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Conclusions of the European Conference on Research Infrastructures and influences on HPC

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Policy context

- RIs are essential to develop ERA and address Grand Challenges under the EU 2020 strategy
- A European policy has been developed in the field of RI in recent years
- The work of ESFRI has been crucial in this context
- To be prepared for the future a closer partnership between the Member States and European Commission is needed with ESFRI providing a bridge function



The EU strategy for RIs

Continue with the development of an EU policy of RIs (as a pillar of ERA) based on the work of ESFRI

- Focus on implementation of new projects and ensure optimization of existing RIs
- Evolution of ESFRI: from open forum to a more executive capacity
- Ensure sustainable funding for both construction and long term operation
- Improve governance
- Need to train the next generation of RI managers
- Involve industry from early stage
- Making the socio-economic case
- Capitalize on the experience of successful European RIs



Prioritization of research infrastructures

- **Prioritization is essential**
 - In the form of transparent and open process involving all actors
 - Based on scientific excellence and technological maturity
 - Taking account of grand challenges and societal needs
 - Driven by national priorities and roadmaps being discussed at EU level
 - Clear budget commitments for both construction and operation and sophisticated analysis of impact
 - Taking the “time element” into consideration
 - Plan for dealing with changing priorities



Political decision making

- A process that should involve all stakeholders
 - Political decision making requires continuing involvement of the scientific community, from conception to realization and decommissioning
 - Consensus on priorities across scientific disciplines is necessary.
 - Cost containment is an essential feature.
 - For “Return on Investment” case for benefits to society is needed to warrant expenditures of large magnitude.
 - The decision making process requires a partnership approach between the regional, national, EU level



Management & financial issues 1

- Sustainable lifecycle funding is a must
 - Honest dialogue between funders and scientists is essential at regional, national and EU level
 - Cost containment is vital
 - Faster decision
 - Adequate and appropriate recompense for those providing capital for construction
 - The issue of significant EU funding for construction and operation is to be considered
 - Consider the impact of procurement and in-kind contribution policies on costs and cost containment



Management & financial issues 2

- Appropriate management arrangements are needed
 - One size does not fit all – different RIs need different organisational and management frameworks to meet their scientific needs
 - ERIC is one useful template but do not ignore other models (intergovernmental organisations)
 - Distributed infrastructures by their nature face particular challenges regarding governance
 - Ensure proper accounting for in-kind contributions



Management & financial issues 3

- Build in a strong human resources policy
 - Different phases of a RI lifecycle require different management and leadership skills
 - A combination of scientific expertise and appropriate management competences is essential
 - Professional expertise in functions such as procurement is essential
 - Critical issues to be addressed include:
 - Facilitate the transferability of pension, health, social security systems
 - Ensure a coherent (compatible, comparable) career structure



Open access

- Open access is essential but not inherently free
 - Peer reviewed open access promotes excellence
 - Industrial access is mostly through collaborations with academia – not a source of income
 - Potential to enhance competitiveness of European industry including SMEs by tailored access to RIs
 - Those making the capital investment and providing stable running cost contributions should reap a special scientific rewards
 - Appropriate EU funding is likely to be pivotal in facilitating trans-national open access (including by “electronic “ means)



e-infrastructures

- e-infrastructures are the backbone of Research including large scale facilities
 - Networking, computing, simulation and data, essential parts of e-infrastructures, need service-oriented models
 - Closer interaction between the providers of e-infras and the community of users
 - Europe e-infras should be linked into global e-infras.
 - Computing infrastructures (PRACE and grids) need to be further developed with high priority, the innovation dimension and the inclusion of industry should be considered
 - As regards data a vision should be developed to arrive at an open and trusted European digital information infrastructure

The governance & Future of RIs in ERA



- Form follows function
 - Use where possible existing models
 - Make individual RIs aware that they are part of / and can benefit from RI ecosystem (governance)
 - Flexible governance structures according to project phase (e.g., design, construction, operation)
 - The role of the stakeholders in the governance should be based on: expertise, commitment and interest
 - All stakeholders should be involved from the earliest stages, with clear differentiation of roles.



Policy context: Member States and EC

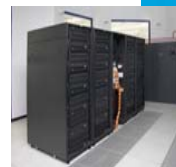
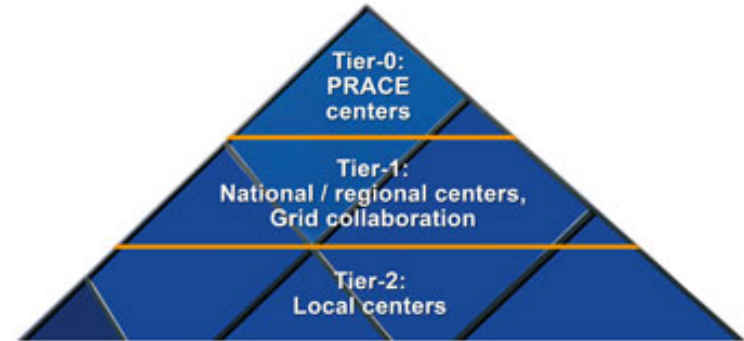
- 2007:
Memorandum of Understanding signed by 15 European member states.
 - 5 Countries committed as hosting partners
- 2009: 20 partners signed
 - One further hosting partner joined





Tier-1 and Tier-2 in Spain

- Tier-1, coordinator of Spanish Network
 - BSC
- Tier-2
 - 7 centers distributed
 - Regional center to be included
- Single access committee
- Resources: 80-20%
- Training: technicians and users



La Palma
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