

Pilot Actions

LOT 1

ResInfra@DR call for Expressions of Interest

to participate in a ResInfra@DR support activity
addressed to research organisations, ministries and agencies

- planning, developing and upgrading research infrastructures;
- establishing research infrastructure networks; widening the participation in networked research infrastructures

ADDRESSED TO
RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,
RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES
AND THEIR PARENT ORGANISATIONS

**ResInfra@DR - Pilot Activity 2 within the project
ResInfra@DR**

BACKGROUND

The ResInfra@DR project is designed to strengthen Research Infrastructures (RI) in the Danube macro-region (DR) and runs from January 2017 to June 2019. The project is co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA).

The main activities of the ResInfra@DR project include:

- a dialogue focusing on relevant regional, national and macro regional but also EU level policy fields involving also end-users of RIs;
- special trainings for defined target groups, thus contributing to capacity building with an outreach to the entire macro-region and beyond the partnership involved;
- a collection of a dataset of competent and qualified reviewers for RI assessments;
- **two pilot activities focusing on**
 - (a) peer actions including nine existing RIs (pilot activity 1, not subject of this ToR);
 - (b) LOT 1 Ex-ante support of three planned or to be upgraded RIs in countries of the Danube macro region (pilot activity 2 und subject of this ToR);**
- the dedicated dissemination and capitalisation actions contribute to the policy take up and utilisation of the results.

The present call concerns the second pilot activity, “Ex-ante support to three planned or to be upgraded RIs in the macro region”.

The second pilot activity puts a focus

- (a) on existing or future support measures resp. funding schemes which are/will be supporting RIs. (NOT subject of LOT 1 of this EoI call)
- (b) on planned research infrastructures where substantial parts already exist including planned networked RIs; (subject of LOT1 of this EoI call)**
- (c) the further development or the envisaged upgrading of existing research infrastructures including networked RIs; (subject of LOT1 of this EoI call).**

This LOT1 call addresses the research organisations planning or upgrading their RIs or networked RIs, parent organisations involved in such process but also ministries and agencies involved in the planning or upgrading of RIs. Especially encouraged are organisations that already operate parts of a research infrastructure and look for further development.

Throughout the activity, entities responding to this Expressions of Interest (EoI) call will receive **recommendations and expert opinions free of charge**. Expert fees and travel costs will be covered by ResInfra@DR.

PURPOSE

The main **purpose of this call LOT1 for EoIs** is to identify **interested research entities or parent organisations of RIs** wishing to participate in the **pilot activity focusing on Research Infrastructures in the Danube macro-region**. Received EoIs will enable the local partners of ResInfra@DR to define useful support actions in a dialogue process together with the interested parties.

The core element of this support action will consist of specific **recommendations provided by an expert team** that will work together with the ResInfra@DR partnership. Teams have to be set up according to the questions addressed and will consist of external experts who can be identified and selected on a case by case basis and of ResInfra@DR partners. After reaching an agreement regarding the profiles of the necessary experts, ResInfra@DR will launch a separate call for experts.

During this highly cooperative process of experts working with the interested applicants, different kind of meetings can also be organized, such as: dialogue meetings, workshops, individual meetings with important stakeholders. The provision of relevant information to the expert team from the side of the entities involved is necessary in order to enable appropriate footing of the developed recommendations.

This EoI addresses **research organisations planning or upgrading their RIs or networked RIs, their parent organisations and where relevant ministries and agencies involved in the planning or upgrading of RIs** who are looking to progress in their current preparation processes; to find new solutions for future operation, to establish new approaches for their own management e.g.

- for preparatory steps of RIs where a substantial part exists already i.e to develop a realistic vision, internal strategy or a roadmap for their further development; other steps can be supported as well;
- for the upgrading of existing RIs, specific solutions sought might concern e.g. the required HR capacities of the operating team; the user access and its management; monitoring challenges on the expected operation; other pressing questions related to the management of an RI;
- for networked infrastructures including RIs new solutions might be desired e.g. for the equality of network nodes; the establishment of new nodes, the balanced use by incoming researchers; maximising the follow up cooperation with hosted users; other pressing questions.
- for joining existing RI networks on macro regional, European or global scale - specific questions arise that e.g. concern the benefit of the national research community; relevance of participation in RI networks; other pressing issues.
- This EoI call **does not** provide assistance for the establishment of research infrastructures where no substantial parts of a RI exist or networks of RIs where not at least one RI in one of the sites already exists. This EoI call does not provide assessments for a specific investment in specific RIs which are regularly received by funders or the relevant ministries.

The core topics that will be covered through this exercise were listed above and can be further developed in accordance to the specificities of the EoI call applicant. Moreover, the exact focus needs to be defined in a further step together with the ResInfra@DR partners, on a case to case basis.

This EoI invitation is directed at¹:

- **Research organisations** planning or upgrading their RIs or networked RIs, parent organisations of RIs, ministries and agencies involved in the planning or upgrading of RIs.
- **Research organisations** considering
 - the establishment of a research infrastructure where a substantial basis already exists i.e. in an existing laboratory;
 - the upgrading of an existing research infrastructure;
 - the involvement in an existing research infrastructure network;
 - specific actions which involve Danube Region countries as part of their RI activities.
- **National authorities such as ministries and agencies** in charge of research infrastructures from the Danube macro-region especially those who act as parent organisations of RIs
- **Macro-regional active networks** who intend to establish or upgrade geographically dislocated research infrastructures and who want to focus on one or more of the countries/regions to promote their involvement are welcome to submit an application as long as the EoI request is handed in from the above mentioned organisations.
- This invitation also addresses **ResInfra@DR partners** which can respond to the EoI on an equal base.
- Note that only entities from **countries part of the Danube macro region** can apply to this EoI, an exception would be the case where an initiative would be created outside of the DR but the main benefit will occur in the Danube region. Applications are welcome for the EoI request as long as they are handed in from the above mentioned organisations.

This specific EoI does not address funders or Research funding agencies who look to develop their funding programmes, in such case LOT2 of the EoI call can provide support.

¹ Typical initiatives of research infrastructures (RIs) include equipment, facilities or (virtual) platforms, material repositories, data repositories, information systems and services, which are indispensable for scientific research activities and for the dissemination of the results. RIs can be single-sited or distributed, can be an e-infrastructure, and can be part of a national or international network of facilities, or of interconnected scientific instrument networks.

FURTHER STEPS

- **Further process and outputs:** EoIs received will be screened by the ResInfra@DR partnership on how well they fit the purpose of the action along pre-defined criteria (see below). Based on the EoIs received, the partnership will start a dialogue with the selected applicants to specify core fields where the expert teams can offer support realistically and with a strong focus on the support needs.
- **ResInfra@DR partners and selected Experts** will form a team and will clarify through dialogue which are the relevant goals and the types of support that can be realistically achieved. During exchange meetings, the workmode should be defined jointly in order to maximize the applicability of results by the selected applicants.
- **The support offered** will include expert opinions and recommendations; elements of roadmaps; when necessary, thematic (scientific) expert opinions; dialogue meetings with stakeholders within or outside of the applicant's country (depending on the specificities of the case). During the first stage, a **confidential full set of recommendations** will be available for the selected applicant and the involved stakeholders. Secondly, participating organisations will jointly agree with the expert team on a **publishable and non-confidential version of the recommendations**. Finally, a concluding report based on agreed and publishable parts will be prepared and presented after agreement. In order to safeguard the information received, confidentiality declarations on the disclosure of information will be signed with all included experts.
- A core element of the action will consist of a process of **mutual learning** for the involved actors (research entities, parent organisations of RIs, or other types of selected applicants), and the team involved in planning. Therefore involved actors will be invited to a **mutual learning meeting** (including both pilot activities).
- Note that this is not a formal review or evaluation, neither a full ex-ante assessment but it can help with triggering and steering the next steps needed in order to progress with the preparations.
- ResInfra@DR will **support at least three planned RI-related initiatives**, but based on the number of EoIs received and the type of necessary support expected, this number could also be increased.
- **Financial conditions:** The offered support by the ResInfra@DR project will be **free of charge** and the process and products including the recommendations established will be **freely available for the participating organisations** and **no dedicated payment** from or to the participating organisations is envisaged. The necessary expert fees for selected thematic experts, costs of meetings and travels will be covered by ResInfra@DR.
- **Confidentiality:** The organisations answering this EoI should be aware that a certain **sharing of information** is necessary, an **agreement on disclosure of information** will be signed to ensure confidentiality throughout the process. Confidentiality declarations on the disclosure of information will be signed with

all included experts. Only explicitly agreed parts (formally approved by the participating organisations) will be shared.

- **Timing:** Note that the support takes place **till the end of January 2019**. For any further clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact one of the partners listed below.

RESPONSE AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expressions of Interest (EoIs) are sent in written and shall include 4 elements (content is kept confidential):

1. A maximum of in total 3 pages of information containing the following elements:
 - Type, background of the specific RI and the concerned initiative;
 - Information on the core stakeholders or actors involved in the process. This can also include links where information can be found;
 - Overview (can also include data) about the current situation and of the planned steps where available;
 - Stage of development in the planning - which steps have already been concluded, what is planned further;
 - Current challenges and related questions which could potentially be addressed to an expert team, including questions for which answers are sought (note that questions on financing are **not** a core point).
 - Adding questions where you currently search for solutions are important to clarify the support which can be offered realistically.
 - Where applicable, information on the strategic relevance for the Danube macro region;
 - Names of expert(s) you would suggest as potential team members of the expert team offering recommendations and support (this is not mandatory, and their inclusion in the expert team will be reviewed in accordance with the purpose of the Action).
2. A letter from the organisation informing about the general interest to participate can be added, such letter can be also added at a later stage.
3. Contact details including e-mail and phone.
4. Information on availability during October to start a clarification process.

The above points 1-4 should be prepared in English language and should be sent to: resinfra.pilot@zsi.at

TIMEFRAME

- Announcement of the call: 1 October 2018
- **EoI submission deadline: 15 October 2018 12:00 CET**
- The received EoIs will be screened by the ResInfra@DR partners. The local ResInfra@DR partners will approach the EoI applicants for further clarification

(depending on availability). A final decision on the support will be made after further clarification within the partnership.

- As a further step, a **joint meeting of the interested organisations will be organised in November 2018** (potentially in Belgrade, Budapest, Prague or Vienna).

CRITERIA

Priority criteria for inclusion in the Pilot action to be used by the ResInfra@DR partnership for the EoIs are:

- Interest and motivation of the proposer/the EoI applicant including also the internal backing of the plans;
- Feasibility of the support i.e. specific and realistic questions which the team consisting of ResInfra@DR partners and external experts can indeed provide answers for;
- Relevance for region(s) and countries of the EUSDR or further integration in european developments and integration i.e. concerning the participation in EU wide activities.

Given the complexity and the diversity of the potential applicants and EoIs received, a more precise selection criteria cannot be provided at this stage.

CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

In the case of questions, interested entities can contact the ResInfra@DR partners for further information. Once an EoI will be taken on as part of the Pilot activity 2, the corresponding partner will also support the process.

Austria:

ZSI-Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH (Centre for Social Innovation), Lead partner
Linke Wienzeile 246, 1150 Vienna, Austria
DI Martin Felix Gajdusek, Phone: +43-1-4950442-67 e-mail: gajdusek@zsi.at

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Institute of Water Management, Hydrology and Hydraulic engineering (at the Department for Water-Atmosphere-Environment)
Address: Muthgasse 107, A-1190 Vienna, Austria
Person in charge of the project: Doris Gangl e-mail: doris.gangl@boku.ac.at

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Srpska
Address: Trg Republike Srpske 1, 78000 Banja Luka
Person in charge of the project: Sinisa Marcic e-mail: s.marcic@mnk.vladars.net

Bulgaria:

Applied Research and Communication Fund

Address: 5, Alexander Zhendov St., Sofia 1113, Sofia

Person in charge of the project: Marko Hajdinjak e-mail: marko.hajdinjak@online.bg
or:

Ministry of Education and Science

Address: 2A, Kniaz Dondukov Blvd., 1000 Sofia

Person in charge of the project: Kalin Mutavchiev e-mail: k.mutavchiev@mon.bg

Croatia:

Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

Address: Dnaje Svetice 38, 10000 HR Zagreb

Person in charge of the project: Mirela Čokešić e-mail: Mirela.Cokesic@mzo.hr

Czech Republic:

Institute of Philosophy, Czech Academy of Sciences, (The Centre for Science, Technology, and Society Studies)

Address: Filosofický ústav AV ČR Kabinet pro stadium vědy, techniky a společnosti Jilská 1 110 00 Praha 1

Person in charge of the project: Jan Balon e-mail: Balon@flu.cas.cz

Hungary:

Institute of Economics,

Centre for Economic and Regional Studies,

Hungarian Academy of Sciences

1097 Budapest, Toth Kalman u. 4.

Person in charge of the project: Attila Havas e-mail: attila.havas@krtk.mta.hu

Romania:

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Address: No. 21-25 Mendeleev street, Sector 1, postal code 010362, Bucharest

Person in charge of the project: Raluca Ciobotaru e-mail: raluca.ciobotaru@uefiscdi.ro

Serbia:

Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development

Address: Njegoseva 12, 11000 Beograd/Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

Person in charge of the project: Tijana Knezevic e-mail: tijana.knezevic@mpn.gov.rs

Slovakia:

Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information

Address: Lamačská cesta 8/A, 811 04 Bratislava

Person in charge of the project: Anna Krivjanska e-mail: anna.krivjanska@cvtisr.sk

Countries part of the Danube macro-region for which no dedicated contact is identified: (Germany (Bayern, B-W only), Montenegro, Slovenia, Ukraine only oblasts included in DR) will be arranged on a case by case basis, here the following organisation can be approached:

ZSI-Zentrum für Soziale Innovation GmbH (Centre for Social Innovation), Lead partner
Linke Wienzeile 246, 1150 Vienna, Austria
DI Martin Felix Gajdusek, Phone: +43-1-4950442-67 e-mail: gajdusek@zsi.at

The ZSI will organise also the documentation of the EoI call

The document for the response to this EoI (not exceeding 10 MByte) must be sent by e-mail to: resinfra.pilot@zsi.at