

# Towards 2020: New Horizons for RTD and Innovation in the Western Balkan Region

WBC-INCO.NET Final Conference & Brokerage Event

Tech Gate Vienna / Donau-City-Straße 1 / 1220 Vienna / Austria

## Parallel Session 5: RTDI Infrastructures

# International cooperation for improving RTDI Infrastructure

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# Dr. George BONAS - CeRISS

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- ▶ **Dr. George BONAS** is a founding member and Managing Director of the **Centre for Regional and International Studies and Support – CeRISS**, an entity dedicated to Research-support activities in the field of STI with specific emphasis on International Cooperation.
- ▶ Dr. Bonas has been member of several policy-making committees and panels dealing with International Cooperation in STI (INCO, MoCo, etc.) and coordinated several projects in that field.

# Improving RTDI Infrastructure...

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- ▶ A major concern in all the EU's Neighbor countries (WBCs, EaP, MPCs) and in several EU MS
  - ▶ The political and economic crises constitute obvious reasons for that
- ▶ Infrastructure construction, renewal or upgrade:
  - ▶ A constant request from the research communities;
  - ▶ Not satisfactorily addressed so far;
  - ▶ Lack of funds: not the unique reason, other factors exist

# Planning, Funding, Exploiting Infra

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- ▶ Under conditions of scarcity of funds, optimizing the use of resources is of paramount importance
  - ▶ How optimal the planning of infrastructure is?
  - ▶ Are the funding schemes adequate?
  - ▶ Are the exploitation plans sound?
- ▶ **The EU developed a considerable knowhow:**
  - ▶ A Roadmap at the EU's level (ESFRI);
  - ▶ Development of National Roadmaps;
  - ▶ Use of the Structural Funds for improving Infrastructure

# Sharing knowledge

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- ▶ The WBC's (and other EU's neighborhood regions) can benefit from the Union's knowledge, policies and practices:
  - ▶ **To optimize the development of RTDI infrastructure at national and regional levels;**
  - ▶ **To develop infrastructures in a coherent way as a part of a common Knowledge and Innovation Space**

# Developing a **Regional Infra Roadmap**

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- ▶ **Exploit the knowhow** acquired from the ESFRI Roadmap (process, benefits, etc.);
- ▶ **Building on achievements** in Regional STI cooperation (ERANETs, e-Infrastructures, etc.);
- ▶ With **political support** from the *Steering Platform*;
- ▶ To complement the *concept of Regional Partner Facilities* in Eastern and South-Eastern EU MS;
- ▶ **Mutually beneficial** for EU and WBCs
  - ▶ Complementarity;
  - ▶ Interoperability;
  - ▶ Reciprocal use, etc.



To complement the puzzle

# Developing a **National Infra Roadmap**

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- ▶ Exploit **good practice examples** from individual EU MS;
- ▶ Very important especially when limited funds are available.
  
- ▶ **Why National RTDI Infra Roadmaps?**
  - ▶ To **prioritize** the needs in infrastructure;
  - ▶ To propose **infra well-rooted** in the national capabilities;
  - ▶ In order to ensure an **optimal exploitation**;
  - ▶ To **convince stakeholders** (policy makers, civil society).

# Seeking **funding from IPA**

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- ▶ Sharing good practices from EU MS on the use of Structural Funds
  - ▶ Sound and well documented proposals;
  - ▶ Addressed to relevant national authorities;
  - ▶ Mobilize the right persons (usually beyond the research field);
  - ▶ Mobilize the Instrument itself (IPA but also ENI/EaP, etc.)
- ▶ *The existence of a National or a Regional Roadmap can be extremely supportive for seeking such funding...*



# To conclude...

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**International cooperation** activities between WBCs and EU MS can be instrumental in terms of *knowhow transfer* for the **development of RTDI Roadmaps** and/or for **securing financial support** from adequate funding instruments





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# Thank You For Your Attention!

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