

Introductory remarks on participation of infrastructure projects from the Polish Roadmap in the ESFRI Pan-European initiatives

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Introductory remarks on RI, Warsaw, 30 May 2011

- **In the recent decades scientific research activities are increasingly focused on searching for solutions to global, long term societal challenges.**
- **Poland has identified priority areas for research activities which correspond to these critical issues. They include fields of technological and societal developments and research necessary to create knowledge-based society enjoying high quality of life, safety and security.**
- **These areas are complemented by activities aiming at advancement of science through basic and interdisciplinary research.**



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- Poland has recognized that large research facilities, able to consolidate scientific potential of a country, a region or the whole Europe, are becoming increasingly important research tools helping to formulate responses to these global issues.
- Responding to the needs of the Polish research community and following a recommendation by ESFRI concerning national research infrastructure (RI) roadmaps, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education has formulated a strategic vision for RI development in Poland, called “the Polish RI Roadmap”.
- The primary criteria for the projects selection to the Roadmap were their cross-disciplinarity, competitiveness, innovative approach and ability to consolidate respective scientific communities in Poland.



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- The RIs present in the Roadmap shall form the core of a research centre involving leading research units and teams in a particular scientific field. A key feature of such research centre should be an open-access policy, based on scientific excellence.
- The Roadmap includes 33 investments projects at various stage of readiness:
 - 12 projects concerned with science development (astronomy, astrophysics, physics – 7; interdisciplinary sciences – 5).
 - 21 projects in areas corresponding to long term societal challenges (life in society – 1; health care – 5; production, storage and transport of energy – 4; advanced materials and technologies – 3; intelligent systems and infrastructure – 2; sustainable development of natural and human environments – 6).



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- The institutions involved in these projects, outstanding national leaders in the above research fields, embrace 20 academic entities, 11 institutes of the Polish Academy of Sciences and 10 industrial research institutes.
- Funding required for construction of all the RIs is estimated at the 1.5 billion euro level, with another $\frac{3}{4}$ billion euro for operations and maintenance over the next 10 years.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ billion euro has been already allocated for construction of several RIs from the Roadmap (with further $\frac{3}{4}$ billion euro spent on facilities outside the Roadmap), mainly from the Structural Funds.
- (Overall 1,1 billion euro from the Structural Funds has been allocated for investment in RIs in Poland in this financial perspective).



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- **The construction of facilities from the Roadmap without secured funding would require about 1 billion euro for initial investments.**
- **5 projects from the Polish Roadmap fall into the area of health care and pro-health activities:**
 - **3 are international projects from the ESFRI Roadmap, namely: ELIXIR, Euro-Bioimaging and EU-Openscreen.**
 - **2 projects constitute national RI facilities, with the potential for reaching an international (regional) dimension in a foreseeable future: the European Institute of Environmental Cancer (EIEC) and the Centre for Preclinical and Technological Research (CePT).**



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- In the next update of the Polish Roadmap further projects in biological and medical sciences, present on the 2010 ESFRI Roadmap may be included.
- Poland has also commenced preparations of legal and organisational character, aiming for establishment of bio-banks.
- These illustrates the recognition by Polish science communities and the science administration of the importance for addressing the challenges of healthcare and pro-health activities. They encompass an identification of the risk for health from the general and occupational environment as well as lifestyle related individual choices, in particular for ageing population.



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- **At the same time Poland is developing internal procedures for participation in legal structures of European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).**
- **Such broad plans for involvement in the European initiatives demonstrate determination of the Polish authorities to contribute meaningfully to development of ERA.**
- **However, financial resources from the science budget for investment in RIs are very limited, and the global financial difficulties are not helpful.**
- **It will be necessary to rely significantly on other sources of funding, such as Cohesion Structural Funds and Framework Programmes.**



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- **The Ministry is pursuing various avenues in the efforts to resolve the financial issues:**
 - **internally, we are developing a comprehensive vision for rules of financial support of RIs from the science budget,**
 - **on the European arena we are proposing to focus (perhaps with increased use of the Structural Funds) on implementation of distributed RIs from the ESFRI Roadmap – such approach would strengthen the research base in the Convergence Regions (including Poland),**
 - **as already mentioned, Poland participates in 3 such RIs in the biological and medical sciences.**



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Thank you for your attention



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