Recommendations from InRoad Project

Gerd Rücker
DLR-Project Management Agency
InRoad Project Objectives

To contribute to a better harmonisation and synchronisation of priority-setting, funding and lifecycle management of Research Infrastructures (RI) through the exchange of best practices.
InRoad’s Data Basis

Consultation, Regional Workshops, Case studies and Interviews:

- **27** Surveyed countries (22 MS, 5 AC)
- **5** Regional Workshops
- **56** Interviews
  - **4** Case studies of roadmap processes (*Finland, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Sweden*)
  - **~30** RIs interviews
**Recommendations** for a higher degree of coordination between national and European RI **roadmapping processes**

1. **National RI roadmapping processes** contain at least **minimal key elements:**
   - **Regular updates of inventories** of existing RIs and an **identification of needs and gaps** (i.e. through landscape analysis);
   - **Long-term strategic priorities** and a **transparent prioritisation of national needs** that take into account the **European perspectives**;
   - **Evaluation of RI** relevance according to **scientific, managerial, strategic and societal dimensions** and corresponding **monitoring mechanisms**, which consider national strategic priorities and scientific needs as well as lifecycle stages of the RI;
   - **Prioritisation** of new and existing RIs in view of the **available funding** for RIs.
Recommendations for a higher degree of coordination between national and European RI roadmapping processes

2 Better integration of RI roadmapping processes into the national research and innovation eco-systems and across other relevant national policies (education, health, etc.)

Regional authorities managing European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) could play a key role in linking regional, national and European systems through the development of Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3).

In turn, such integration would make the RI roadmaps and strategies at different levels (national and regional) more visible, more sustainable and less vulnerable to changing political cycles.

This integration of RI roadmaps and strategies would support both strategic planning and prioritisation, and contribute to the socio-economic impact of RIs.
Some communities have longstanding experience in collaborating across borders and advocating for their RI needs in a more unified way. It would be beneficial for other communities to adopt such approaches. In turn, this would help them form strong user communities and submit common RI projects at national or European level, thus using synergies and avoiding redundancies.

Recommendations for a higher degree of coordination between national and European RI roadmapping processes

3 National RI roadmaps connect to long-term funding plans.

To ensure transparency and foster coordination between and across levels (regional, national, European), InRoad encourages the inclusion of long-term funding plans in the national RI roadmap, even when it does not include direct funding commitments.

4 User communities prioritise their needs with a long-term perspective in order to increase sustainable collaboration in the same and/or interdisciplinary thematic areas.
Recommendations for a higher degree of coordination between regional, national and European funding frameworks

5

EU Member States and Associated Countries improve financial predictability and stability across RIs’ entire lifecycle and guarantee the ability to provide RI services to a broad user community.

Budgetary commitments for ERICs at national level be planned in a similar way as for intergovernmental organisations.

Strengthening national and international funding mechanisms for access to and coordination of facilities (TNA).
**Recommendations** for a higher degree of coordination between regional, national and European **funding frameworks**

6 **Closer synergies across regional, national and European levels**, both through greater coherence among priority-setting exercises within research and innovation policies and an adjustment of the regulatory frameworks of the different instruments.

**Simplification and alignment of rules** between ESIF (for R&I) and EU FP.

7 **Fostering communication, mutual learning and cooperation** through the exchange of information between RIs and other stakeholders, to promote adequate and sustainable RI funding and enhance the societal value of RIs.
Summary

• **Key elements** to be included in national RI roadmapping processes;

• Recommendations to **align RI policies with national strategic priorities and funding plans**.

• **Better understanding of existing RI funding instruments** and regulations across all lifecycle stages of RIs;

• Adoption of **transparent and simple processes** of application for funding.
INROAD FINAL REPORT
MAIN FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you for your attention

Gerd Rücker – DLR Project Management Agency

Gerd.Ruecker@dlr.de

www.inroad.eu