RI-VIS Final Meeting Report

Meeting Summary

The RI-VIS Final Meeting was held on the 17ᵗʰ January 2020 and was held online using the Zoom platform as an open meeting, actively inviting stakeholders external to the project consortium to join. Of the 92 participants at the event, 32 were from RI-VIS beneficiaries. There was representation amongst participants from all target regions where we held symposia: Africa, LAC, Australia and Russia.

Sessions involved presentations of the assets produced during the project from the work package or task leads involved in their creation. The kick-start projects in WP5 each presented their work and progress. An additional talk was invited from Pierre Quertenmont (European Research Executive Agency and Project Officer for RI-VIS) and Patricia Postigo McLaughlin (European Commission DG Research & Innovation) on the Future of international Research Infrastructure collaborations. The last session of the meeting was a panel discussion on the future perspectives for international research infrastructure collaborations with panellists Corrine Martin (ELIXIR), Daniel Adams (DSI South Africa), Inmaculada Figueroa (MICIN-ES, ESFRI) and Bahne Stechmann (EU-OPENSCREEN).

Recordings of some of the sessions are available to view online on the RI-VIS YouTube channel **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hslaxMSKHjs&list=PLEDuXvboKQcwAD44yZ_A15o aNPIFGdUUo** and presentations are available from the event website **https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/ri-vis-final-meeting**

Table of Contents

Meeting Agenda

Time (CET)	Session	Lead
10:00-10:20	Welcome and overview	Susan Daenke (Instruct-ERIC)
10:20-10:40	White papers on bi-regional cooperation	Sven Fahrner (EMPHASIS)/Golbahar Pahlavan (ECRIN)
10:40-11:00	International Symposia	Bahne Stechmann (EU-OPENSCREEN)
11:00-11:15	Break	
11:15-11:30	ARIA Sitebuilder	Natalie Haley (Instruct-ERIC)
11:30-11:45	Communication Tools and Community for Research Infrastructures	Rita Costa Abecasis (CCMAR)
11:45-12:15	*(Closed for consortium only) WP1 Project status report and plans for final report*	*Natalie Haley*
12:15-13:45	Lunch	

Time (CET)	Session	Lead
13:45-14:15	Regional Communication Guidelines	Sabrina Gaber (EMBRC)
14:15-14:20	Group photograph	Natalie Haley (Instruct-ERIC)
14:20-14:35	Kick-start project: Increasing EATRIS international visibility and improving usage in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, UK and USA	Rebecca Ludwig (EATRIS)
14:35-14:50	Kick-start project: Bioprospecting Collaboration	Deborah Power (CCMAR)
14:50-15:00	Break	
15:00-15:15	Kick-start project: Bilateral collaboration between Australia and Europe in the field of chemical biology and early drug discovery	Bahne Stechmann (EU-OPENSCREEN)
15:15-15:30	Kick-start project: Genetic Standardisation of Reference Mouse Strains in South Africa	Asrar Ali Khan (INFRAFRONTIER)
15:30-15:50	Future of international Research Infrastructure collaborations	Patricia Postigo McLaughlin (European Commission DG Research & Innovation) & Pierre Quertenmont (European Commission Research Executive Agency)
15:50-16:50	Panel discussion	Daniel Adams (Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa) Corinne Martin (ELIXIR) Bahne Stechmann (EU-OPENSCREEN) Inmaculada Figueroa (Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain)
16:50-17:00	Conclusions and meeting close	Susan Daenke (Instruct-ERIC)
17:00	Quiz and Conversation (+ Prizes!)	John Dolan (Instruct-ERIC)

Event website and format

The event ran from 10:00 CET to 17:00 CET with a closed consortium-internal session before the lunch break.

Event information including agenda and registration details was available centrally on the event website within the RI-VIS website at https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/ri-vis-final-meeting Following the meeting, presentations and recordings of sessions were added to the event page.

The main meeting was held online using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Participants were required to register for the event and a registration link was provided on the event website and in communication materials.
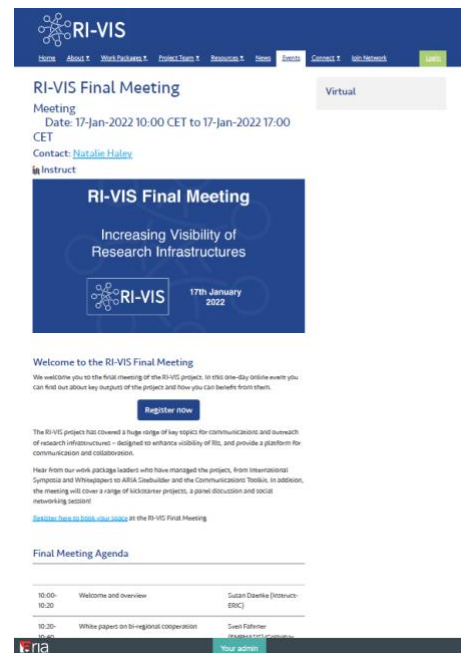

Figure 1: Screenshot of website for final meeting.

After the meeting a social event including a "RI-QUIZ" and informal conversation was held using the Wonder platform. The website was updated for this session to include a link to join the Wonder platform.
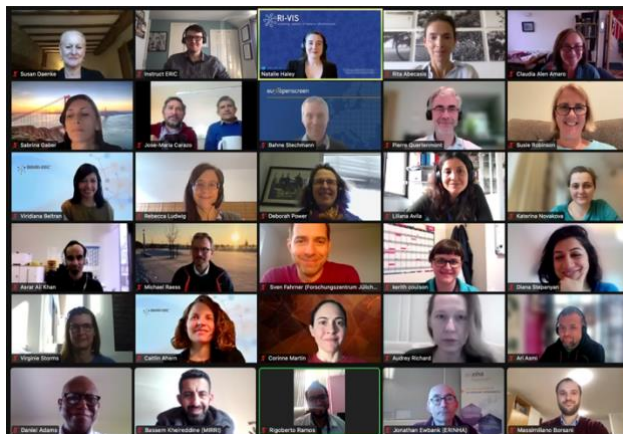
Meeting statistics

Attendees

Figure 2: Attendees participating in a group photo during the RI-VIS Final Meeting

The event was open to all interested participants and advertised to RI-VIS contacts, research infrastructure networks, and participants from the symposia.

In total 15 registrations were received from which 92 participants attended for some or all of the meeting, resulting in a 61% attendance rate.

Of the 92 participants, 32 (35%) were from RI-VIS beneficiaries. Although the meeting was scheduled assuming a primarily European audience, there was representation amongst participants from all target regions for the symposia and other RI-VIS international activity of Africa, Latin America, and Russia.
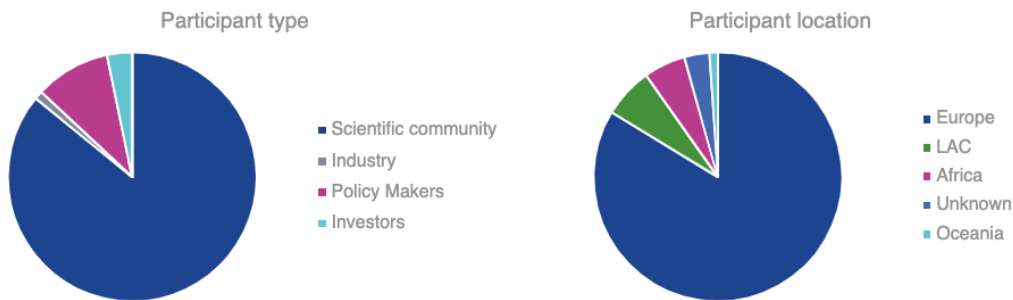
Figure 3: Diversity of participants at RI-VIS Final meeting

Social media

The Final Meeting was advertised on social media on Twitter and on the Research Infrastructure communicator slack workspace.

During the event, live commentary was provided from the @RI_VIS_eu twitter account. The tweets broadcast on the day of the event (17 January 2022) received 12K impressions in total with engagement of 1.89%.
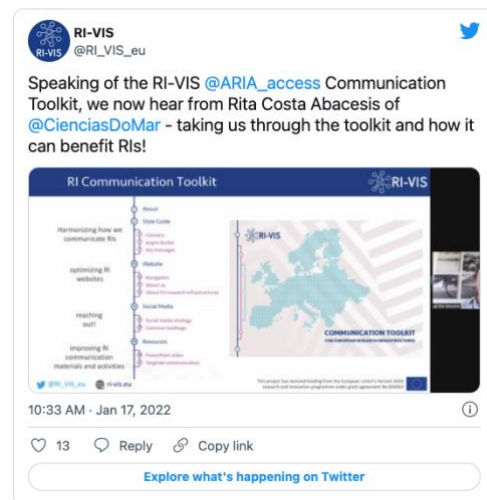

Figure 4: Example tweet during the RI-VIS Final Meeting

Summary of individual sessions

Welcome and overview

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hslaxMSKHjs
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=01_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+Welcome+and+Overview.pptx

Susan Daenke (Instruct-ERIC), Coordinator of the RI-VIS project gave a brief overview of the project, its aims and its major results.

White papers on bi-regional cooperation

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4kueQBcn8A
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=02_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+White+papers+on+bi-regional+cooperation.pptx
Deliverables: D2.2, D2.3
Resources: White papers: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/white-papers

Sven Fahrner (EMPHASIS) explained the work to create the three white papers on bi-regional cooperation of research infrastructures, giving a walk-through of the Latin American white paper. A summary of the activities used to disseminate the white paper was also given.

International Symposia

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzRzn7vdMmo
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=03_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+International+Symposia.pptx
Deliverables: D3.1, D3.2, D3.3, D3.4
Resources: Africa-Europe Symposium: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/ri-vis-africa-europe-symposium
Latin America – Europe Symposium: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/ri-vis-latin-america---europe-symposium-1
Australia – Europe Symposium: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/australia---europe-symposium-on-research-infrastructures
Europe – Russian Federation Symposium: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/events/eu---russian-federation-symposium-on-research-infrastructures

Bahne Stechmann (EU-OPENSCREEN) presented the three bi-regional symposia on research infrastructures organised by the RI-VIS project for Africa-Europe, Latin America-Europe (in collaboration with EU-LAC ResInfra) and Australia-Europe, also noting the additional symposium for Europe-Russian Federation Research Infrastructures in collaboration with CREMLINplus project. The format of the event was explained, and the transition from in-person to virtual events. The aims to raise awareness of RIs in the two regions, to mitigate challenges and to build relationships between RIs in the two regions were presented. Some attendee statistics for each symposium and feedback on the format and the events were presented.

ARIA Sitebuilder

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KE0hQMG96Sk
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=04_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+ARIA+Sitebuilder.pptx
Deliverables: D4.1, D5.2
Resources: Toolkit in Sitebuilder: https://toolkit.ri-vis.eu/home

Natalie Haley (Instruct-ERIC) introduced the ARIA Sitebuilder tool for building simple responsive websites for research infrastructures. The broader ARIA software ecosystem was briefly presented, followed by the motivation for ARIA Sitebuilder, its general principles and a product tour of the main features.

Communication Tools and Community for Research Infrastructures

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nql4vyazA8g
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=05_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+Communication+Tools+and+Community+for+Research+Infrastructures.pptx

Deliverables: D5.1, D5.2
Resources: PDF Toolkit: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/news/launch-of-communication-toolkit-for-research-infrastructures/
Online Toolkit: https://toolkit.ri-vis.eu/home

Rita Abecasis (CCMAR) presented the communication toolkit for research infrastructures, the collaboration with RIs from ERIC forum and RI-VIS to create it. The initial pdf version was presented, the content of the toolkit explained. The extension of the task to promotion of the toolkit, and the training of the communication officer community was explained including the training series of 8 sessions provided by Clear Europe. The online version of the toolkit was presented, intended to increase user friendliness, implemented in ARIA Sitebuilder.

Regional Communication Guidelines

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63r4AVoAFpA
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=06_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+Regional+Communication+Guidelines.pptx
Resources: https://ri-vis.eu/network/rivis/news/communication-guidelines-for-engaging-with-regional-stakeholders/

Sabrina Gaber (EMBRC) presented the regional communication guidelines which provide help to research infrastructures to facilitate communication with Africa or Latin America. The survey used to collect local input was explained, and the organising committees used to shape the survey, reach local survey respondents, and analyse results. The key findings from the survey were then explained: collaborative approaches are needed and there must be mutual benefit. Language and terms used may have different meanings in different regions. Interest in training and staff exchanges. Funding is a barrier. Active and passive strategy to international outreach recommended by proactively reaching out to potential collaborators but having content on your website for potential collaborators to find you.
Related deliverables: D5.4 D5.5. The guidelines (6 steps structured as a roadmap to create communication strategy) were then described.

Kick-start project: Increasing EATRIS international visibility and improving usage in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, UK and USA

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofXeXDmIMZ4
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=07_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+Kick+start+EATRIS.pdf&do=do
Resources: TranslationTogether training portal: https://translationtogether.org/courses-training/
Structure of funding scan: https://instruct-eric.org/download/?file=Overview_Funding+organisations_result+structure.xlsm
Deliverables: D5.3

Rebecca Ludwig (EATRIS) presented the EATRIS infrastructure and its TranslationTogether (TT) project with partners across the globe. The RI-VIS kick-start project had 3 pillars: Train, Connect and Collaborate. It addressed lack of info on their services especially training, lack of networking, lack of information on funding, lack of awareness of opportunities for young researchers. These were tackled by improvements such as filtering for the training services website, running a networking series for researchers to showcase projects with short pitches and discussions, carrying out a funding scan to identify potential funders for international collaborations in gene therapy, and a video series for young researchers on careers in RIs.

Kick-start project: Bioprospecting Collaboration
Deliverables: D5.3

Deborah Power (CCMAR) presented the EMBRC infrastructure and CCMAR, part of the Portuguese node of EMBRC. The motivation for using the marine domain for biological resources was explained. Plan to strengthen the bioprospecting service offer of EMBRC. Kick-start project allowed the international partner in South Africa to get biological resources to EMBRC nodes in PT for chemical screening. Within short timeline the material transfer agreements and shipping were arranged and chemical structures obtained. Outcomes and benefits of the project were summarised.

Kick-start project: Bilateral collaboration between Australia and Europe in the field of chemical biology and early drug discovery
Deliverables: D5.3

Bahne Stechmann (EU-OPENSCREEN) presented the EU-OPENSCREEN infrastructure and compound sharing model, and collaborators Griffith University, Monash University, and Therapeutic Innovation Australia Ltd (TIA). The MoU between EU-OPENSCREEN, Griffith University and TIA was explained. The kick-start project work was presented where an MTA for compound submission was exchanged, agreed minimum quantity of compound to be exchanged reduced, structure of the compound libraries of the partners were shared.

Kick-start project: Genetic Standardisation of Reference Mouse Strains in South Africa
Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Y9sWjXDfiI
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=10_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+Kick+start+INFRFRONTIER.pptx
Deliverables: D5.3

Asrar Ali Khan (INFRAFRONTIER) presented the INFRAFRONTIER infrastructure, the European Mouse Mutant Archive (EMMA) and collaborators University of Cape Town Research Animal Facility (UCT-RAF). The kick start project motivation, to remove genetic drift from animals bred in different locations to improve reproducibility of experiments. UCT-RAF would receive cryopreserved embryos from CNR Italy to breed and act as a

distributor across the African continent. This was delayed by travel bans resulting from the omicron variant of coronavirus.

Future of international Research Infrastructure collaborations

Recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzKj21pE6As
Slides: https://ri-vis.eu/download/?file=11_RI-VIS+Final+Meeting+-+RTD-REA.pptx

Pierre Quertenmont (European Research Executive Agency) reminded participants of the EU RI work programme and the types of grants available. International cooperation is involved in all types of grants but also some specific grants are targeted to internationalisation. Explained ESFRI and grants for preparatory RIs. EU support participation of EU partners in international RI ventures like SKA. 20% of TNA/VA can be provided to non-EU researchers in relevant grants. Grants to support policy in international cooperation.

Patricia Postigo McLaughlin (European Commission DG Research & Innovation) explained the global approach to R&I adopted by the EC with focus on shared values such as green deal and digitalisation. Future calls in HE work programmes are still to be decided, likely to include Africa and LAC calls. G7 working group on RIs, GSO have framework for global research infrastructures. ICRI conference 19-21 October 2022 in Brno CZ.

ICRI 2022

Resources: ICRI 2022 Website: https://www.icri2022.cz/

Ondřej Hradil (Masaryk University) gave further information about the International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI 2022) and gave a tour of the website explaining that there would be a call opening shortly for satellite and side events.

Panel discussion

Panelists: **Daniel Adams**, Chief Director: Basic Sciences and Infrastructure, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa
Corinne Martin, External Relations Officer, ELIXIR
Bahne Stechmann, Head of Operations & Scientific Strategy, EU-OPENSCREEN
Inmaculada Figueroa, Deputy Vice Director General for Internationalization of Science & Innovation, Ministry of Science and Innovation, Spain
Chair: **Susan Daenke**, Instruct-ERIC Hub Coordinator, Instruct-ERIC

In opening remarks Daniel Adams mentioned he was involved in implementing the South African RI roadmap. He is also a member of the GSO on research infrastructures and other expert groups. He highlighted that from the South African perspective there must be mutual benefit sharing. South Africa must contribute. Interested in increasing the quality of research outputs. There is a skill shortage and the aim is to increase human capital whilst combatting the brain-drain. COVID-19 gave an example of transferable skills of people who worked on the SKA applying skills to the pandemic. South Africa's position gives it geographical advantages and unique offers.

Inmaculada Figueroa is in the unit in Spain involved in research infrastructures and is Spain's delegate to ESFRI. She presented the EU-LAC ResInfra project which is working to political and scientific cooperation between EU and LAC in the area of research infrastructures. There are limited resources available so we need to establish synergies between projects such as EU-LAC ResInfra and RI-VIS to make efficient use of them.

Corinne Martin presented ELIXIR and Australian BioCommons and their collaboration strategy, a MoU-like document for collaboration by RI operators in the two RIs. End-users are not considered because the RI resources area already available online for free. She shared tips for collaborating such as consideration when scheduling meetings so that participants from Australia could join. She explained the careful balance between not being open enough for the collaboration to be useful and being too open and upsetting RI funders who want benefits from their membership over non-members.

Bahne Stechmann explained that he organised the symposia together with Viridiana Beltran. He explained people are key to research infrastructures and building international relationships. Incentives for both sides should be clear. Need small grants and funding opportunities to build these collaborations. Meetings are good but to keep momentum need other activities and this is what RI-VIS has done with white papers and other activities alongside symposia.

The panel went on to discuss questions of what the value proposition was for their collaborations, issues of non-continuous funding available for initiatives, flexible membership contributions for prospective international members and evaluation of international collaborative projects. The panellists noted ESFRI as a good and effective forum and it would be good if it extended beyond Europe.

Entertainment

After the main meeting John Dolan (Instruct-ERIC) hosted a social event including a "RI-QUIZ" and informal conversation using the Wonder platform. This was the same platform used during the international symposia, which allows participants to move around and form 'bubbles' with smaller groups of people they want to converse with.
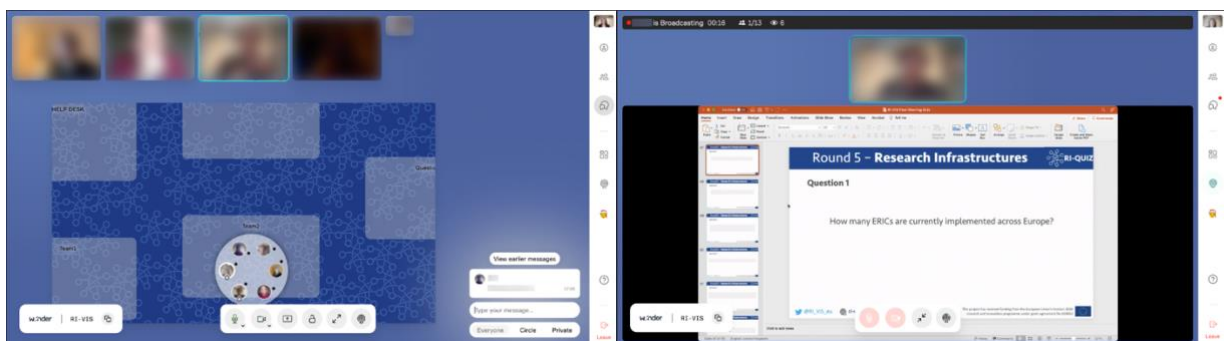

Figure 5: Wonder conversation and virtual RI-QUIZ after the main meeting.

The format worked well for a pub-quiz where each team had its own bubble, and the quizmaster could broadcast questions to everyone.