

# RESAW seminar and Horizon 2020

---

*First draft of a roadmap for the following steps*

## **Horizon 2020**

The budget for Horizon 2020 is still being negotiated between the Commission, the Parliament, and the Council. If negotiations are finished no later than the Autumn (as planned) the call for proposals will be out in January/February 2014, probably with a deadline for applications around May 2014. According to my sources finishing the negotiations may be impending, maybe within the coming weeks.

As mentioned by Niels in the web discussion (session 1) we consider a Horizon 2020 application to be the top priority of RESAW, and we would offer to act as co-ordinator of such an application and to initiate the establishing of a consortium (our university has agreed to assume the role of co-ordinator and our Research Support Office has agreed to support the writing of the application).

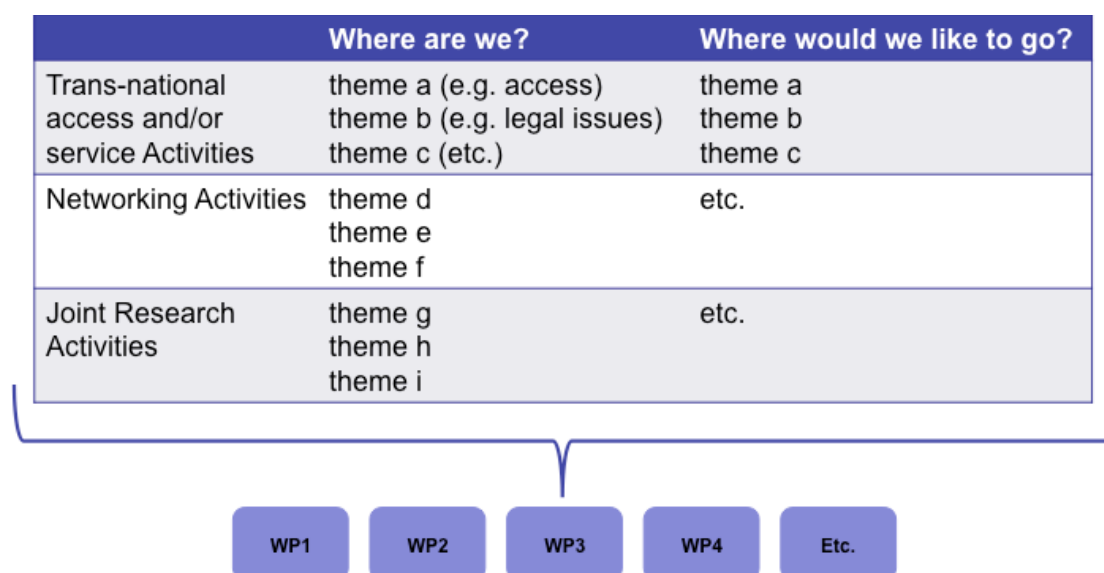
This means that we have to focus the discussions during the seminar on some of the issues that are probably going to be key issues in the application. In EU's Frame Program 7 (FP7) Research Infrastructures (RI) were part of the programme 'Capacities', and the guiding principles for the actions named "Integrating Activities" within FP7 was: a) Trans-national access and/or service Activities, b) Networking Activities, c) Joint Research Activities. These three guiding principles for actions were also stressed as mandatory in the call for proposals to which we responded in October 2012 (cf. the text reproduced at the end of this document).

In contrast to FP7 Horizon 2020 will be divided in three major parts, and RIs are to be found in the part 'Excellent science' (the two others being 'Industrial leadership' and 'Societal challenges'). These major parts are to be implemented in work programmes. Although we do not know for sure yet if the three types of actions of "Integrating activities" mentioned above are also going to be the guidelines in Horizon 2020 we assume that they will, especially since they are still mentioned in the call linking FP7 to Horizon 2020.

## The seminar in December

We suggest that we use these three types of activities as one of the structuring principles for the seminar in Aarhus in December, and that they are combined with, first, a temporal perspective — where are we, and where would we like to go? — and, second, with the issues we think should be debated (cf. the suggested matrix below). Some of these issues probably emerge from the web discussions, cf. the summary of the first web discussion (and we will also make summaries of the following web debates), and we may all come up with other issues.

Thus, the overall objective of the seminar will be to combine the three types of activities which are (probably) mandatory for "Integrating activities" in Horizon 2020 with the issues we all want to discuss in RESAW with a view to making these two merge into a first drafts of possible work packages (WPs). We will, of course, make supporting documents, an outline of a possible time schedule, etc. and guide the process as we move forward. We will ask some of you to prepare supporting documents or short presentations for the seminar to some of these points. And we will also prepare some ourselves. We will start making drafts of the programme for the seminar in August and circulate these to all of you, for comments.



Suggested matrix for organizing the next steps

Niels Ole Finnemann & Niels Brügger, June 2013

Excerpts from “Consultation on possible topics for future activities for integrating and opening existing national research infrastructures”, the supporting document to the call for proposals, the section ‘What are Integrating Activities’.

### Three mandatory types of activities

Under FP7, each funded project (typically up to € 10 Million of EU contribution, over 4 years) is a combination of three mandatory types of activities:

a) **Trans-national access and/or service Activities**, to provide trans-national access of researchers or research teams to one or more infrastructures among those operated by participants, and/or to provide access to scientific services freely available through communication networks (e.g. databases available via Internet). Trans-national access may be made available to external users, either in person ("hands-on") or through the provision of remote scientific services, such as the provision of reference materials or samples or the performance of sample analysis. EU financial support should cover only part of the annual operating costs of the infrastructure to prevent it from becoming dependent on the EU contribution and should not include capital investments. This financial support serves to provide access "free of charge" to external users, including all the infrastructural, logistical, technological and scientific support (training courses for using the research infrastructures, and travel and subsistence for users, are supported to).

b) **Networking Activities**, to foster a culture of co-operation between research infrastructures, scientific communities and other key stakeholders, and help developing a more efficient and attractive European Research Area. Examples of activities are (non-exhaustive list): joint management of access; definition of common standards, protocols and interoperability; spreading of good practices, consultancy and training courses to new users; dissemination and/or exploitation of project results and knowledge, outreach toward industry, fostering and measuring contribution to socio-economic impacts, promotion of innovation; strengthening of virtual research communities; development and maintenance of common databases for the purpose of networking and management of the users and infrastructures; foresight studies for new instrumentation, methods, concepts and/or technologies; promotion of clustering and coordinated actions amongst related projects; coordination with national or international related initiatives and support to the deployment of global and sustainable approaches in the field; promotion of long term sustainability, including the involvement of funders and the preparation of a business plan beyond the end of the project; etc.

c) **Joint Research Activities**, to improve, in quality and/or quantity, the services provided by the infrastructures. Examples of activities are (non-exhaustive list): higher performance methodologies and protocols; higher performance instrumentation, including the testing of components, subsystems, materials, techniques and dedicated software; integration of installations and infrastructures into virtual facilities; innovative solutions for data collection, management, curation, annotation, deposition; etc.

## Objectives of “Integrating Activities”

As under FP7, future EU actions are expected to:

- Bring together and integrate, on a European scale, key research infrastructures, in order to promote their coordinated use and development;
- Provide the users of research infrastructures with a harmonised, improved and optimised access to the best research infrastructures in a given field, independent of where the research infrastructures are located and by whom they are operated;
- Create the basis for a more rapid advancement of science in Europe, enabling the development of new advanced technologies and the associated growth of the European technology market as well as the creation of a new generation of researchers, ready to exploit in the best way all the essential tools needed for their research;
- Harmonise and organise the continuous flux of data collected or produced, by integrating major scientific equipment (telescopes, synchrotrons, research vessels, etc.) or set of instruments (sensors, microscopes, radars, etc.), as well as knowledge based resources (collections, archives, structured scientific information, data infrastructures, etc.);
- Structure the European Research Area, by developing synergies and complementarities between infrastructure operators, as well as a more coordinated approach with users and public authorities;
- Increase the potential for innovation and technology transfer of the related research infrastructures, in particular by reinforcing the partnership with industry and the use of research infrastructures by industrial researchers;
- Contribute to developing appropriate skills in Europe.