The RISCAPE project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 730974.

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RISCAPE goals

... is to provide **systematic, focused, high quality, comprehensive, consistent and peer-reviewed...**

international **landscape analysis** report ...

on the **position and complementarities of the major European research infrastructures in the international research infrastructure landscape.**
What is landscape analysis?

• **A Landscape analysis** is a type of organisational analysis, where information of the main actors of some specific field are **systematically** collected.
  - In this case the organisations are **Research Infrastructures**

• **Many similarities to the geographical map making:**
  - One needs to **select viewpoints** and **parameters** to map
    - These affect how the information is perceived
  - It is important to be **consistent** throughout the analysis
  - **Never perfect** representation of reality
Differences to some other initiatives

- **RISCAPE Landscape analysis is global – but eurocentric (or ESFRI centric)**
  - Global in the sense that the goal is to map all areas of world (but NOT Europe)
  - Eurocentric in a sense that the analysis concentrates on RIs **complementary** to the ESFRI roadmap Ris

- **I.e. we do not map the whole landscape (i.e. like ESFRI or MERIL do in Europe)**

- **RISCAPE concentrates on most likely complementary RIs**
Partners are from domains analysed

E-science

Environment

Physics & Engineering

Methods

Energy

Social Sciences

Astronomy

Medical Science and Food security

Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities

Coordination and dissemination
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Stages of RISCAPE

2017
- Defining methodology
- Creating Stakeholder interaction
- Engagement of European RIs and clusters (defining int. targets)

2018
- Information collection from international Ris (ONGOING)
- Consolidation and quality control (ONGOING)

2019
- Finalization and Peer Review
- Dissemination
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RISCAPE EXPERIENCES IN INTERNATIONAL ANALYSIS

(this far...)

WWW.RISCAPE.EU
Challenge I : Terminological

What is a research infrastructure?
Research infrastructure?

• Even in Europe, the RI definitions differ from source to source

• The term ”research infrastructure” is NOT used in many countries
  – .. and can be even a loaded term in some – thus we needed to define it carefully
RISCAPE approach

• **Our goal was to make an RI landscape usable to ESFRI RIs**
  – SOME similarity to ESFRI is needed

• **Using the stakeholder panel, literature analysis and domain specialists, we ended up on common ”RI” characteristics**
  – Longevity over ”typical research project”
  – Science orientation
  – Services provided also for non-employees
  – Significance in the field

• **Also, we limited some things done outside of RIs out (e.g. satellites, meteorological monitoring..)**

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Example

- **NASA in USA**
  - Clearly not a typical “RI”, as it is a government agency? Surely not an RI? Even they say that they are not an RI.
Solution for terminology

• Good *literature analysis* is needed – use the understanding of the field and scientists

• Use of *EU-centric* terminology can be very confusing or even lead to misunderstandings

• Define terms, and be able to discuss them with the organisations you are working with
Challenge II: Unknown unknowns

How do we find the RIs?
Finding the RIs (I)

Known unknowns
Using institutional knowledge & stakeholders in different levels

Engaging the ESFRI RIs via cluster projects
“who does similar things than you do internationally?”

Stakeholder panel & consultations

“Is the list what we need?”
Finding the RI s (II)

Unknown unknowns

• We noticed that some areas in the world did not have much potential RI s in main method
  – Are there unknown unknowns?
  – Direct top down approach using ministries, etc for information collection – mixed results this far
  – Use of other indirect methods
    • Literature analysis, conferences, rumours…
Finding international RIs

- Use institutional knowledge
- Ask scientists! They follow the literature
- Use domain specialists to communicate
  - Avoids some of the pitfalls
- Sometimes top-down is the only way
  - Very challenging, and results may vary
Challenge III: Social

How to make contact?
How we are sure we get the information we need?
We all love questionnaires..

• After a long period of investigating potential use scenarios we ended up with a long list of questions...

  • Introduction
  • Basic institutional data
    – Org name, type, etc.
  • Long term vision
    – Funding, business plans, directions
  • Focus and mission
    – Services provided, challenges tackled

  • Access to services
    – Quotas, criteria, etc
    – Data policy, licences
  • Impact indicators
    – Existence, reports
  • Complementarity with EU Ris
  • Technical capabilities
  • Science challenges
  • Ecosystem
    – Dependencies

• Understandably, just sending them to organisations will not be ideal
RISCAPE approach

- **Structured interviews** – *with a real person asking the questions*
- **Initial contacts points** preferably from EU RIs or scientists – *personal is often needed*
  - Well planned information package for contact (why, how, when, how long it takes, etc.)
- **Pre-filled answers** as much as possible
  - Limits the time needed
- **Some time for friendly conversation**
  - Avoids misunderstandings
  - Interviewer must have domain expertise
- **Send collected data for confirmation afterwards!**
  - Builds trust
  - Common database -> traceability
Overcoming reluctance and avoiding misunderstandings

• **Use personal networks if possible**
  – Explain well the framework, benefits, and reason for your contact

• **Try to minimize effort needed from the contact**

• **Have two-way communication**
Take home messages

- **Even mapping International RIs can be challenging from many perspectives**
  - Terminology needs to be well defined – but flexible if needed
  - Finding connections: User experiences, “knowledge in the organisations”
  - Personal contacts are the best way – use of connections and introductions help to build trust
Project info and contact

• Horizon 2020 project
• 2017-2019
• Coordinated by U. Helsinki, Finland

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What to collect?

Too much?  

Too little?  

You are here
The goal is to find collaboration partners -> complementarities