

## Press Release

### **InRoad Regional Workshop on “The role of structural funds in the mix of funding sources for the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures”, Aveiro (PT)**

Coimbra, 20 April 2018

The InRoad Regional Workshop dedicated to “The role of structural funds in the mix of funding sources for the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures” was held in Aveiro on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, with 51 participants from 21 Research Infrastructures (RI). This was the fourth regional workshop, after those organised in [Prague](#), [Rome](#), and [Hamburg](#). It was an opportunity for participants, namely for operators and managers of Research Infrastructures (RI) to share their insights, experiences and suggestions on this important issue. Key messages from the Workshop were collected to be integrated into further results of the project as part of a set of recommendations for the future programming period.

Discussions highlighted the need to respect a subsidiarity principle, based on common understanding, methodologies, processes and timings, at the different levels: European, national and regional. The welcome speech by Ana Abrunhosa set the scene for the discussions that would arise during the event, referring to the role of regional authorities in the funding of the RI of the Portuguese Roadmap that needs to be in line with the national strategy and the European context.

The keynote speech of the event, delivered by **Ricardo Miguéis**, from CESAER - Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research -, reflected on the importance of developing an ecosystems approach, where key stakeholders must be engaged, and inter-sectoral collaboration should be strongly encouraged.

The core of the event were the round table discussions, in parallel sessions, where all attendees actively participated. The topics proposed for discussion were previously addressed by speakers on the 1<sup>st</sup> panel.

The focus of these round table discussions was put on gathering recommendations on how to overcome bottlenecks and face the challenges for the long term sustainability of RI, namely tackling the next generation of the Cohesion Policy and the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

The conclusions and recommendations of each group were presented by rapporteurs in the plenary session. Overall, the three groups tackled the need for more predictability of funding from the RI’s perspective. Therefore, the definition of strategic priorities at the different levels is crucial for long term planning and funding decisions need to be linked with those priorities and timely adopted. On the other hand, RI landscape is very diverse. Contractual funding was suggested as a way of meeting the specificities of the different RIs, in a multiannual basis. Furthermore, tailored Key Performance Indicators could be defined on top of a common set of basic criteria. Industrial involvement was also addressed and perceived as a controversial issue, as it is limited as a source of funding for RI. Regarding Structural Funds, they were recognized as important in the mix of funding mechanisms but should not replace the role of the other sources (namely national budget and institutional funding) that are critical to secure the operational

costs of RIs. In addition, it was suggested that project based funding hampers the aim of predictability and affects the potential for social and economic impact on the ecosystems they are part of.

The InRoad Project team thanks the CCDRC team for organising and hosting this successful event and the participants who have pro-actively taken part in the discussions.

### **More information**

A full report on the Workshop will be released shortly.

The next Regional Workshop will be held in [Wroclaw](#) the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. For more information about InRoad, please consult our project presentation or visit our [website](#), like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or on [LinkedIn](#).

### **Contact**

For questions or requests, please contact [info@inroad.eu](mailto:info@inroad.eu) .



## InRoad WORKSHOP AGENDA

### The role of structural funds in the mix of funding sources for the long-term sustainability of Research Infrastructures

April 13th 2018

9.00-09.30	Registration of Participants and Welcome coffee
9.30 – 10.15	<p><b>OPENING SESSION</b></p> <p><b>Welcome speech</b> - Ana Abrunhosa, President of Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro</p> <p><b>Introductory Speech</b>– Martin Muller, InRoad Coordinator, Swiss National Science Foundation <i>Brief presentation of InRoad's findings and results</i></p> <p><b>Keynote speech</b> - Ricardo Miguéis, Senior Advisor for Research and Innovation, CESAER - Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research <i>Research and Innovation Infrastructures: An Ecosystem Approach</i></p>
10.15 – 11.00	<p><b>1<sup>st</sup> PANEL</b></p> <p>Teresa Jorge, Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro <i>Context and aim of the Workshop</i></p> <p>Ondřej Hradil, Core facility coordinator of CEITEC - Central European Institute of Technology <i>The role of Structural Funds in the mix of funding sources</i></p> <p>Gonzalo León, Deputy Rector for Innovation Partnership, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid <i>Combination of different funding sources and mechanisms</i></p> <p>Miguel Castelo Branco, Coordinator of the National Functional BIN - Brain Imaging Network <i>The importance of road mapping procedures</i></p>
11.00-12.45	<p><b>Round table discussions in parallel sessions</b></p> <p>Discussion on the Long Term Sustainability of Research Infrastructures (RI) and funding instruments along the full life cycle, focusing on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of Structural Funds in the mix of funding sources</li> <li>Combination of different funding sources and mechanisms</li> <li>The importance of road mapping procedures</li> </ul>
12.45 -13.30	Light Lunch
13.30 -15.00	<p><b>Round table discussions in parallel sessions</b></p> <p>Difficulties in short, medium and long term funding and recommendations to overcome them, focusing on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next generation of ESIF and FP9</li> <li>The funding of future life cycle stages of RIs</li> <li>Road mapping for the future</li> </ul>
15.00 -15.15	Coffee break
15.15 -17.00	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION</b></p> <p>Presentation of conclusions of parallel sessions by rapporteurs</p> <p>Jan Hrusak, Vice Chair of ESFRI <i>Long Term Sustainability of Research Infrastructures: the European call for action and prospects for the future programming period</i></p> <p>Debate and recommendations - Moderated by Ricardo Miguéis, Senior Advisor for Research and Innovation, CESAER - Conference of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research</p> <p><b>Closing Interventions</b></p> <p>Helena Pereira, Vice President of FCT - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia</p> <p>Manuel Assunção, Principal of University of Aveiro</p>