

# **Workshop: “the socio-economic relevance of RIs”**

## **Goals and Objectives**

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# The ERF

## The European Research Facilities association

- coordinates development and free open access of forefront multidisciplinary facilities for European research, in all fields of Science;
- develops mechanisms and best practices for the international provision of high quality research facilities funded by Member States in the EU;
- acts as a single voice representing the Associates with decision-makers;
- facilitates the availability of high quality research facilities by encouraging cooperation of the Associates also through specific joint initiatives or consortia, and the joint acquisition of resources.

# Why the workshop

- Most Research Infrastructures are costly and:
  - To be competitive they must be managed in ways unfamiliar to most investors
  - For example they must give (some?-a lot of?) “free open access” to competitive users, without asking fees
- Managers of RIs know that, by doing this, the results are the best:
  - Surely for science!!!
  - But also for Society.....?
  - And even for the Economy.....?
- But how do we convince the funders, and the public , and the media.....? Narratives are nice but less and less easy going....in times of financial strictures....

# How to understand and improve ?

- What is a Research Infrastructure
- What are its Stakeholders
- What are the impacts of RIs on stakeholders:
  - How do we describe them
  - How do we quantify them
- Which impacts are measurable in:
  - Social terms
  - Economic terms

ERF's scope is to help improve all aspects, as, e.g. the human resources, the impact on the environment, open access, etc.

# What is a research “Infrastructure”?

- A facility built + upgraded+ staffed+operated for a “mission”: attract and serve EXTERNAL researchers.
- The (ideal) owners ask managers to focus on excellence: no interference on the choice of users
- Two main types: limited and unlimited access
- For limited access: to ensure quality, a relevant access quota by unbiased selection of best users
- For unlimited access, selection mainly on the upload by best/reliable data providers

# **The ESFRI criteria**

**(supported by ERF)**

- excellence, recognized at EU and international level (in scientific research, education, technology);**
- managerial excellence to deliver top level services, attracting a widely diversified and international community of scientific users;**
- open access to rare resources through international competition based only on excellence (selection by peer review);**
- public, open access & publication for all research data produced on public funding;**
- clear pan-EU added value as measured by the type and international outreach of users (e.g. more than 30% of users coming from non host/non owner Countries) and by integration in distributed international facilities.**
- access either for training or for proprietary research offered additionally, not interfering with peer reviewed access;**

# Goals and objectives

- Evolve from narrating to quantifying
- Disentangle different stakeholders and returns
- Improve documented evidence of impacts
- Improve status of play at national and EU level: i.e Horizon 2020 (declaration)
- Improve capability to increase positive impacts