

Press Release

Engage with InRoad

Brussels, 25 January 2018

On 15 and 16 January 2018, the **Inroad Engagement Workshop** took place in Brussels, where 84 Research Infrastructure (RI) stakeholders from 18 different countries participated.

InRoad works towards a better synchronisation of RI roadmapping procedures and thus contributes to a sustainable and efficient RI landscape in Europe.

The Workshop took place as InRoad reached the middle of the project duration. It was therefore the ideal moment to take stock of what has been reached so far and trigger the project into its second and final phase. Therefore, the key objectives of the Workshop were to:

- 1) discuss the [InRoad Consultation Report](#) including linked preliminary policy insights;
- 2) review the [InRoad response](#) on the Long-term Sustainability (LTS) of RI in the light of the [call for action](#) of the European Commission (EC) perspective on LTS of RI;
- 3) Gather feedback from the stakeholders on the future activities of InRoad, which are the second series of Regional Workshops, the InRoad case studies, the areas of further investigation and on the dissemination of the findings.

The event offered a balanced [programme](#) on the one hand, and [presentations](#) from InRoad partners from external RI stakeholders on the other hand.

Regarding the InRoad consortium partners, Isabel **Bolliger**, PhD candidate at the University of Lausanne, [presented](#) some results and insights arising from the InRoad consultation report. Carme **De Andres Sanchis** from Helmholtz Association [introduced](#) the findings of the regional workshops, which had been held in Prague and Rome. Stéphanie **Lecocq**, from the French National Center for Scientific Research [presented](#) the InRoad second data collection round, which will be carried out in the form of case studies. Finally, on behalf of InRoad Advisory Board, Beatrix **Vierkorn-Rudolph**, gave a [presentation](#) on the InRoad's response to the European Commission (EC) LTS action plan. Finally, Barbara **Haering**, Member of ETH Board, gave a [closing keynote](#) on filling the gaps and challenges with InRoad. She also outlined where InRoad can make a difference. First, by strengthening the strategic level in order to help bridging the gap between demand side and funder side and to encourage evidence-based decision-making. Secondly, by focusing on evidence and best practice to enhance decision-making.

External speakers invited by InRoad contributed their expertise as well. John **Womersley**, Director-General European Spallation Source gave an [opening keynote](#) on the challenges and gaps for a more effective coordination of national RI policies. He explained why RI investment is important compared to other policy areas. Philippe **Froissard**, Deputy-Head of Unit Research Infrastructures, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation gave the [EC perspective on LTS of RI](#). He presented the key issues for an action plan but also discussed the next steps, which can be divided into three stages: identification of priority actions, endorsement by member states and timetable for reporting on progress achieved and possible adjustments.

Interactive discussions were also fostered by the audience and especially by the panel discussion, which addressed InRoad preliminary policy insights. As members of the panel, InRoad was pleased to welcome Riita **Maijala**, Vice president for Research at the Academy of Finland, Christian **Chardonnet**, Head Department of Large Research Infrastructures at French



Ministry of Higher Education and Science and David **Bohmert**, ESFRI Executive Board Member. The panel discussed the challenges of a better alignment of European roadmapping procedures. Indeed, it was outlined that any attempt at alignment or synchronisation should take into account the specificities of national research and innovation systems. InRoad will come with good practices in the second phase of the project in order to offer the right tools to different RI stakeholders.

The road ahead

In September, a validation Workshop en marge of ICRI 2018 will be held to validate the project recommendations. Moreover, regional workshops in Hamburg (1-2nd March 2018), in Aveiro (12-13 April 2018) and in Wroclaw (24-25 May 2018) will be organised. These workshops aim to provide a forum for discussion before the final conference in December 2018, which will disseminate the project results.

More information

- [Briefing note](#).
- A full report on the Workshop will be released shortly.
- [Workshop's presentations](#).

Contact

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