

Conclusions and recommendations emerging from the ELRI 2014 Conference, Trieste 24 and 25 September 2014, on "The evolving landscape of Research Infrastructures in Europe"-

The Conference, opened by the Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research Stefania Giannini, was organized by CERIC-ERIC, Central European Consortium for Research Infrastructures, in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and attended by 150 selected researchers and industry managers. A follow-up from the discussions held in the informal meeting of the EU Ministers for Research, held in Milano on July 22nd.

The expert presentations and open discussions focused on the European challenge of planning, evaluating and sustaining a "System of Research Infrastructures for the ERA". This requires integrating resources, financial contributions and instruments, while evolving the appropriate legal and fiscal environment and, last but not least, attracting, training and retaining the high quality human resources needed for the competitiveness and innovation of Europe.

The in depth discussions confirmed that Research Infrastructures are increasingly becoming open resources for data, instruments and collections, not only for researchers but also for Industries and the general public. These "trade posts" between Research, Education and Industry are already involving most of the one million researchers in Europe and many more internationally, as well as millions of other people from society and industry. They offer services responding to important societal challenges such as energy, health, environment and innovation, thus contributing to jobs creation and growth. Their strategic value cannot be overestimated also in their capability to generate revolutionary new technologies and competitive new industries. The international environment in which they operate offers educational and training opportunities as well as an increased attraction of international researchers and industries to the European Research Area.

The following recommendations for the Member States and the European Commission emerge as a priority:

- **Focus** the Horizon 2020 resources available for Research and ICT based Infrastructures in the next work programme in a strategically effective way concentrating on actions that have significant impact in overcoming bottlenecks.
- **Facilitate** the coordination and synchronization of programs and calls, with comparable formats and criteria, in Horizon 2020 and the European Structural and Investment Funds so as to allow easier and more effective use of all Financial Instruments.
- **Exploit** the ERIC instrument in helping the setting-up of pan European Research Infrastructures. Attention should be given in the future to the human resources issues with the use in particular of the RESAVER Pension scheme and to the tax issues with better support for in-kind contributions aspects.
- **Use** EU and other resources in order to attract, train and retain a European workforce of researchers and high quality technicians by exploiting fully the possibilities offered by RIs.
- **Support** ESFRI as a provider of strategic indications, not only on roadmaps, but evolving best and shared practices on gap analysis and decision making, combining different financial supports and instruments.
- **Move** on the basis of the experiences gained in ESFRI towards convergence of European and national evaluation and prioritization methods and towards pooling of national resources.