



II RICH Europe Symposium

Maximising synergies in Science and Innovation through Research Infrastructures

When: 25th-26th February 2026

Where: Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Di Rome

Viale Castro Pretorio, 105 (00185 Roma. Italy)

Background

European Research Infrastructures (RIs) are pivotal in advancing frontier research, fostering innovation, and addressing societal challenges. As strategic assets of the European Research Area (ERA), RIs support excellent science, serve cross-border collaborations, and contribute to Europe's global competitiveness.

In the context of Horizon Europe, there is a pressing need to maximise the impact of RIs through strengthened synergies. This includes enhanced coordination with the Horizon Europe Clusters, and other Horizon Europe initiatives like European Partnerships, EU missions, National Contact Point (NCP) networks, the Joint Research Council (JRC), and other programmes and instruments such as Digital Europe, or the Structural Funds.

This event will serve as a platform to explore and promote multi-level synergies:

- Among RIs themselves (cross-discipline and cross-border),
- Between RIs and other Horizon Europe instruments, like clusters, National Contact Point (NCP) networks, Technology Infrastructures, JRC...
- Synergies between RI funding instruments to align R&I investments
- Synergies between RI strategies (ESFRI Roadmap, national roadmaps, S3 strategies...)
- Synergy and networking with industry and the private sector to foster knowledge transfer, co-innovation, and the uptake of RI-generated results in real-world applications

Objectives:

- Promote systemic synergies across European RIs and with key Horizon Europe instruments.
- Showcase successful models of synergy among RIs, partnerships and clusters.
- Promote the involvement of the RIs in other parts of the Horizon Europe programme.
- Enhance European Research Infrastructures (RIs) synergies to foster scientific excellence and innovation



- Analyse how European research infrastructures can be used more effectively in collaboration with other Horizon Europe instruments and other EU scientific programmes and initiatives.
- Identify practical pathways for reinforcing cooperation between RIs and other EU instruments.
- Facilitate dialogue among stakeholders to align strategic priorities and maximise the added value of RIs across policy levels.
- Support capacity building and skills development to enable more effective participation of RIs in EU programmes.
- Promote interoperability and data sharing between RIs and other EU-funded initiatives to accelerate scientific discovery and innovation

Key Themes and Topics:

- Cross-RI Collaboration: Best practices in interoperability, data sharing, and joint service provision.
- Synergies with Horizon Europe Clusters: Real-world use cases from Health (CI 1), Industry and Digital (CI 4), and Environmental sectors (CI 6).
- Synergies with other programmes and stakeholders relevant for the RIs.
- Synergies between RI funding instruments

Target Audience:

- RI managers and operators (ESFRI and national infrastructures)
- Researchers and academic institutions
- European Partnerships and other HE initiatives such as National contact points, Widening programmes
- and funding agencies

Contribute towards:

- **Enhanced synergies among Research Infrastructures (RIs)**, fostering more integrated and efficient use of resources across Europe.
- **Established framework collaborations** between RIs and other Horizon Europe instruments, promoting strategic alignment and joint initiatives.
- **Policy recommendations** to support alignment and coherence in funding mechanisms, enabling long-term sustainability and interoperability.
- **Reinforced networks and strategic alliances**, facilitating systemic collaboration, capacity building, and the scaling of best practices across disciplines and borders.
- **Increased visibility and accessibility of RI services and capacities** for a broader range of stakeholders, including industry, SMEs, and societal actors.



PROGRAMME - DAY 1, 25TH FEBRUARY 2026

14:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOMING COFFEE

15:00H WELCOMING WORDS - Representative of the Italian Ministry (TBC)

15:10-15:30 H KEYNOTE SPEAKER- ESFRI (TBC)

15:30-16:30 H SESSION I: INTEROPERABILITY, COOPERATION AND SYNERGIES AMONG RIs

Objective: To show success stories of cross-infrastructure collaboration, shared data and services. Best practices in interoperability, data sharing, and joint service provision among RIs.

Potential Speakers:

- **Fostering research infrastructure ecosystems for addressing complex scientific and societal challenges. *Global Science Forum*.**
- **NEutrons and PHotons Elevating Worldwide Science, NEPHEWS project.**
- **Food, health and environment research infrastructures to tackle emerging priorities- FHERITALE project.**

16:30H-18:00H SESSION II: SYNERGIES BETWEEN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND THE CLUSTERS OF PILLAR II OF THE HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAMME

Objective:

- To explore how Research Infrastructures (RIs) are enabling impactful research, fostering interdisciplinary innovation, and contributing to the objectives of Horizon Europe Pillar II Clusters. To show successful examples where RIs have directly supported Pillar II research projects will be presented.
- To debate among RI projects and Cluster projects to identify gaps, bottlenecks, and emerging opportunities to strengthen collaboration.

Potential Speakers:

Health preparedness through RIs- Cluster 1:

- **Integrated Services for Infectious Disease Outbreak Research, ISIDORE project.**
- **BE READY NOW - European Partnership for Pandemic Preparedness.**



Advancing Research Infrastructures with AI- Cluster 4

- Unlocking RI potential with Scalable AI and Data- RI-SCALE project.
- Adaptive virtualization for AI-enabled Cloud-edge Continuum – CloudSkin project.

Research Infrastructures as Enablers of Agroecological Transition - Cluster 6

- Integrated SERVICES supporting a sustainable AGROecological transition – AgroServ project.
- Paving the Way towards Digitalisation Enabling Agroecology for European Farming Systems- PATH2DEA project.

18:00h-19.00 NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

19:00-20.00 NETWORKING COCKTAIL

PROGRAMME - DAY 2, 26th February 2026

9:30H MORNING COFFEE

10:00h- 11:30h SESSION III: SYNERGIES WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES AND STAKEHOLDERS

Objective: To show success stories of the collaboration of RIs in other pillars of HE and with other initiatives like the Technology Infrastructures, NCPs networks, JRC or Widening programmes

Potencial Speakers:

- Integration of RI and Technology Infrastructures into European R&I
- RIs in Pillar III
- Synergies with other NCPs networks.
- RIs and the JRC: Opportunities for alignment and joint knowledge production
- How RIs can support capacity building, access and training in Widening countries.



11.30h- 13:00h SESSION IV: SYNERGIES BETWEEN RI FUNDING INSTRUMENTS

Objective: To show RI experiences with a mix of funding sources and to share best practices among RIs.

Potencial Speakers:

- Funding of Research Infrastructures. ESFRI
- RIs case studies: successful case of mixing funding instruments
 - ELI-ERIC. Extreme Light Infrastructure.
 - EU SOLARIS-ERIC. European Research Infrastructure for Concentrated Solar Power /Solar Thermal Energy.
 - LOFAR ERIC- [LOFAR-BG](#). Bulgarian LOFAR station (low frequency radio array/telescope).
- Other programmes to fund RI activities: Digital Europe.Digital Europe Programme (Digital).

13:00h CLOSURE- European Commission (TBC)

13:15- COCKTAIL NETWORKING

14.30 h RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE VISIT