



THE INROAD PARTNERS IN COIMBRA WITH PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT M. REBELO DE SOUSA

# The InRoad Newsletter



Issue 1

August 2017

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

## Successful Project Kick-Off

A short introduction about InRoad and the project's progress

**InRoad**, a two year Horizon 2020 project going towards better synchronization of priority settings and evaluation mechanisms for Research Infrastructures (RI) in Europe, completed its first quarter successfully.

Therefore, the InRoad partners would like to **inform** you with this newsletter, about the **progress of the project during the past six months, share first results and have a look into the future**. Additionally, InRoad introduces the **other Horizon 2020 RI support projects** with whom we strongly collaborate to create a stable RI environment in Europe. Finally, **Dr. Jan Hrusak**, InRoad partner from the Czech Republic, elaborates his perspective about the **necessity of harmonising RI road mapping in Europe**.

Before diving into our newsletter, here are the most important facts about InRoad you need to know.

### InRoad at a glance

The InRoad project seeks to contribute to a better harmonisation of RI roadmapping in Europe through the exchange of good practices among the main stakeholders of EU Member States (MS), Associated Countries (AC) and also at a broader European level. Additionally, the regional dimension will be considered by integrating Smart Specialization Strategies.

### Our aims

The InRoad project aims to:

- (1) **Identify and share good-practices** and common trends of National RI Roadmapping Procedures (NRIRMP) as well as ex-ante, interim (monitoring) and ex-post evaluation procedures of RI in Europe, leading towards a better synchronisation and potential harmonisation of those procedures at both EU and country level;
- (2) **Support RI policy development in MS, AC and at European level** by establishing a trustful and fluid dialogue as well as an intensive exchange of information on NRIRMP, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and sustainable approaches for RI, in line with the ERA objectives;
- (3) **Contribute to the emergence of sustainable approaches for RI** by conducting case studies of RI funding models along the whole lifecycle and assessment of best practices of business models for RI;
- (4) **Foster a dialogue with the European Commission and all relevant stakeholder organisations** in order to validate the project and its results.



### Results of the InRoad Consultation

The first results of the InRoad consultation are available. InRoad collected information about RI policy for over five weeks. In total, 79% of all EU Member States and 28% of all Associated Countries to Horizon 2020 responded.

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### Interview with Dr. Jan Hrusak

Dr. Jan Hrusak talks with InRoad about why it is necessary to harmonise RI roadmapping in Europe.

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# Looking back

InRoad's most important milestones at a glance

InRoad follows a strict and ambitious timeline. During the first six months of operation, the project achieved the following key results:

**From 12 – 13 January 2017** the InRoad project was officially started with a kick-off meeting in Berne, Switzerland. This initial event of InRoad offered the consortium and Advisory Board members the possibility to meet personally and debate face-to-face about the project's objectives and the according actions.

**On 14 March 2017**, the InRoad '[Roadmapping Engagement Workshop](#)' took place in Brussels, Belgium, where 66 RI stakeholders from 20 different countries participated. This first event organised by InRoad provided a platform for RI stakeholders to interact with each other and the InRoad consortium in order to validate the planned consultation.

After the input at the 'Engagement Workshop', **on 2 May 2017**, InRoad [launched](#)



Group Photo of the InRoad Roadmapping Engagement Workshop at BELSPO, Brussels.

its consultation to collect information about national RI policies, including decision-making, funding and business models and their link to Roadmapping, from EU Member States (EU MS) and Associated Countries (AC). The aim of the consultation was to collect data for a comparative analysis of national RI policies in order to facilitate engagement, mutual learning and to suggest improved coordination among policy and decision-makers in Europe, thus contributing to RI long-term sustainability.

**On 11 July 2017**, InRoad [published](#) the first results of this consultation (read more below).

**On 31 July**, InRoad [published](#) a literature report on funding of RI.

More details about the progress of the InRoad project can be found in our online [timeline](#). The project's documentation such as our [dissemination plan](#) or our [glossary](#) with key RI definitions can be found in the [documentation section](#) on our website.

## STAY UP-TO-DATE

Keep yourself informed about the progress of InRoad and visit our website [www.inroad.eu](http://www.inroad.eu). Fill out the contact form to receive updates and news about the project.

CONTACT FORM  
<http://inroad.eu/keep-informed/>

# The (In)Road ahead

A brief overview about planned activities of InRoad in 2017 and 2018

During a constructive meeting in the charming Portuguese city of Coimbra, the partners reviewed the progress of the project and looked forward to the upcoming steps.

First and foremost, **the detailed outcome of the entire consultation** will be released in the beginning of November together with the Compendium of the first National Research Infrastructure Roadmapping Procedures (NRIRMP) analysis. Based on these results, several **regional workshops** will take place in selected countries such as Czech Republic, Italy, Germany, Portugal and Poland, to discuss specific RI topics from November to April 2018.

**On 16 January 2018** the second stakeholder engagement workshop will take place, where InRoad will present the results of the

consultation and discuss potential case studies.

**In April 2018** a report on the state-of-the-art elaboration of business plans by RI managers and owner will be published and directly followed up with a regional workshops.

**In September 2018**, a **validation workshop** will take place, in which the RI stakeholders can engage again to validate the projects recommendations before they are published and presented during the **final conference in December 2018**.

For more information about InRoad's planned activities, look up our [project's introduction presentation](#).



The InRoad partners during the consortium meeting in Coimbra, Portugal.

## DID YOU KNOW?

## The purpose of RI roadmapping

The top three purposes for national roadmaps are (1) having input for funding decision on RI, (2) listing strategic priorities for foreseen funding and (3) identifying scientific needs and existing gaps.

## Evaluation and monitoring of RI

The consultation showed that many countries do not have yet evaluation procedures for RI in place, which would be necessary to guarantee transparent and sustainable funding of RI. Moreover, the consultation also revealed a very large interest in learning more about evaluation procedures from other countries.

## KEY FACTS

85%

Of all respondents have a national RI roadmap in place.

59%

Of all the respondents have RI monitoring procedures.

## FACTS ABOUT FUNDING

93%

Have a link between funding decision and strategic priorities.

25%

Plan changes in their RI funding schemes.

## FACTS ABOUT BUSINESS CASES

61%

Consider business case as an eligibility criterion for their national RI roadmap.

26%

Offer supportive measures to improve the business cases of a RI.

# First Results of the InRoad Consultation

An overview about the first key results of the InRoad consultation.

On 2 May 2017, InRoad successfully launched its consultation for 5 weeks to collect information about national RI policies. This included decision-making, funding and business models and their link to roadmapping from EU MS AC. The aim of the consultation was to collect data for a comparative analysis of national RI policies in order to facilitate engagement, mutual learning and improve coordination among policy and decision-makers in Europe, thus contributing to RI long-term sustainability. After a first rough analysis in June and July 2017, InRoad has published its first results.

## High participation in the consultation

InRoad contacted all 46 MS and AC. In total, 22 of 28 MS and 5 AC responded. Moreover, 96% of European States with a RI Roadmap and 40% of European States planning a RI Roadmap participated in the consultation, according to information from InRoad consultation and desk study as well as the ESFRI website. The participatory of the InRoad consultation are as follows:

**Participants from EU Member States:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

**Participants from Associated Countries:** Iceland, Israel, Montenegro, Norway, and Switzerland

Most interestingly, 100% of all respondents already had an exchange of information with other countries for learning about decision-making on RI.

## Key results of the first consultation analysis

In June 2017, the partners analysed and discussed the first results of the consultation at the consortium meeting in Coimbra, Portugal. The preliminary analysis shows the following interesting key results.

93% of the respondents have a national decision-making process in place for priority setting and/or funding of RIs.

The three most relevant topics for countries with a national RI roadmap in place to learn more are (1) strategic decision-making, (2) evaluation procedures and (3) life cycle management. For countries without a national RI roadmap, the most relevant topics are similar, though these countries are more interested in learning how to conduct a landscape analysis instead of life-cycle management.

While countries with a national RI roadmap in place are the most interested in learning about strategic decision making from others, the biggest interest to collaborate with others lies in monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Countries planning a national RI roadmap on the other hand are mostly interested in learning and collaborating more regarding evaluation procedures, as well as in collaborating more with respect to the life-cycle management of RI.

The questions on interest in learning and collaborating more shows a large potential for countries less experienced in RI roadmapping to learn from their more experienced peers. This is also precisely where the InRoad project wants to offer its assistance.

## Detailed results available in November

Until the beginning of September, InRoad will analyse the results more in depth. The detailed results will serve as a basis for the regional workshops in November as well as the Compendium of the first NRIRMP analysis at the end of November.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the first results of the consultation including the graphs to all the presented facts, have a look at our [press room](#).

FIRST RESULTS INROAD CONSULTATION  
[http://inroad.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/20170711\\_Press-Release-First-Results-InRoad-Consultation.pdf](http://inroad.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/20170711_Press-Release-First-Results-InRoad-Consultation.pdf)

# Working for a stable RI environment in Europe

The RI support projects build a strong collaboration basis in Brussels

On 8 June 2017, the European Commission (EC) DG for Research and Innovation kindly invited all running **Horizon 2020 Research Infrastructure (RI) support projects** to Brussels in order to present the status of their projects and identify synergies and collaboration opportunities between them. InRoad, as one of the newest Horizon 2020 RI support projects, was able to connect with its peer projects **MERIL-2**, **Rltrain**, **RISCAPE** and **STR-ESFRI** and present the first achievements of its own.

The two project coordinators of the Swiss National Science Foundation, Martin Müller and Max de Boer, presented InRoad's organisational structure, the project's framework, the deliverables and contemporary achievements. The two coordinators particularly highlighted the potential results of the InRoad consultation. At the end of each presentation, the project coordinators discussed the synergy and collaboration possibilities. The EC took note of the developments of the project and highlighted **the links between the project and ongoing work on RI long-term sustainability**. InRoad's outputs could feed into the process and nourish coming discussions at European level, under the Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies of the European Union. Additionally, InRoad identified the following synergy and collaboration possibilities with each project:

First of all, **MERIL-2**, a project aimed to map the European RI landscape, presented their portal that provides valuable information about openly accessible RI across all scientific fields. Especially the data collection and analysis methodologies of MERIL-2 were interesting for InRoad, due to its future task to analyse the results of the InRoad consultation. Moreover, the data available on the portal will potentially help InRoad to better understand the decision-making and priority setting process, when evaluating the different roadmapping procedures. For the MERIL project it is clear that:

*"Collaborations between the projects will be crucial in furthering progress in these areas, and to gather evidence that will support informed decision-making and the harmonisation of efforts at the European level with the objective to maximise the impact and ensure long-term sustainability of European RIs and their excellence globally."*

Secondly, **Rltrain**, a tailored-made training in form of an Executive Master for future managers in RI, aims to improve the managing and leadership skills of RI staff. Here, InRoad envisioned the possibility to exchange its research insights in the training programme to foster the participants' understanding of the RI decision-making and funding processes.

Thirdly, **RISCAPE**, which aims to map the global RI landscape and also stands at the beginning of the project-lifecycle, offered similar collaboration opportunities as the MERIL-2 project. Particularly the data analysis and the methodologies are of great interest for InRoad. According to Dr. Ari Asmi, Project Coordinator of RISCAPE, InRoad and RISCAPE have a great potential to collaborate. In his words:

*"RISCAPE can tune their results to be better used in the national roadmapping processes, and InRoad can consider including such activities in the best practices. During project time, more direct benefit can come from joint interactions with the national funding agencies, making sure that they are consulted in consistent manner and avoiding too many individual contact attempts."*

Last but not least, **STR-ESFRI**, which reinforces and supports the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) with resources, workshops, tools and expertise, provided highly valuable science communication experience and networking opportunities with RI stakeholders. A future STR-ESFRI 'exchange of experience workshop' could include some material from InRoad.

In general, the projects are all eager to exchange their best practices in terms of communication, data management and common terminology.

## MEET THE OTHER RI SUPPORT PROJECTS



**MERIL**  
MAPPING OF THE EUROPEAN  
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE  
LANDSCAPE

### MERIL

The MERIL (Mapping of the European Research Infrastructure Landscape) portal provides access to a database that stores information about openly accessible research infrastructures (RI) in Europe, across all scientific domains, including the social sciences and humanities. For more information, visit their website at <http://portal.meril.eu/meril/>



### RISCAPE

European Research Infrastructures in the International Landscape — RISCAPE — is a H2020 funded project to map the international landscape of Research Infrastructures, in particular in comparison to the major European RI. For more information, have a look at their website: [www.riscape.eu](http://www.riscape.eu)



### Rltrain

Rltrain, the Research Infrastructure Training Programme, is an EU-funded Horizon 2020 project aimed at improving and professionalizing the training of managerial and leadership staff in RI. This is vital for the future success of Europe because access to excellent RI underpins today's research and innovation. For more information, have a look at their website: [www.rltrain.eu](http://www.rltrain.eu)

# Interview with Dr. Jan Hrusak

InRoad asked Dr. Jan Hrusak, InRoad's Czech partner of the Academy of Sciences in the Czech Republic: ***Why is it necessary to harmonise research infrastructure roadmapping in Europe?***

Research infrastructures are long term strategic investments, deeply rooted in society, and indispensable both for enabling and developing scientific excellence. They are key players contributing to competitiveness within a very large perimeter not always respecting national borders. In addition, RI are recognized as important elements in research and innovation policies and thus, affecting national economies, but also for having huge impact on education and regional policies, and with sizable outreach to other policy domains EU wide. This richness of policy implications together with the diversity of underlying processes and cultural differences, urgently calls for increased coordination at all levels.

The need of coherent and strategy-led approach, which led to the establishment of ESFRI in 2002, and which has been proven successful over the years, has inspired national roadmapping and decision-making processes to a huge extent. Those national roadmaps act as reference document on a national scale, aiming to guide and prioritise national and regional investments, safeguarding future RI of strategic relevance, fostering their ability for international insertion, and thereby increasing the capacity for research and innovation, both nationally and regionally. However, all the RI in Europe, irrespectively whether they are predominantly of institutional, national, or pan-European character, are interconnected to an RI-eco-system. A stronger convergence of national policies is desirable in order to maximise the impact of national investments into this domain. Respecting the diversity of the national research systems mutual learning exercises, RI are valuable sources for mutual learning exercises within Europe, with a clear aim of coordination and alignments of decision processes where possible and appropriate.



**InRoad** synchronising research infrastructure roadmapping in Europe



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