

## **3rd meeting of the H2020 informal Programme Committee configuration 'Research Infrastructures'**

**Friday, 15 November 2013**  
**Centre Albert Borschette, room AB-3D**  
**Rue Froissart 36 – B-1040 Bruxelles**

### **Draft Minutes**

The meeting was co-chaired by **Thierry Van der Pyl** (Director of DG CNECT - Directorate C) and **Octavi Quintana Trias** (Director of DG RTD - Directorate B).

## **1. Welcome and introduction**

**Co-Chairs Van der Pyl & Quintana** opened the meeting of the informal H2020 PC configuration Research Infrastructures (H2020 shadow RIC).

**Co-Chair Q. (CC VdP)** referred to preparatory documents made available on CIRCA-BC, explaining that a revised version of the WP2014-15 as compared to that of 05/11/2013, had been uploaded on CIRCA-BC on 12/11/2013. According to discussions with PC some small additional changes had been made which were detailed in the accompanying explanatory note from OQT and TVdP.

**CC VdP** presented the current political context, i.e. recent approval of the legislator on 2014 budget, several parts of the WP already positively approved by PCs and pressure that lies on this PC to reach a positive vote no later than today.

## **2. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda of this meeting was unanimously approved by delegations.

## **3. Approval of the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the 25/10/2013 second meeting of the H2020 shadow RIC were unanimously approved by **delegations**. One comment from **AT** prior to the meeting has been taken into account in a new version of the minutes uploaded on CIRCA-BC on 14/11/2013.

## **4. H2020 Work Programme for Research Infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures)**

**CC VdP** proposed to start the discussions on RI Call 2, followed by Call 3 and 1. Final discussions would cover Call 4.

**CC VdP** welcomed converging comments on text with reasonable assurance that the WP14-15 would hopefully be agreed by all delegations. He urged delegates to strictly focus on major blocking issues.

## Call 2

**Philippe Froissard (PF, RTD B.3)** summarised changes that had been made to produce the 5/11/ and 12/11/2013 versions submitted to PC on CIRCA-BC. The top 4 additional topics from a survey with PC had been taken up, one of which (light sources/synchrotrons) by opening up the advanced materials topic as suggested by experts under the 2012 topics consultation. A total of 41 topics now made the revised IA topic list.

A number of specific issues were brought up by delegations, where consensual solutions were found, either resulting in defined minor changes to the suggested WP2014-15 version of 12/11/2013, or in longer term strategies as outlined.

- Under the ‘long-term ecosystems research’ topic a reference to links with LIFEWATCH project was kept, with correct spelling of the title of this project;
- under the ‘advanced materials’ topic reference to FELs was made;
- also a reference to synergies with the ESFRI projects (EUROFEL and XFEL and ELI) that build on lasers was added to the topic on lasers;
- with regard to the ‘functional materials’ topic, the topic description now terminates with ‘(...) advanced technologies.’, the following part with reference to particle beams being dropped;
- with regard to an additional separate topic on light sources as expected by **UK** and supported by several delegations (**SP, DE, BE, DK, NL, HU, ...**) to come out from the probing for topics with PC delegations, while several other delegations were not in favour (**FR, AT, EE, IT, ...**). COM referred to many topics being open for the laser/synchrotron infrastructures community. To this end also a specific sentence was added to the introduction part of Call 2, reading “Light sources facilities provide services to different user communities and as such they are encouraged to participate in all relevant topics of this Call.”. Furthermore it was agreed that a separate IA topic focussing on the laser/synchrotron light source community should be considered for the next WP 2016-17;
- with regard to the methodology to identify IA topics for the next WP2016-17, a longer planning period was agreed upon, starting with a position paper provided by COM already for the 1st formal H2020 RIC meeting probably in March 2014.

- **Co-Chair VdP** considered the discussions on Call 2 conclusive and proceeded to revisions on :

## Call 3 (e-Infrastructures)

**Kostas Glinos** gave an overview on the changes that were made by COM with regard to Call 3 covering the e-Infrastructures part of the WP2014-15.

A number of specific issues were brought up by delegations, where solutions were found, either resulting in defined small changes to the suggested WP2014-15 version of 12/11/2013 as outlined:

- As part of EINFRA-4-2014, where Point (5) should read " Develop and maintain the strategy for the deployment of a rich HPC... taking into account *"financial aspects"*, best practices for reduction of operating and energy costs, and the specifications and technical requirements for a varied set of Tier-0 systems ensuring a broad coverage of user needs";
  - Still as part of EINFRA-4-2014, where the "Expected Impact" should read "Better *"coordination"* (vs *"integration"* in the prior version) between demand and supply in the European HPC ecosystem (...)"
  - As part of EINFRA-5-2015, where second paragraph should read: "This topic will be carried out in the *"context"* (vs *"frame"* in the prior version) of the Public-Private Partnership (...)"
  - Still as part of EINFRA-5-2015, where it should read : "CoE should provide pan-European support including European countries and regions *"with less HPC resources."* (vs *"less resourced"* in the prior version).
- **Co-Chair VdP** summarised the outcome of the discussion, resumed, and asked for confirmation, that apart from one delegation (**DE**) all other delegations were in agreement with the suggested compromises.

## Call 1

**Co-Chair Quintana** then resumed discussing RTD parts of the WP2014-15.

Delegates raised a number of issues that were discussed and agreed upon to be considered in the follow-up, but not resulting in changes to, the respective parts in the present WP2014-15.

- A relatively small budget provision for the design studies topic under call 1 together with an expected high number of proposals may call for applying a 2-step evaluation procedure;
- Inclusion also of ESFRI RIs already under implementation as target beneficiaries of the INFRADEV3 call topic (on prioritised ESFRI RIs to be brought into implementation by 2015) was not accepted by the Commission for this WP, with view on the Council mandate given.
- While it was not possible that the PC would interfere with the ESFRI prioritisation work that is being finalised now, in future thematic advice from the EAG would be sought.

## **Call 4**

**Co-Chair VdP** confirmed with delegations that no roadblock issues existed as concerns call 4 of the WP2014-15.

**DE** stated that due to persisting disagreement with some parts of the WP text in EINFRA-5-2015, the delegation would not give a positive vote to the WP.

He then suggested proceeding to an informal vote on WP14-15.

There were no abstentions;

One delegation (**DE**) voted against.

The work programme, modulo the modifications agreed, received a positive opinion.

The **Co-Chair** agreed to make the revised draft work programme text available to the **delegations** by 19/11/2013 at the latest.

## **5. Any other business**

**UK** requested the Commission should release the entities' names that had proposed the selected topics for Starting Communities under the Integrating Activities call 2, as these were otherwise not known to parties e.g. in UK with an interest to join potential proposals.

**Co-Chair Q** answered that this was actually not possible due to confidentiality issues.

**FR** requested information on the methodology to be used for the choice of topics under the next call for Integrating Activities.

**Co-Chair Q** responded that a position paper on the selection of topical areas for Integrating Activities would be prepared by the **Commission** to be sent in due time to the **delegations**. It will be discussed at the 1<sup>st</sup> formal H2020 PC meeting foreseen for March 2014.

**Philippe Froissard** announced an NCP info day agreed between DG RTD and DG CNECT on 04/02/2014, date to be confirmed.

**ES** asked whether the calls foreseen in this work programme would be dealt with by the Commission or by Executive agencies.

**Co-Chair Q** answered that those calls would be dealt with by the Commission services.

**Co-Chair Q** announced potential dates for 2014 meetings on 20/03/14; 26/06/14 and 27/11/14.

## **6. Close of meeting**

**CC VdP** thanked MS'/AS' **delegates** for excellent cooperation having led to a timely agreement on the WP2014-15 for research infrastructures.

**CC VdP** closed the meeting at 13:05 hrs.