

Press Release

InRoad Final Conference

Brussels, 13. December 2018

On 12. December 2018, the [InRoad Final Conference](#) took place in Brussels, where 94 Research Infrastructure (RI) stakeholders from 19 different countries participated.

During the Final Conference, InRoad presented and disseminated the project's results and final recommendations, which are detailed in the [final report](#). The findings and policy insights touch upon three thematic areas, namely:

- (1) higher degree of coordination between national and European RI roadmapping processes;
- (2) higher degree of coordination between regional, national and European funding frameworks, and;
- (3) best practices and common standards for RI business planning.

The event offered a balanced [programme](#) with presentations as well as panel and plenary discussions on the project final policy insights.

The first keynote speaker, Urs **Baltensperger**, Head of Laboratory for Atmospheric Chemistry at PSI and former Chair of the Specialised Committee for International Cooperation at the SNSF, contributed with its expertise in distributed RIs and presented a vision for a future RI landscape in Europe. He underlined the importance of excellent science to tackle global challenges and states that solving global challenges requires state-of-the-art, global RI. In order to achieve this, activities that promote better coordination of policies, planning and funding processes for RIs need to be further supported. Finally, he mentioned the importance of having transparent processes and a strong involvement of user communities, host institutions and industry in order to ensure long-term sustainability of the RI landscape.

The first panel discussion focused on RI roadmapping processes and was moderated by Milena **Žic-Fuchs**, member of the InRoad Advisory Board. As members of the first panel, InRoad was pleased to welcome Inmaculada **Figueroa** from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities of Spain, Philippe **Froissard** from the European Commission and Ricardo **Migueis** from CESAER. The panel discussed the recommendations and challenges of a higher degree of coordination between national and RI roadmapping processes. InRoad has collected extensive data but now there is a need to act on this data through "missionary" work. This has to be done by involving all relevant stakeholders, by involving more countries in coordination activities but also by keeping some flexibility in the coordination in order to respect national specificities. Moreover, the contribution of the European Commission was underlined at different levels notably through its involvement in ESFRI, the monitoring of the ERA as well as Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. The main challenge stressed was the further consideration of the link between RI roadmapping and funding.

The second panel discussion focused on RI funding frameworks as well as RI business plans and was moderated by Ralph **Eichler**, member of the InRoad Advisory Board. As members of the second panel, InRoad was pleased to welcome Sofie **Björling** from the Swedish Research Council, Dominik **Sobczak** from the European Commission and Jana **Kolar** from CERIC-ERIC. The panel discussed the recommendations and challenges related to funding frameworks and



business plans. The need to find a sustainable solution for funding was underlined especially for transnational access. Also, the assessment and monitoring of RIs was recognised as essential to demonstrate their value. Finally, the link between RI funding and business plans was emphasised, as in order to expect long-term financial commitments, there is a need for a sound business plans.

As a closing keynote speaker, Jan **Hrušák**, ESFRI Chair-Elect, recognised the valuable research work carried out by InRoad, as well as the inputs of the project for European RI policy notably for further debate in view of the ongoing policy discussions (EU, ERAC, ESFRI, ERF, GSF, and so on).

The presentations and discussions will be summarised in a Final Conference report, which will be released shortly.

The road ahead

In his closing words, Martin **Müller**, InRoad Coordinator, addressed ESFRI, Science Europe, ERIC Forum, ERF, EU projects and others to continue the work started by InRoad and to implement policies and practices that will support the whole ecosystems of RIS and keep Europe at the forefront of Science.

Contact

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