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30.11.2022

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Executive summary

The ENRIITC project (European Network of Research Infrastructures & Industry for Collaboration) aims to establish a permanent, pan-EU network of ILOs and ICOs¹ in order to increase networking opportunities between RIs and industry, and provide a platform where they can build stronger partnerships to jointly fuel innovation. ENRIITC is implemented during 2020-2022 by a consortium of 11 partners from 7 countries. The project activities are also supported by over 60 Associate RIs.

WP1 has prepared the Memorandum of Understanding, a non-legally binding agreement between the countries who intend to work together towards the establishment of a sustainable structure to support and foster RI-industry engagement. With the MoU, the signatories materialize the intent to work together during the Transition Phase and define a clear line of action from now on without, necessarily, forming legally binding constraints.

This document intends to be very clear and simple, presenting basic features of this kind of collaborative agreements.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets an official framework during the Transition Phase of the ENRIITC Network. The signatories of the MoU will undertake the responsibility to support the activities of the ENRIITC Network during the transition phase.

¹ **Industry Contact Officer (ICO)** is defined as research Infrastructure staff responsible for strengthening and coordinating cooperation strategies and activities with Industry.

Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) is defined as expert staff working at Government agencies or Research institutes in the member states to stimulate the collaboration amongst the national industry and the international RIs, providing advice on business opportunities, R&D collaborations, calls for tender, and industrial services.

Introduction

The ENRIITC project (European Network of Research Infrastructures & Industry for Collaboration) aims to establish a permanent, pan-EU network of ILOs and ICOs in order to increase networking opportunities between RIs and industry, and provide a platform where they can build stronger partnerships to jointly fuel innovation. ENRIITC is implemented during 2020-2022 by a consortium of 11 partners from 7 countries. The project activities are also supported by over 60 Associate RIs.

Deliverable D1.5 “Policy paper on the sustainability of the ENRIITC network” explores possible ways to sustain the project on the long-term and is proposing a scope of the activities and areas ENRIITC will pursue, as well as business models that could fit the purpose of the ENRIITC Network on the long-run.

The immediate challenge is the continuity of the Network after the end of the H2020 funding project, starting 1 January 2023.

The purpose of the MoU is to state the intent of the signatories to take the necessary steps towards the establishment of a sustainable structure to support and foster RI-industry engagement, yet to be defined. The MoU is open for signature to large scale pan-European Research Infrastructures organisations willing to work together to set-up and/or strengthen their relationship with industry, but also to Industry Liaison Officer representatives.

The present deliverable will serve as a basis for discussion with the Signatories.

Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding Between Pan-European research Infrastructure organisations and ILOs For the establishment of the ENRIITC Network to strengthen the engagement of Research Infrastructures and Industry

The signatory organisations, and representatives,
Considering that:

- The ENRIITC project supported by a European Commission Horizon 2020 grant, has as goal to strengthen the engagement between RIs and industry by bringing together representatives of research infrastructure ICOs and ILOs and to build a permanent pan-European network of ICOs and ILOs;
- The ENRIITC project offers a platform for ICOs and ILOs to jointly engage and further exploit the innovation potential of RIs;
- The ENRIITC project covers all scientific domains from the ESFRI roadmap and assists the participants to improve their engagement with industry;
- The ENRIITC project offers visibility outside the typical RI sphere, engaging with stakeholders from relevant science-driven ecosystems (ASTP, innovation agencies, etc.);
- The ENRIITC project provides support in the implementation of the new ERA, and strengthen the EU RI landscape on the innovation and industry aspects.

Have agreed as follows:

I. Objectives

The objectives of the present MoU are to sustain the Network to further intensify collaboration between RI-ICO and ILOs, and in particular:

- To contribute to the further development of RI-industry relations, including the professionalisation of the ICO and ILO functions;
- To develop responses to challenges relating to RI-industry collaborations, including exploring innovative routes;
- To maintain and strengthen a joint community, offering a place for exchange of training experiences and best practices in RI-industry engagement; and
- To foster the visibility, impact and sustainability of Research Infrastructures in both the European Research Area and European Innovation Ecosystem.

II. Purpose and nature of the MoU

The shared interests of the RI-ICOs and ILO representatives generate valuable opportunities for the signatory organisations to work together in strengthening the collaboration around innovation, industry and technological development to pursue RI-industry engagement. Cooperation will be established in the following activities (not exhaustive):

1. training programmes for ICO and ILO tasks developed (or adapted) and delivered in collaboration;

2. organisation of events in collaboration or promotion of events organised by Signatories;
3. invitations to participate in flagship events and conferences arranged by Signatories;
4. other joint activities of mutual interest.

In undertaking collaborative actions, the following underlying principles shall apply:

1. The collaborative actions are in line with the mission and activities of the Signatory and the ENRIITC network;
2. Collaborative work will fully acknowledge both the Signatory/ies and ENRIITC network in any public disclosure of the results;
3. Each Signatory will support the outreach and communication effort by the ENRIITC Network by, e.g., linking to the ENRIITC Network website, sharing SoMe content and including references to the ENRIITC Network in communication.

III. Structural collaboration

With the aim to sustain the network in the longer-term, and besides the activities presented above, the ENRIITC Network intends to carry out structural activities including:

1. The definition of a Network governance framework, including the establishment of a Steering Committee and an executive team;
2. The Steering Committee will define the ENRIITC Network annual work plan to be implemented by the executive team;
3. The organisation of a quarterly meeting with the Steering Committee to monitor the implementation of the plan;
4. The organisation of at least one Network Meeting a year, also open to other entities, projects, initiatives that pursue a similar purpose;

The Steering Committee will be responsible for hosting and organising these meetings;

The Steering Committee will be composed of representatives of Signatory entities ensuring a fair representation of the different ESFRI scientific domains and type of RIs. Every signatory organisation is invited to express their interest in being part of the Steering Committee, and shall nominate a referent person who will be representing the entity in the Network. The Steering Committee will rotate on a yearly basis, and a chair will be elected at the same time as the Steering Committee.

IV. Funding

In general, each Signatory shall bear all of its costs related to its participation in activities under the MoU except where otherwise agreed.

Additional sources of funding may be explored by the Signatories such as joint grant applications to further support activities under this MoU.

V. Membership

The present MoU covers the organisational and structural aspect of the governance of the ENRIITC Network, as well as its strategic decisions and orientations. Thus, it is restricted to large-scale pan-European Research Infrastructures entities and ILO representative organisations who have been invited to sign this MoU.

VI. Limitations and liabilities assigned to this understanding

This is a non-legally-binding MoU. Nothing in this MoU shall be regarded as creating a joint venture, partnership, agency, employment relationship, franchise relationship or taxable entity between the Signatories.

VII. Entry into Force, Duration

This MoU shall become effective as soon as it has been signed and dated by the Signatories.

This MoU shall remain in force for three years from the date of Signatory signature or until terminated by that Signatory giving three months written notice.

The Network may be dissolved upon mutual agreement of the Network Members.

VIII. Amendment, assignment

1. Any modification of this MoU requires the written and signed consent of all the Signatories hereto to become effective.
2. No rights or obligations of any of the Signatories arising from this MoU may be assigned or transferred in whole or in part to any third party without the other prior written approval of the Signatories.

IX. Language

This MoU is drawn up in English, the working language of the ENRIITC network.

X. Settlement of disputes

Any dispute that might arise concerning this MoU shall be settled amicably. If no amicable solution is deemed possible, the remaining Signatories shall agree to the termination of this MoU.

This MoU is done in as many copies as there are Signatories. Each of them is equally valid.

This MoU is not legally binding but reflects a spirit of collaboration between the Network Members.

**Memorandum of Understanding
For the establishment of the ENRIITC Network to strengthen the engagement of Research Infrastructures and Industry**

[Name of organisation]

[Short name]

Name of authorised person to sign (Title, last name, first name):

Position:

Date:

Signature: