has been presented to the SECURITY National Contact Points. The presentation was done by Mr Piotr Swierczynski from the IPPT PAN on 14th March, within the "Best Practice" Session. In the overview of the project activities the focus was put on Transnational Access Opportunities. Most of SEREN2 partners were not aware of this offer of the Research Infrastructures Programme. The information will be very useful for dissemination within security communities in all countries involved. After the presentation, the DVD film "Research infrastructure – why so important?" was shown.

More information on the outcomes of the **NCP networks' cooperation - synergy events** will be announced at the project website, at http://www.euroris-net.eu/ncp-networks-corner

This e-newsletter can be downloaded at the following address: EuroRIs-Net+ (GA 283663) is an EU project co-funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO in the 7th FP.

www.euroris-net.eu

Page 4 of 10

News and Events

e-IRG news and events

A. An e-IRG **workshop** was organised under the auspices of the Polish Presidency of the European Union in Poznań (Poland) on 12-13 October 2011. It included **Training courses: on grids, clouds and HPC**, discussions on *Political, financial and international aspects of e-Infrastructure.*

More than 120 participants attended the e-IRG workshop. Policy issues related to e-Infrastructures were the main theme of the first day. The second day was devoted to technology aspects, with a focus on data infrastructures and data management. All presentations are available at http://www.e-irg.eu/e-irg-events/events-archive/e-irg-meetings-in-2011/e-irg-workshop-poznan-12-13-october.html

B. e-IRG news / forthcoming events
B.1. The Digital Agenda – one of the seven flagships of the EC's 2020 Strategy – describes Europe's strategy, policies and actions that will allow the European economy and society to benefit from the Digital Revolution.

Through its links to the e-Infrastructure community across Europe, e-IRG is in a unique position to inspire and assist in the implementation of the Digital Agenda and to help ensure that any new actions in the field of e-Infrastructures will be within the general political context and framework of the Digital Agenda.

In this **survey** they describe the essential role of the e-Infrastructure community in the realisation of the Digital Agenda and the importance of proper e-Infrastructure governance. Recent e-IRG observations, recommendations and actions issued in White Papers and other e-IRG policy documents are summarized and linked to the seven problem areas recognised in the Digital Agenda. The aim is to provide guidance on the developments and actions required to achieve the goals of the Digital Agenda.
More at (http://www.e-irg.eu/images/stories/digital_agenda_a5_final.pdf)

B.2. The next **e-IRG workshop** will take place on **11-12 June 2012** in **Copenhagen**, Denmark. More information will be announced at: http://www.e-irg.eu/e-irg-events.html, together with additional information on other e-IRG events.

Instruct Signing Ceremony

Instruct began its **Operational Phase** with the signing of an Accession Agreement between the existing Participant Instruct Members and the Coordination Company, Instruct Academic Services Limited, at a ceremony held in Brussels on 23rd February 2012. More at http://www.structuralbiology.eu/

Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Photo Credit and Copyright: Miguel Amortegui

This e-newsletter can be downloaded at the following address: EuroRIs-Net+ (GA 283663) is an EU project co-funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO in the 7th FP.

www.euroris-net.eu

Page 5 of 10

EUDAT & Collaborative Data Infrastructure

On 1st October 2011 the EUDAT project, co-funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme, was launched to target a pan-European solution to the challenge of data proliferation in Europe's scientific and research communities. Aiming to contribute to the production of a Collaborative Data Infrastructure (CDI) driven by researchers' needs, the project is coordinated by CSC – the IT Centre for Science, Finland – and comprises 25 European partners, including data centres, technology providers, and research communities and funding agencies from 13 countries. More on http://www.eudat.eu/

1st PAERIP workshop, Nov. 11, 2011, Cape Town

The first PAERIP workshop successfully took place on November 11, 2011 at the Southern Sun Garden Court Eastern Boulevard Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa.

Attended by over 50 African and European delegates, the first PAERIP workshop aimed at promoting and enhancing African-European cooperation on Research Infrastructures, with a specific focus on FP7 instruments and other similar initiatives.

The workshop (held under the aegis of the European Commission) has been organized by DST with the support of Sigma Orionis and all PAERIP Consortium Members and was designed as a side event to the "4th Euro-Africa Cooperation Forum on ICT Research" (Nov. 14-15, 2011 - Cape Town ICC), organized by the EuroAfrica-ICT EU-funded project under the aegis of the European and the African Union Commissions.
Apart from raising awareness on the PAERIP project objectives and activities, the workshop contributed to sharing lessons and experiences on research infrastructures, unveiling early PAERIP findings on the analysis of existing research infrastructures in Africa, forming partnerships and creating synergies with relevant stakeholders and similar initiatives, and creating a platform for policy dialogue on research infrastructures. More at http://www.paerip.org/

DC-NET International Final Conference

On 8th March 2012, in Rome, Italy, the final DC-NET international Conference took place. The conference discussed issues such as the way e-Infrastructures can support digital cultural heritage, the measures Member States should take so that cultural institutions may benefit from the research infrastructures, priorities to be addressed etc. The talks focussed on the results of the project in terms of reflections and concrete actions. The conference was targeted at digital cultural heritage experts, e-infrastructures providers and policy makers. More at: http://www.dc-net.org/index.php?en/22/events-archive/84/roma-dc-net-international-final-conference

SERIES international workshop

The 3rd International Workshop: "Role of research infrastructures in seismic rehabilitation" was held in Istanbul (TR), on 8-9 February, 2012. The presentations of the workshop are available at http://www.series.upatras.gr/node/707

'Helix Nebula - the Science Cloud'

The consortium of leading IT providers and three of Europe's biggest research centres (CERN, EMBL and ESA) recently announced a partnership to launch a European cloud computing platform. The initiative is called **Helix Nebula – the Science Cloud**, named after the large planetary nebula sometimes referred to as the 'Eye of God'. The initiative aims to establish sustainable European cloud computing infrastructure, supported by industrial partners, which will provide stable computing capacities and services that elastically meet demand. During a two-year pilot phase, Helix Nebula will be deployed and tested, based on **three flagship projects**. They are the European Organization for Nuclear Research's (CERN) processing of data from the international ATLAS experiment, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory's (EMBL) simplification of the analysis of large genomes, and ESA's Earth observation research platform.
More info at: http://www.egi.eu/about/news/news_0127_Helix_Nebula_kick_start.html and
http://www.esa.int/esaCP/SEM5725Y1ZG_index_0.html

SEERA-EI Istanbul 2012 e-Infrastructure Conference

South East European e-Infrastructure developments were discussed more widely with policy makers and the European audience. The significance of developing and sustaining electronic infrastructures in South East Europe, the SEERA-EI project contribution, as well as future perspectives in the field were discussed during the "SEERA-EI Istanbul 2012 e-Infrastructure Conference" that took place on 14-15 February 2012. Stakeholders and decision makers from South Eastern European countries, representatives of Western European policy bodies, representatives of the European Commission, members of the e-Infrastructures Policy Forum (e-IPF), and Research Infrastructure project leaders participated in the event, deliberating on regional achievements through SEERA-EI, and on future activities in order to achieve further enhancement of e-Infrastructures for the benefit of the research and education communities in the region, and to build lasting synergies.
The "**White Paper: National e-Infrastructure Programme Cookbook for South East Europe**" was also presented. EuroRIs-Net+ Project officer, Mr Wim Jansen (DG INFSO) also presented the **e-IPF** (e-infrastructures Policy Forum) initiatives *(see description of activities of e-IPF in **page 10**)*

You can reach the **presentations** that took place and the full text of the **press release** from the following links:

http://www.fp7.org.tr/tubitak_content_files///SEERA-EI-02-2012/Draft_Istanbul_Agenda_Final.pdf
http://www.seera-ei.eu/files/PR-SEERAEI-Istanbul-EN-2012-03-01.pdf

CLARIN: EU language research infrastructure gets ERIC status

The Community legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) entered into force on 28 August 2009. This specific legal form is designed to facilitate the joint establishment and operation of research infrastructures of European interest. The European Commission granted the **Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (CLARIN**) a significant boost on 29th February, by according it an EU legal status. **CLARIN**, the pan-European Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure is the second European research infrastructure to be granted ERIC status. Eight countries are committed to the setting up of CLARIN-ERIC: Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Poland, and the Netherlands. CLARIN will be hosted in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Read more at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=eric

This e-newsletter can be downloaded at the following address: EuroRIs-Net+ (GA 283663) is an EU project co-funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO in the 7th FP.

www.euroris-net.eu

Page 7 of 10

EuroRIs-Net+ plans to participate in the following major Research Infrastructures events:

ICRI 2012 – The 7th Conference on Research Infrastructures focuses on international issues

The International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI 2012) will be the 7th major Conference on Research Infrastructures and for the first time the Conference will debate international issues addressing an international audience. The conference aims at making specific recommendations to strengthen international cooperation including calls for the coordinated support and reinforcing of existing initiatives, highlighting potential areas for additional efforts, and developing a vision of open science.

The conference is organised from 21-23 March 2012, in Copenhagen, Denmark, within the framework of Danish Presidency of the European Union. More information on:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/icri_concept.pdf

Information on EuroRIs-Net+ project services to RIs stakeholders will be given through our representatives at the European Commission booth.

EGI Community Forum 2012

The first **EGI Community Forum 2012** will take place at the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre (LRZ) in Garching near Munich, Germany between 26-30 March 2012. The event will be hosted by EGI.eu in partnership with the Munich Network Management, a consortium of four German research institutions. More at http://cf2012.egi.eu/
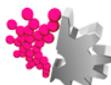
The Community Forum will be held in conjunction with the 2nd EMI Technical Conference and co-located with the 2nd Annual European Globus Community Forum (26 March).

The key goal of the Community Forum is to showcase the role that EGI plays in enabling innovation across the European Research Area. The forum will highlight the services, technologies and tools available to scientific communities to better support their research.

EuroRIs-Net+ representatives will be at the project's booth in the exhibition area, whereas the 1st Project Management Board meeting will be held on 28th March, on the EGI community forum's premises.

Industrial Technologies 2012

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES 2012
integrating nano, materials and production

The event "**Industrial Technologies 2012**" will be held in Aarhus, Denmark, 19th to 21st June 2012 (http://industrialtechnologies2012.eu/event/).

70 high profile international speakers from industry, government and research will discuss visions for European research and industry in 2020, how Europe can succeed in the face of global competition, and the form and impact of Horizon 2020. They will reveal the economic and technological impact of industrial technologies, with topics including low emission transportation, integrated systems, improving the environment, energy generation and storage, healthcare and construction. The plenary sessions will be complementary to an exhibition of enabling technology providers, research organisations and projects and a full day matchmaking event to build contacts for research collaboration and technology commercialisation. The EuroRIs-Net+ project will have a booth at this event to support synergies between the Research Infrastructures programme and industry.

ERF workshop on "The socio-economic relevance of Research Infrastructures", Hamburg, Germany

ERF European Association of National Research Facilities Open to International Access

The workshop, organised by the European Association of National Research Facilities Open to International Access (ERF) is coming up on May 31 and June 1 in Hamburg - http://erf.desy.de/workshop/. . This ERF Workshop will bring together experts from research infrastructures, science, policy makers and industry to discuss the many dimensions of socio-economic relevance of Research Infrastructures. It is the main purpose of this workshop to record experiences and real cases, refining them into best practices, and to formulate proposals for the broader European community. Apart from economic returns and links to the innovation systems, a focus on social, cultural and public aspects is given.

Conference on Distributed Computing and Visualisation Systems (DC-VIS)

The conference will be organised on 21 – 25 May, 2012 in Opatija, Croatia, and will be devoted to presenting and exploring scientific and technological advancements and original innovative applications in the field of Distributed computing and Visualisation systems. Moreover, Cloud Computing will be focused through sharing R&D experiences in a face-to-face meeting where participants can present their work, meet colleagues, and help advance the growing field of cloud by utilizing community resources. More at: http://www.mipro.hr/MIPRO2012.DC-VIS/ELink.aspx

ESOF 2012

The Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) is Europe's largest general science meeting and is held in a leading European city every two years. It is an interdisciplinary, pan-European meeting, held under the auspices of Euroscience. Highlights include the keynote lecture by Jules Hoffmann, 2011 Joint Nobel Prize winner for Medicine, at the ESOF 2012 Opening Ceremony on 11th July, an interview with James Watson, Policy Day on 13th July with the keynote address by Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Director General of CERN, Rolf- Dieter Heurer's address and also a lecture by Jean-Jacques Dordain, Director General of the European Space Agency. More at http://www.dublinscience2012.ie/ and http://esof2012.org/

This e-newsletter can be downloaded at the following address: EuroRIs-Net+ (GA 283663) is an EU project co-funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO in the 7th FP.

www.euroris-net.eu

Page 9 of 10

Useful Links and Documents

Horizon 2020 announcements

Visit http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm to be informed on recent Horizon 2020 official documents, news and announcements.

Global change: towards global research infrastructures

EU support for research infrastructures in environmental and earth sciences, March 2012. Visit http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/pdf/global_change.pdf to download this useful document.

ESFRI evaluation report 2011

The ESFRI evaluation report is available on the official Research Infrastructures website at:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=esfri,

Call 10 – FP7-Infrastructures 2012-1: First outcome

The Call was closed on the 23rd November 2011. 41 proposals were submitted, of which 34 have been retained in the shortlist after evaluation by external experts during the second week of February 2012:- 27 Integrated Activities; 6 Preparatory Phases; 1 Support to policy measure.

More at: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-infrastructures_en.html

e-Infrastructures Policy Forum

The **e-Infrastructures Policy Forum** provides a forum for debate and early information exchange between Member States and the Commission with a view to align national and EU policies and initiatives and promote an enhanced cooperation between national e-Infrastructures and stakeholders.

The Forum is open to membership from the Commission and public authorities from all EU Member States and Public authorities from countries associated to the Framework Programme.

Delegates should be officials employed by ministries and/or funding agencies responsible for making policy and managing public budgets.

Delegates should have a responsibility in one or more e-Infrastructure domains such as e-Science and eResearch, research networking, computing grids and clouds, supercomputing, scientific software, and scientific data access, deposition and preservation.

The forum meets twice a year. Decisions or recommendations made by the Forum do not bind the national authorities or the Commission in any formal or legal way.

This e-newsletter can be downloaded at the following address: EuroRIs-Net+ (GA 283663) is an EU project co-funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO in the 7th FP.

www.euroris-net.eu

Page 10 of 10