The European Network of Research Infrastructures and Industry for Collaboration

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Grant Agreement Number: 871112

Deliverable Report:

D1.3 Agenda and Minutes of the Kick-off Meeting and the Second General Assembly

1   Project Deliverable Information Sheet

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	Reviewed by	General Assembly members
	Approved	Steering Board

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BSBF	Big Science Business Forum
CDTI	Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology
DTI	Danish Technological Institute
EATRIS	European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine
ENEA	Energy and Sustainable Economic Development
ENRIITC	European Network of Research Infrastructure and Industry for Collaboration
ESFRI	European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
ESRF	European Synchrotron Radiation Facility
ESS	European Spallation Source ERIC
GA	General Assembly
IAC	Innovation Advisory Committee
PERIIA	Pan-European Research Infrastructure/ILOs Association
RI(s)	Research Infrastructure(s)
SZN	Stazione Zoologica
WP(s)	Work Package(s)
WPL(s)	Work Package Leader(s)

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7   Report on Implementation Process and Status of Deliverable

Image 1: Participants to the ENRIITC Second General Assembly meeting

7.1   Executive Summary of the ENRIITC Second General Assembly

The ENRIITC Second General Assembly meeting was held virtually on the 23rd February 2021, as the COVID-19 pandemic restricted possibilities to travel. The meeting was attended by representatives of its 11 beneficiaries. A total of 23 participants joined to discuss the first-year achievements of the project – including financial and administrative aspects, as well as the next steps.

The meeting was opened by Ute Gunsenheimer, ESS Head of External Relations and EU Projects, & Project Coordinator for ENRIITC, who gave an overview of the achievements of the project in 2020 despite the pandemic that affected many activities of ENRIITC. WP Leaders from Work Packages (WPs) 1 to 5 presented the first-year results along with the plan for the year to come.

Jorge Lopez Reig, Industrial Liaison Officer at the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI) officially announced the decision of the BSBF International Organising Committee to postpone BSBF 2021 to 4–7 October 2022, as the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic will still prevent people from traveling, and meeting physically. He reaffirmed the opportunity for ENRIITC to host an event there as was initially planned.

Ute Gunsenheimer concluded the GA meeting after the General Assembly members endorsed the Work Plan for 2021, and approved the "*technical and financial progress presented for its first year of operation*."

The ENRIITC Kick-Off Meeting concluded at 12:00 on the 23rd of February 2021, and was followed by a project brainstorming session with all of the consortium partners.

7.2　　　Agenda

ENRIITC
Second General Assembly Meeting
Virtual

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

https://ess-eu.zoom.us/j/2011992648?pwd=MXpRaDhSL1lKUHNUb2k0d3FJQ29kdz09

10:00	**Welcome & Opening: ENRIITC Achievements in 2020** **Objectives and Approach of General Assembly Meeting** Ute Gunsenheimer, Head of External Relations & EU Projects ENRIITC Project Coordinator, ESS
	Work Package 1: ENRIITC network coordination Anne-Charlotte Joubert, Grant Officer – ENRIITC Project Manager, ESS - Main activities & achievements for Project - Detailed plan for year 2021
10:25	**Work Package 2: Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A** Ilaria Nardello, Research Associate, SZN - Main activities & achievements for Project - Detailed plan for year 2021
10:45	**Work Package 3: Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A** Nikolaj Zangenberg, Director of Big Science Center, DTI - Main activities & achievements for Project - Detailed plan for year 2021
11:00	**Work Package 4: Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A** Ed Mitchell, Head of Business Development, ESRF - Main activities & achievements for Project - Detailed plan for year 2021
11:15	**Work Package 5: Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A** Nigel Wagstaff, Main Project Manager, EATRIS & Jake Fairnie, Head of communication, EATRIS - Main activities & achievements for Project - Detailed plan for year 2021

11:30   **Consortium as a Whole: Updates and Decisions**
Ute Gunsenheimer, Anne-Charlotte Joubert, ESS

Financial Status and Planning
- 2020 cost monitoring
- Budget transfer between EATRIS/ESS to ESRF

Admin
- Preparation for periodic report (due August 2021)
- Timeline overview

Collaboration within the Consortium
- Internal exchanges within the consortium
- Policy on sharing D2.1 raw data
- AOB

Conclusions, Endorsement of Work Plan by GA
Ute Gunsenheimer, ENRIITC Project Coordinator

11:50   **Introduction to Brainstorming Session**
Ute Gunsenheimer, ENRIITC Project Coordinator

12:00   *Comfort Break*

12:15   **Brainstorming and Discussion:**
Do we have to adjust the strategic objectives of ENRIITC?
Open discussion in plenary session

12:50   **Conclusions & Next Steps**

13:00   *End of meeting*

7.3 General Assembly meeting minutes

Screenshot 1: ENRIITC General Assembly and consortium members

7.3.1 Welcome and Opening: ENRIITC Achievements in 2020/Objectives and Approach of General Assembly Meeting
Ute Gunsenheimer, Head of External Relations & EU Projects – ENRIITC Project Coordinator, ESS

Ute Gunsenheimer opened this second General Assembly meeting with a Tour de table in order to introduce two new collaborators to the project: Marco Galeotti, Communication Officer at EMSO, who is taking over John Picard's role in ENRIITC, and Chiara Facoetti, who is joining the ENRIITC communication team from ESRF.

In her introduction, Ute Gunsenheimer gave an overview of the main achievements of the first year of the project in line with the objectives of the project. Even though 2020 was a challenging year, especially with the unforeseen situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was also the year for ENRIITC to set up the network and launch important activities that will pave the way for the rest of the project.

Among them, preparing the deliverable that is the report on the mapping of industry as suppliers and users, which was a focal point for all the consortium partners throughout the year until its submission before Christmas.

The establishment of the Innovation Advisory Committee (IAC) and the first meeting with the representatives before the summer. Some of the representatives of the Committee are highly involved in ENRIITC activities. One of the challenges for 2021 will be to reconnect with the entire Committee and discuss how to move forward.

Instead of a face-to-face meeting in Granada, the first networking event was successfully virtually implemented. It gathered more than 130 participants on two half-days. The first day was dedicated to interactive discussions around pre-defined 6 topics.

Participants were split into 13 table discussions. The next day was dedicated to the conclusions and reports from the table discussions. An interactive social hybrid event with a live cooking demo took place at the end of the first day. To keep the momentum, a mini weekly web series was created: the ENRIITCyourCoffee series, and now meets every Thursday afternoon for half an hour to learn and benefit from each other.

The dedication and commitment from the entire consortium are the key asset to the project and will continue to enable high-level quality achievements. Despite the differences between ICOs and ILOs, there is a strong will to work together, and the model of having Associates engaged in the project is another strength to the constant growing network.

The pandemic forced the consortium to explore new approaches on how to work together and explore new tools, and this should continue in 2021.

The work done in this first year confirmed the differences between the two professions of ICOs and
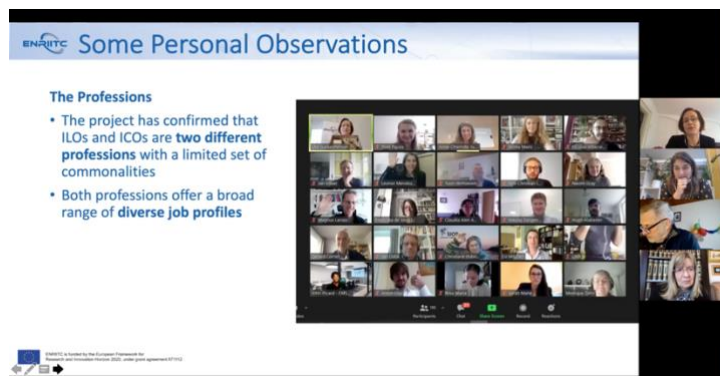
 ILOs, and the shared commonalities and responsibilities are quite limited. They have diverse job profiles within their own worlds. Innovation represents a large grey area for both professions, but is underserved due to the lack of mandates or resources, missing tools, etc., which is an opportunity for ENRIITC to address and discover.

Screenshot 2: Screenshot from introduction presentation

One challenge for 2021 will be for the consortium to take strategic decisions on how to move the project forward considering the disparities and commonalities among ILOs and ICOs.

### 7.3.2 Work Package 1: ENRIITC network coordination
Anne-Charlotte Joubert, Grant Officer – ENRIITC Project Manager, ESS

Following Ute Gunsenheimer's introduction, Anne-Charlotte Joubert focused her presentation on the achievements related to the coordination of the networking activities. Sitting in WP1, this task supports all the other work-packages and aims at creating a solid and sustainable network of ICOs and ILOs in order to strengthen the collaboration between RIs and industry.
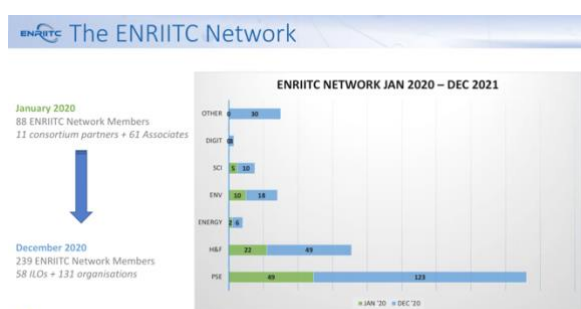
Screenshot 3: Evolution of the network in its first year

During its first year, the ENRIITC network grew from 88 individuals, representing the 11 consortium partners and 61 associates, to 239 individuals from 58 ILOs and 131 organisations, ultimately representing the entire ESFRI landscape. It is important to highlight that the network did not only grow quantitively, but also qualitatively in terms of its diverse representation of the scientific domains. Being a more mature area and including both ICO and ILO representatives, the physical science and engineering domain is naturally over-represented. However, the statistics of our network clearly show a growth of individuals coming from the other scientific domains, as well. After just one year of existence, the ENRIITC network shows its strengths within its diversity, offering the community great opportunities to gain and exchange broader knowledge.
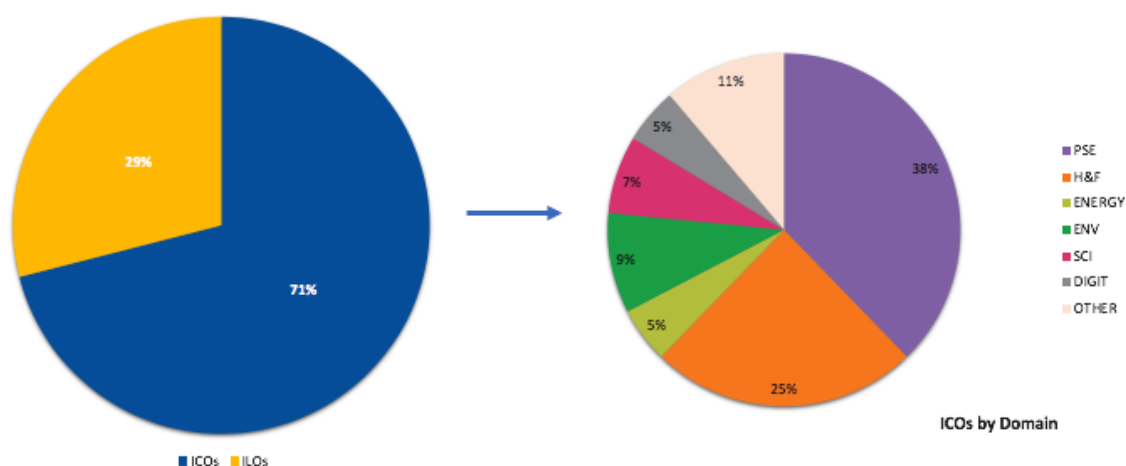
Screenshot 4: Representation of the ENRIITC Community at the end of 2020

Following the kick-off meeting in January 2020, activities under this task focused on establishing a set of tools to build a solid foundation for the network and the project activities:

- consolidating a solid database and ensuring GDPR compliance to be allowed to connect to the network representatives,
- creating communication material to be able to promote ENRIITC,
- building up the network in order to facilitate the implementation of the survey activities, and
- establishing strong relationships with the consortium in order to work together as a team.

The tools being set, one of the main challenges was to reach the important milestone of the first networking meeting. Initially planned to take place in Granada in October, in the margin of the BSBF 2020 event, the entire concept had to be reconsidered when the pandemic hit the world in Spring 2020, and BSBF postponed to 2021.

Together with project partners it was agreed to maintain this key project event, and go virtually. A big communication campaign was launched at the end of the summer to promote the first "ENRIITCyourNetwork" event. In order to make the event as interactive as possible, 13 table discussions were organised around six thematic topics lead by project partners and Associates gathering more than 130participants. The six topics were as follow:

1. What are the barriers and ways forward to promote joint innovation and collaboration between Research Infrastructures and industry?
2. What are best practices on approaches and tools in communication between Research Infrastructures and industry?
3. How to we unlock the innovation potential of Research Infrastructures for the benefit of industry?
4. What are the roles and responsibilities of the Research Infrastructure industrial contact point?
5. What are the needs concerning training and education for industry relations?
6. What are the most important channels and collaborators (e.g. technology parks, mediators, embassies) and how do you use them to engage with industry?

As one of the main objectives of the meeting was to officially launch the network, a memorable virtual "night in Granada" was organised in the evening gathering 75 participants.

To keep the momentum and offer the network an opportunity to continue "*enriitching*" each other, the "ENRIITCyourCoffee" mini-series was launched in mid-November to create a weekly forum to discuss and have exchanges on various and common topics. The first season was a success, and so a second season was launched in January 2021 where project Associates were also invited to host episodes themselves. Over Christmas, more than 200 ENRIITCyourCoffee cups have been distributed to the network as a sign of recognition of belonging to a growing community.
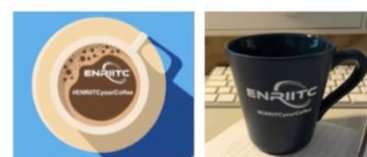
Screenshot 5: ENRIITCyourCoffee mini-series material and group picture

Keeping the network growing and ensure its sustainability is one of the main missions under this task, and supporting the community is a major activity to achieve it. A bi-weekly newsletter promoting the project activities, as well as the partners and associates was launched at the beginning of the project.

The project website also relays all important information related to the network. A Flash news report is sent out every other week in order to promote the ENRIITCyourCoffee episode, and mailings are regularly sent out to communicate with the community on specific occasions.
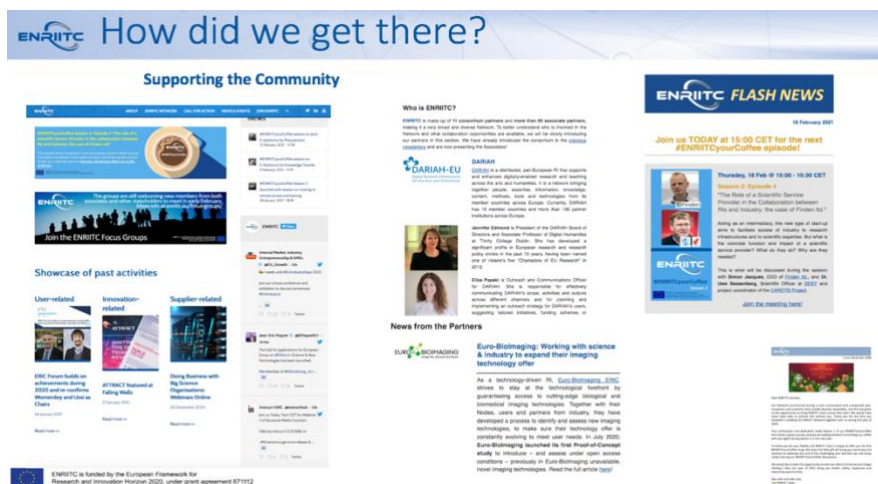
Screenshot 6: Some of the promotional material developed within ENRIITC

Dialogues with other projects have started in order to discuss possible cooperation.

The growth of the community is one important result of the work achieved in 2020. Receiving demands from the community to support organisations' activities to spread information throughout the network, as well as being an Ambassador of the ENRIITC activities through their own platforms and networks is another important result of the recognition by the community of ENRIITC as a network.

All of the efforts engaged in 2020 will continue in 2021, so the network will continue to grow and synergies with the community will be strengthened. Networking activities will continue within the project in order to give continuous support to the implementation of the other WPs, and joint collaborations with other projects will be further explored.

7.3.3 Work Package 2: Mapping of Research Infrastructure-Industry Collaborations
Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A
Ilaria Nardello, Research Associate, SZN

Ilaria Nardello took over and presented the achievements in WP2, with a focus on the results of the survey developed during this first year of the project, which was the basis for Deliverable D2.1.

WP2 was one of the first WPs to kick off in 2020 and was meant to provide the initial elements for the other WPs. The goal is to map the key elements needed to enact and sustain the ENRIITC network. To this end, WP2 conducted two questionnaires, targeting the ILOs and ICOs in Europe. The results were presented in a deliverable submitted in December 2020 to inform the ENRIITC project of the current state of play and support the development of strategic recommendations within the framework of WP3 and actions planned as a part of WP4.

Ilaria Nardello presented the work achieved task-by-task.

Task 2.1 and Task 2.2 brought the entire consortium together through the creation of two questionnaires, including pilots tested both internally and externally throughout the ENRIITC network. The response rate was unexpectedly high and reflects the diversity of the ecosystem and landscape.
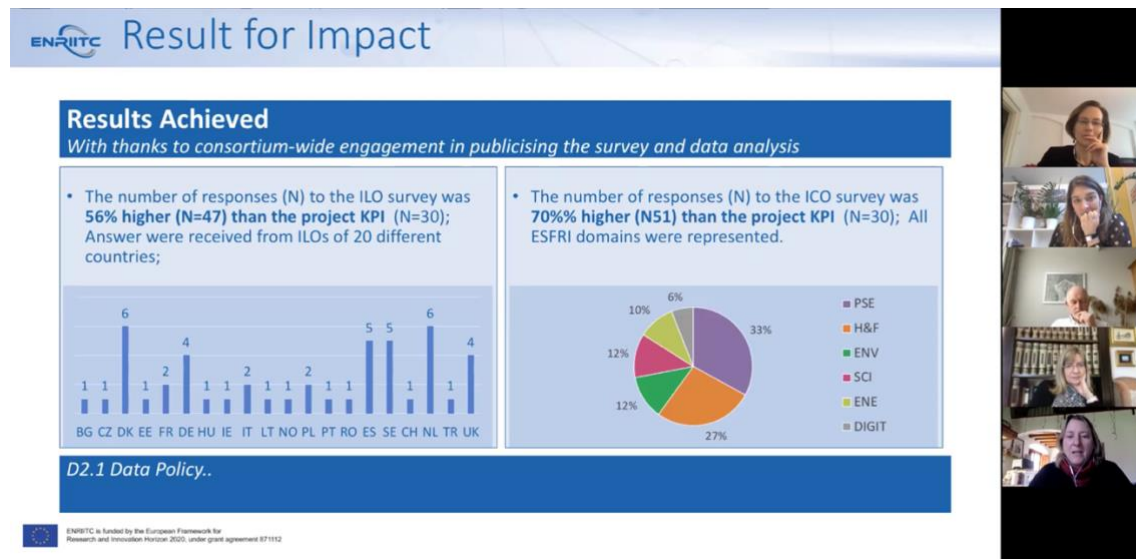
Screenshot 7: Results achieved with the survey in WP2

The raw data of the survey analysis resulted in a 450-page report that was condensed with the help of an editorial board comprised of task leaders and other project partners. Ilaria Nardello highlighted some of the outcomes from the survey.

To facilitate an effective communication between RIs and national industries, two particular roles were created by RIs and Member States: Industry Liaison Officers (ILOs) and Industry Contact Officers (ICOs).

ILOs are officially appointed by each member state of an RI to stimulate the collaboration between the national industry and the RI, providing advice on business opportunities, R&D collaborations, and calls for tenders. In contrast, ICOs are employed by an RI and are charged with developing business relations with all potential industrial suppliers of innovative components or services as well as encouraging the economical use of their facility by companies.

ILOs and Industry as a Supplier

The survey showed that the primary industries working as suppliers to RIs are (in order of relevance): Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Energy, ICT/Data, Space, Construction, Aeronautics, Pressure Equipment & Gas Appliances, Defence & Automotive.

On average, an ILO covers only one RI and their performance is measured against several indicators where, by far, the most important one focuses on the goal to raise national Georeturn. Technology transfer is perceived as much more important by the ILOs than by their employers, as well as the promotion of industry-RI-university collaborations. In 2021, this will be further assessed in Task 2.3 with a deliverable being prepared.

ICOs and Industry as a User

The sectors of the RIs primary (>34%) industrial users are: Biotechnology (49%), Healthcare Industries (43%), Energy (37%), and Chemical (35%). On a second tier: Medical Devices (33%), ICT/Data (31%), Aeronautics (29%), and the Automotive Industry (29%).

There is a good correlation between the services offered by the RIs and the request from industry. The most popular services requested are: access to facilities, instruments, and testing (53% of RIs); and testing and quality/standards compliance validation (31%). The most popular services offered are: access to facilities, instruments, and testing (67% of RIs); access to data; modelling (49% of RIs); and access to specialised training (49% of RIs).

Over the sampled population, approximately half of the RIs employ an ICO. It is positive that 61% have a strategy for working with industry, but only 35% have an industry advisory board. Sixty-four percent of the RIs do not track their income from industry (or report zero income);

RIs with ICOs interact much more with their surrounding ecosystems (cluster organisations, science parks, etc.): they engage much more with larger companies, and slightly more with companies in other countries that where the RI is located; although the number of clients is similar to RIs without ICO, these organisations generate a higher income from industry;

RIs with annual operation budgets lower than EUR 5 M most often describe the nature of collaboration with industry clients as mainly being one-off impromptu, whilst RIs with an annual budget above EUR 5 M describe it as either a systematic long-term plan/relationship or a mix of the two.

Beside the work done to support the development of the WPs activities, one question coming out of the survey is about the activities of knowledge/technology transfer for innovation as a possible convergent area for ILO and ICO common activity. Neither the ILOs nor the ICOs have it in their missions. ICOs are mainly interested in getting industry in as users, they don't necessarily consider the innovation element nor the collaborative aspects. Ms. Nardello wondered if ENRIITC should pitch for an opportunity to develop this grey area into something meaningful that could deliver innovation, as the survey results showed that most of the ingredients for it already exist (i.e., offices are in place, resources do exist, etc.).

With the support of consortium partner WPT, the D2.1 report's layout is currently being finalised.

Task 2.3 on the analysis of indicators for ILO/ICO performance, the consortium partners NWO and CLARIN have started to work on the deliverable and an advanced draft should be delivered soon. The final deliverable is expected in month 14 (March 2021).

For Task 2.4, related to the assessment of information portals on opportunities with RIs, Ilaria Nardello together with DTI are currently assessing the type of existing portals. The final deliverable is expected in month 14 (March 2021).

Screenshot 8: Draft layout of the deliverable D2.1

Task 2.5 related to the drivers and barriers in RI-industry engagement and business relationships will consist of a making and distributing a survey that will complete the picture of the landscape of all the actors. A report is expected at the end of the year 2021.

WP2 has been heavily impacted by COVID-19 situation, with an immediate need to re-organise working procedures. Given the relevance of the work of D2.1, which was a stepping stone for the whole project, a broad engagement of the whole consortium was sought, which reflected in a larger amount of work than anticipated. Thanks to the commitment of the T2.1 and T2.2 leaders and the whole consortium, the delay was kept relatively short, and the impact on the entire WP and project should be very moderate

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Gerard Cornet (NWO) commented on the importance of having common ground. He highlighted that although technology transfer is an important element, the aspect of co-development is equally important, and thus it is about both technology and knowledge transfer and co-development.

Ed. Mitchell (ESRF) commented on the role of innovation partnership and procurement which, in France, are a growing mandate.

7.3.4 Work Package 3: Development and Refining of Strategies for Innovation, Training, and Outreach
Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A
Nikolaj Zangenberg, Director of Big Science Centre, DTI

Nikolaj Zangenberg started by reminding that WP3 benefits from the outputs of WP2, and provides inputs to WP4. Due to the delay in WP2, the activities in WP3 had to be compressed to meet the deadlines in April-May.

That said, Nikolaj Zangenberg explained that he took the opportunity of the ENRIITCyourNetwork event in October to launch the recruitment of participants for the focus groups. With a good balance between ICOs and ILOs, the focus groups were established by the end of the year, and the first meetings were launched earlier in February 2021.


Screenshot 9: Focus Groups status in WP3

Nikolaj Zangenberg continued presenting the achievements and status of the WP through a task-by-task overview.

In Task 3.1, related to the development of strategies and best practices for exploiting the innovation potential of RIs, two deliverables are expected respectively by the end of April and May. The deliverables are planned to be written around three chapters and Nikolaj Zangenberg will create a writing team to work on the reports.

Task 3.2 is linked to the strategies for training and aim for the creation of a tool box. Nikolaj Zangenberg is planning to use outputs from the survey, as well as inputs from two planned ENRIITCyourCoffee episodes to discuss this.

Task 3.3 is the most advanced task in the work. The task partners have drafted the step-by-step guide that will shortly be shared with the rest of WP3 and the StB for review.

The Task 3.4 deliverable on policy recommendations for the optimisation of ILO/ICO performance is only due at the end of the project (month 30), but the work currently done by Gerard Cornet (NWO) and Franciska De Jong (CLARIN) under WP2 will be used as inputs to this task.
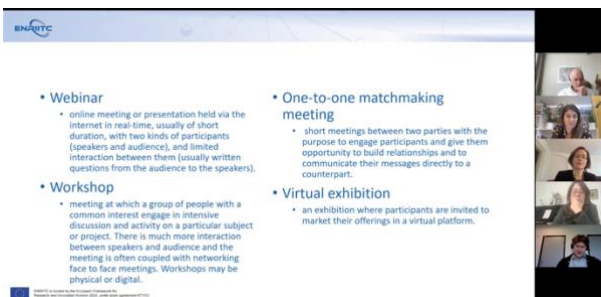
Screenshot 10: Example of type of events to be presented in the Step-by-step guide under preparation

Considering the delays in WP2, Nikolaj Zangenberg is already anticipating some delays in the delivery of work in WP3. He will ensure that the focus groups get inputs from the deliverable on time.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Ute Gunsenheimer asked to get a revised calendar plan with all the delays in order to share it with the EC. Optimisation of the time for approval process will need to be considered in order to anticipate the reviewing of the four deliverables to come in May.

7.3.5   Work Package 4: Raising Awareness and Demonstrating Impact of Research Infrastructure-Industry Engagement
Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A
Ed Mitchell, Head of Business Development, ESRF

Ed. Mitchell took over and presented the status of WP4, which is a test bed WP for ENRIITC that takes from the inputs from WP2 and WP3, exploiting them to implement pilot activities on how industry could engage better with RIs. WP4 will provide feedback to WP2/3 on what happened with the results, and will also inform WP5 for communication and dissemination activities.

He reminded that the overall aim is to demonstrate the quality, the performance, and impact of the activities engaging with industry.
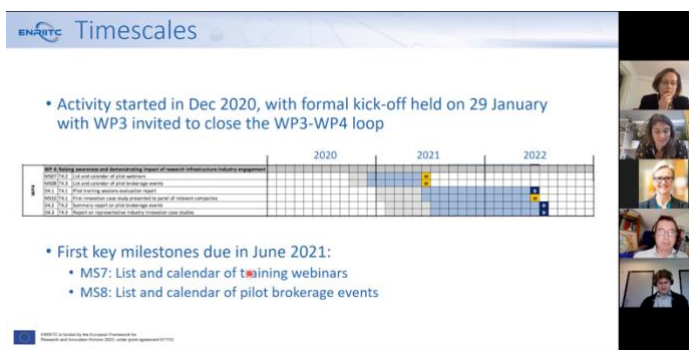
Screenshot 11: Timescales overview of

Amongst the activities, will be a range of innovation case studies to show off what is possible to do with RIs for industry. No KPIs were predefined on this, but a number was agreed on with the task leaders. There will also be some training activities in the form of webinars for ILOs and ICOs with the aim of creating awareness for those who are less experienced on what an ILO or ICO is, what they do, etc.

Five pilot events are also planned to be organised, although it is difficult to predict whether it will be possible to meet physically or not, and virtual events are expected as a result of COVID, although 2022 may hopefully see face to face events re-emerge. Due to this, the timeline for the test events may be extended towards the middle of 2022 to allow a wider range of events to take place. The events will build upon the different RI complementarity – a key point of ENRIITC.

A small amount of funding is also available under this WP to support the Associates of ENRIITC to hold their own events. The impact of all the work done in this WP will need to be measured and reported back to WP3 in order to adjust the recommendations and strategies. The Coordinator and WP4 leader will work on preparing a call for these events.

WP4 was formally kicked off on the 29th January 2021, and WP3 was invited to participate as well to give an updated status of where they stand.

The first key milestone is already coming up in June this year, when the list and calendar of training webinars and the first pilot brokerages events will be ready.

Task 4.1 is about the show's case studies. Many of the RIs have case studies, for example at ESS there is one of Dassault Systems on a software provision, ESRF of industry as a user from GLR in the UK with a university. Case studies exist, so the aim is to collect cases from across the ENRIITC network, developing a common template.

An agreement was made to go for 25 case studies, not necessarily in-depth, but rather showing what the RIs can do with industry in different ways, including hopefully the co-innovation and co-development phase as these are important to be shown. This task is run by DTI and SZN. The aim is to have a model by the summer that could be explored in a digital event that might be organised this year (that initially could have been done during BSBF 2021).

Task 4.2 is related to the implementation of ILO/ICO training and organisation activities, and is run by CDTI and EATRIS. The aim of this task is to help ILO and ICO to improve how they work, and how they network through the organisation of webinars. Given COVID, the events will be digital, which is more inclusive. Face-to-face meetings will be considered carefully, but nevertheless should that be possible, it would most likely be in 2022.

People participating in the training could be funded via the project to organise brokerage events taking into consideration their specific needs (e.g., regional, RI, etc.). The Terms of Reference needs to be drafted by early summer to allow the Associates to start thinking about what could be done. Grouping less and more experienced partners to set up the events are also envisaged.
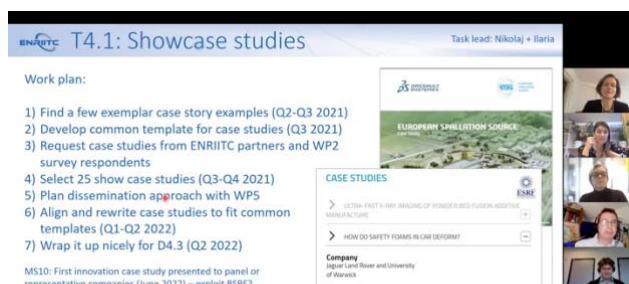
Screenshot 12: Showcase studies slide

CDTI and EATRIS have started developing the ideas. Virtual trainings and events using Zoom will be organised, and the first should be planned over summer this year. Ed. Mitchell presented a list of possible topics, and areas of interest highlighting that other ideas from the consortium are welcome. The topics are quite broad and can go from very easy ones to more complex ones, such as networking with SMEs, with whom it is very difficult to work.

Screenshot 13: Topics of interest for the training webinars

In Task 4.3, five pilot events within 12 months have to be organised following the advice from WP3, with the aim of getting in touch with industry and testing different scales of events (regional, national, European). Due to the situation, these events will most likely be digital, and maybe hybrid, or physical in 2022 if possible. The initial aim was to combine the concept of industry as a user and supplier when possible, and be very broad in the baseline of RIs to be involved in these events. Outcomes from WP2 should be considered, as well as co-development and co-innovation when setting up the events.

Task partners have been requested to start thinking of the type of event to organise, and this will be discussed in a meeting early March, and in another one later in April.

The risks associated with COVID in WP4 mean very limited travel, and some might not even be able to travel in 2021. This will be considered and most of the meetings will be planned virtually or hybrid, which gives an opportunity to be more innovative and more inclusive.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Ilaria Nardello wondered about the event for industry to be organised by the partner, and whether there should be a common format or not. Mr. Mitchell answered that it is important to test different approaches, but that a common template to describe the event and what is expected to be done should be developed. This will be further discussed during the upcoming WP4.3 meeting in March.

Javier Echavarri Delmas made a comment on the training sessions presented by Ed. Mitchell. He highlighted that the aim is to organise a combination of both formal training sessions in a webinar format, but also organisational sessions where ILOs and ICOs can exchange best practices and experiences in a more interactive format.

Frida Tribblin Citron had a question regarding the need for a digital platform, that would be more attractive than Zoom that would allow more possibilities, as it is most likely that we won't be able to travel this year. Ute Gunsenheimer agreed that the brainstorming session in the afternoon should discuss what is needed beyond Zoom, in order to allow the organisation of real digital or hybrid events that allow the same interaction that one could have face-to-face.

7.3.6   Work Package 5: Communication, Dissemination, and Exploitation Objectives, Approach, & Next Steps/Q&A
Nigel Wagstaff, Main Project Manager, EATRIS & Jake Fairnie, Head of Communications, EATRIS

Jake Fairnie presented the work completed in WP5 during the first year of the project related to communication, dissemination, and exploitation of the project activities. He began by outlining the aim of this WP, before diving into the objectives and achievements of 2020.

The initial tasks were to launch the project website and set up all of the project social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube), and start populating them with content. Internal communication material was also created.

A Communications Plan and Corporate Design document were created, and the visual identity was developed for ENRIITC that would be used on all materials and platforms.

Once these were set up, the work focused on maintaining the platforms and channels, and updating them on a regular basis: regular posts on social media and updating the content of the website. These were needed to both enhance the network and to communicate information about ongoing activities of the project.

Two major events were launched in the second part of the year, the ENRIITCyourNetwork campaign to promote the first network event in October that took place virtually, and the ongoing successful ENRIITCyourCoffee weekly meeting. Jake Fairnie showed the branding material created for the campaign.
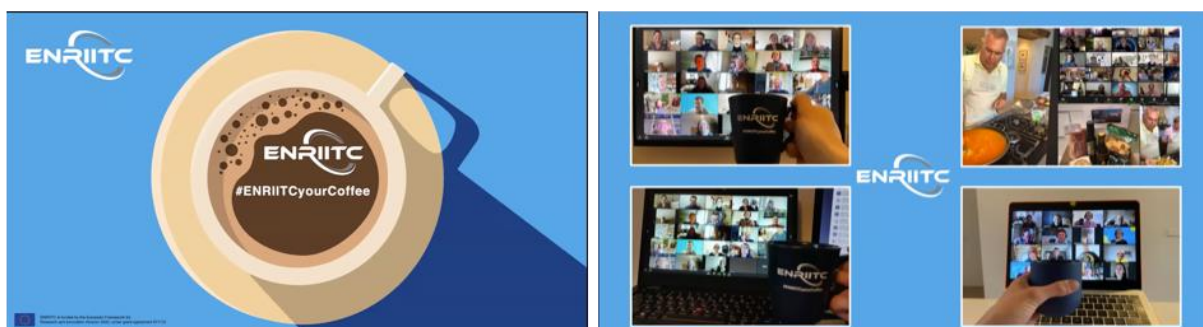
Screenshot 14: Branding material created for the communication campaigns

Jake Fairnie continued presenting the progress achieved against the objectives he previously mentioned.

With the communication and dissemination elements, there has been a sustained used of the web and the social media platforms for communication about the WPs and events. With regards to stakeholder' engagement, there has been a slow but steady growth on social media platforms.

The virtual networking meeting and the evening programme was successfully promoted, and the ENRIITCyourCoffee series enjoyed an excellent start in late 2020. Season 2 was already launched early 2021 with growing success. With the visibility and teaming up elements, the virtual networking event went ahead and was a great success despite the cancellation of the BSBF event in Granada.

Regarding the results, the communication activities helped attract 125 participants from across 21 countries for the ENRIITCyourNetwork event. This event clearly laid the basis for an active and expanding network.

Season 1 of the ENRIITCyourCoffee series attracted up to 40 participants, and proposed active and engaged involvement from all of the attendees on a regular basis, including by the new people in most of the sessions joining the network. The distribution of the ENRIITC coffee mug helped to support the promotion of the series and reinforced the link of belonging to a community. Over Christmas 2020, more than 200 cups were distributed to the ENRIITC Community.

Jake Fairnie continued by presenting the 2020 website and social media analytics.
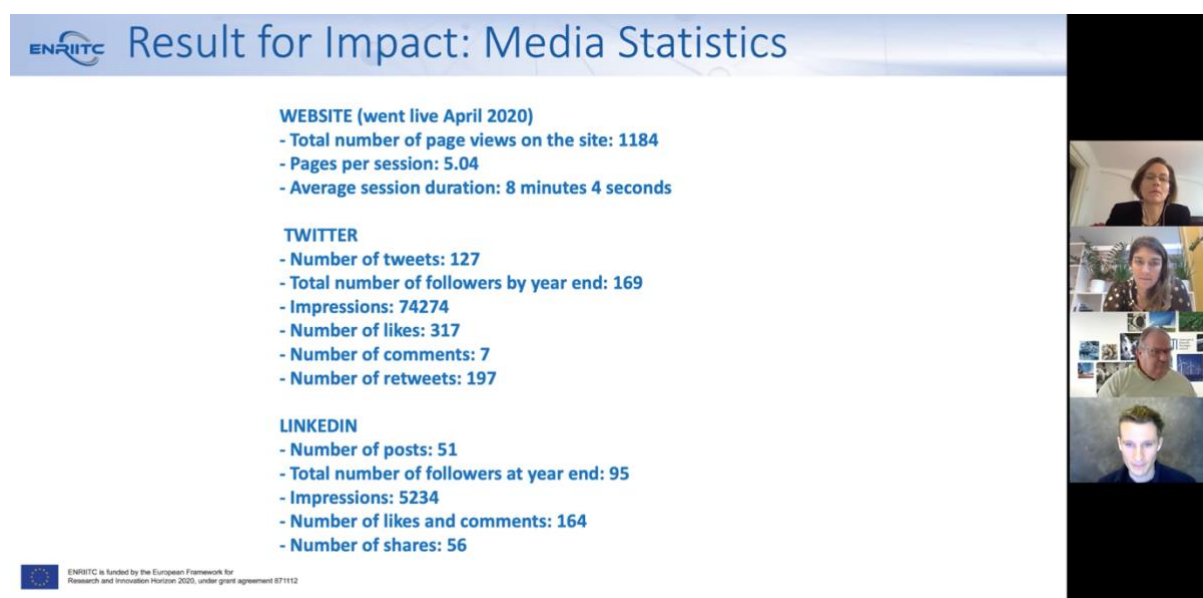
Screenshot 15: Analytics of social media

There have been strong collaborations with WP1, 2, 3, and 4 for communicating the progress, and also communication about online events to engage new participants. There has also been increasing exchanges with other EU projects, RIs, to promote tools, guidelines, tools, or views in engaging with industry.

The plan for 2021 is to give periodical updates on social media platforms and the website in line with the communication and implementation schedule, and including all the various inputs from the various WP tasks, the project partners, and the extended network. Communication will support online networking events in Spring and Autumn 2021, as well as any other events from the project and the Associates. WP5 will keep working and supporting the ENRIITCyourCoffee series, the second season has already been launched.

The next deliverable is an information booklet of case studies and advocacy paper, and it is due by the end of the project. The risk factor is linked to the heavy dependency on the progress of the various

WPs, collaborations with these WP to follow up the implementation will be important to disseminate and take up the results, and having a strict timetable to be followed will help mitigating the risks.

Jake Fairnie concluded by encouraging all participants to share content posted by ENRIITC, but also from their own organisations to allow for a greater reach.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Ilaria Nardello was wondering about the LinkedIn page and group. Jake Fairnie confirmed that there are indeed two different elements: a public LinkedIn page, which is like a publicly viewed company page, and on the other hand a private LinkedIn group, which is a closed group dedicated to the ENRIITC community. The later was set up later in 2020, and so it has not yet gained substantial traction. One of the ideas with this private page is to continue the discussion from the ENRIITCyourCoffee sessions there, and offer a place for the community to ask more questions, and share and exchange experiences and best practices.

Juanjo Dañobeitia commented on the risk and mitigation related on the impact of COVID-19 on ENRIITC. The situation has nothing to do with any of the expectations at the beginning of the project. Jake Fairnie agreed that this is a significant and unexpected risk factor that should be considered. Related specifically to the communication, despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented it has also been an opportunity to use and build our digital channels. The situation has increased the need to have a strong website and digital presence to support and grow the ENRIITC online community.

7.3.7 The Consortium as a Whole: Updates and Decisions
Ute Gunsenheimer, Anne-Charlotte Joubert, ESS
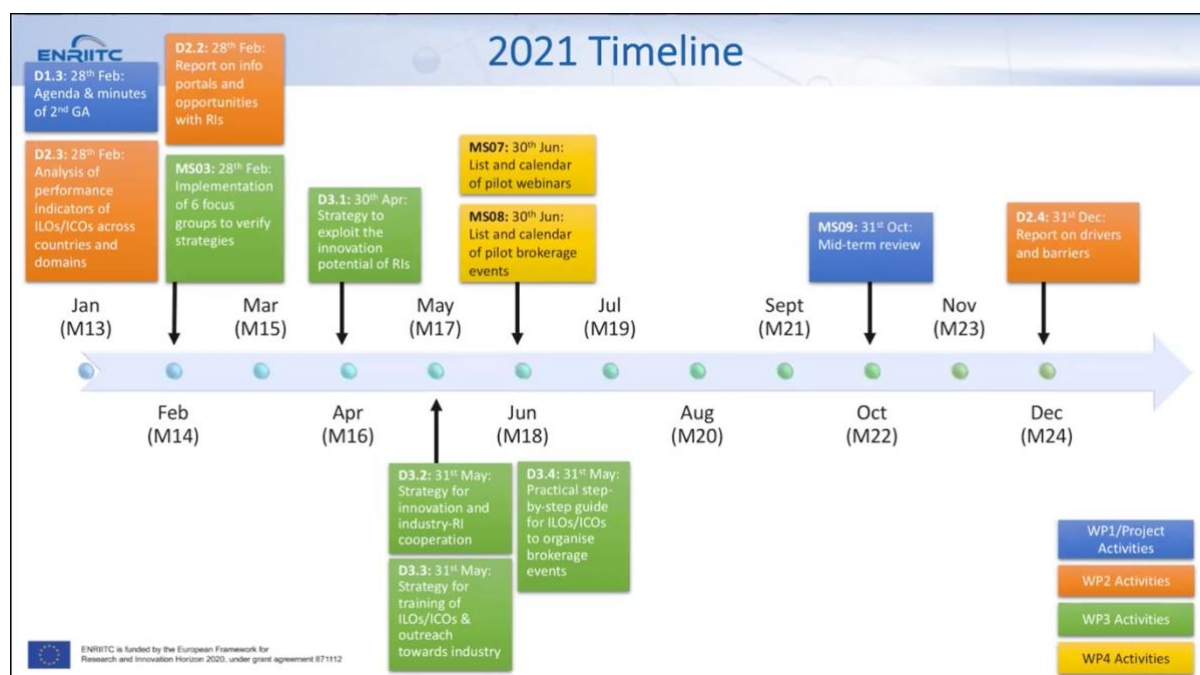
Screenshot 16: Project Timeline for 2021

a. Financial Status & Planning

Anne-Chalrotte Joubert presented the first-year financial status of the project. Considering a linear approach, the first of this three-year project should present an overall spending of about 33%. The current situation is below this linear approach with a spending status of 24% of the total project budget. The main reason is the travel restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic that strongly impacted one of the project's highest budget categories, and one of the highest budget plans for the year (the organisation of the first networking event in Granada).

As the second year of the project, which includes the organisation of many events, might also be affected by travel restrictions, Anne-Charlotte Joubert will discuss activity adjustments with WPLs and the StB in order to take corrective measures and plan budget transfers where necessary. She will also plan a financial review with the partners to discuss the approach on an individual basis when needed. This clearly shows the impact of the pandemic on ENRIITC activities and highlights the importance of having great digital tools for the project.

b. Admin

Anne-Charlotte Joubert gave an overview of the key performance indicators after the first year of the project implementation. Although some of the KPIs cannot yet be monitored as some of the project activities haven't yet started, and the project is still in an early phase, for the KPIs that can be assessed, the first results are quite encouraging considering the challenges faced during 2020 with the global pandemic.

She informed the consortium partners that the first interim report is due at the end of August 2021, and that in order to anticipate with the summer break, she will start collecting inputs from WPLs and project partners after Easter.

Screenshot 17: Project performance

c. Collaboration within the consortium

Internal communication is key to ensure smooth collaboration within the consortium. Anne-Charlotte Joubert reminded that all information related to ENRIITC is filed in the project OwnCloud accessible to all project partners.

She also highlighted the importance to share relevant information from the different partner organisations with ENRIITC central and the communication team in order to anticipate and effectively prepare communications and the promotion of activities to the network.

d. Data sharing policy

Ilaria Nardello explained that under the work done to prepare deliverable D2.1, a lot of data and information was collected. There have been requests whether these data could be shared outside the consortium. A data sharing policy completing the data management plan should be drafted to clarify this point on data sharing. Ilaria Nardello presented some points to consider.

She referred to the EC request of data sharing, which offers the possibility to limit and control what is to be shared for legitimate reasons. There can be reasons for holding on if the consortium intends to publish them themselves, like if it is not intended to be considered to release them publicly for example with an IO (identify object) onto the repositorium of the data in order to publicise it. An agreement with the person willing to use the data can be found as well, including maintaining some ownership of the data, and allow the project or the person who gathered the data to be acknowledged when used.

Ilaria Nardello presented a proposition to opt in the open access with the possibility for some control. It was agreed that Ilaria Nardello would come up with one-page data policy draft to be shared within the consortium.

7.3.8 Conclusions, and an Endorsement of the Work Plan by GA
Ute Gunsenheimer, Head of External Relations & EU Projects – ENRIITC Project Coordinator, ESS

"23 February 2021, online: The General Assembly of the H2020 ENRIITC project, in its annual meeting, has taken note of the presentations by the ENRIITC Steering Board, and approves the technical and financial progress presented for its first year of operation."

Screenshot 18: Approval slide of the 2nd General Assembly

There was no objection from the GA members and representatives, thus the first ENRIITC General Assembly meeting was approved.

End of the GA meeting.