

Press Release

**ICRI 2014 – A conference with a view to the future...**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Research Infrastructures (ICRI 2014), one of the most important international scientific conferences that will define the critical research area during the years to come, will take place at the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre from April 2 to 4, 2014, in the framework of the Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It is organised by the European Commission and the Greek General Secretariat of Research & Technology (Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs) with the organisational care of the “Athena” Research and Innovation Center.

The strategic aim of ICRI 2014 is to highlight how global Research Infrastructures may respond to the grand local and global challenges the world is facing today (environment, poverty, sustainability, security), what lessons have been learnt from the past and what the priorities and directions for the future are.

More than 600 participants from all over the world, and 90 speakers (among them many distinguished members of the research community as, for example, the coordinator of the very well known Human Brain Project, Henry Markram, from the Swiss Federal Institute for Technology in Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland; Geoffrey Boulton, Regius Professor of Geology, University of Edinburgh, who specializes in Open Data and is an advocate of «Open Science»; Fran Berman, Council Co-Chair, Research Data Alliance, USA, who is a specialist in Big Data management; Franco Ongaro, Director of Technical & Quality Management, European Space Agency, who will analyse the innovative capabilities of space infrastructure) will deal with a plethora of subjects, from international research infrastructures management (i.e. laser, telescopes, accelerators, aircraft or deep sea crafts, for atmosphere or sea bottom observation, as well as electronic infrastructures, data networks, computer arrays and data bases), to food safety and marine research.

The importance of ICRI 2014 is highlighted by the presence, at the opening ceremony, of the Greek minister of Education & Religious Affairs, Prof.

Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos, the Commissioner for Research, Innovation & Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the minister of Education, Universities & Research of Italy, Stefania Giannini, the Greek General Secretary for Research & Technology, Dr. Christos Vasilakos, scores of high-ranking Greek and European Union officials as well as a strong South African delegation under the General Director of the ministry of Science & Technology, Phil Mjwara, as their country is the designated host of the next ICRI, two years from now.

ICRI 2014 will:

1. Highlight the essential role of global research infrastructures in addressing grand challenges at all scales: national, regional, continental and global;
2. Reflect on the needs and challenges that arise during the development and operation of global research infrastructures at national, regional, continental and global level;
3. Present the main characteristics of global research infrastructures and identify the challenges and drivers for collaboration at an international level;
4. Take forward the recommendations of ICRI 2012;

The Plenary Sessions of the Conference deal with topics like «Research Infrastructures for Global Challenges», «Governance of Research Infrastructures», «Innovation Potential of Research Infrastructures» and «Big Data management», while a panel of distinguished scientists will debate on “The Way forward”. ICRI 2014 will be complemented by a poster and project exhibition booths set up at N. Skalkotas foyer. A series of parallel thematic sessions will deal with the Environment (special focus on Marine Research Infrastructures and the Arctic), Palaeoanthropology and Cultural Heritage, Food Safety and e-Infrastructure.

Finally, another important event in the framework of ICRI 2014 is the exhibition, of **53 works of art selected after an international competition on the “Research & Art” theme**, in a specially designated area of the Conference Centre,

## Invitation to Press Conference

During the first day of the Conference, Wednesday, 2 April 2014, a Press Conference on ICRI 2014 will be held for Media representatives, with the participation of:

- the Greek minister of Education & Religious Affairs, Prof. Konstantinos Arvanitopoulos
- the Commissioner for Research, Innovation & Science, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, and
- the Greek General Secretary for Research & Technology, Dr. Christos Vasilakos.

They will present the goals of the Conference and the auspicious perspectives of research, through the best possible use of international research infrastructures. A Q&A session will follow the short introductions, moderated by the Head of Press & Media Section in the European Commission Athens Representation Office, Carlos Martin.

The Press Conference will be held at N. Skalkotas Hall (level -1 of the Megaron Athens International Conference Centre), while an exclusive Media Centre and networking area will be available for Media representatives (Press/Speakers Lounge - MC3.3), where they can also meet with any speakers they wish to talk to.

Press officer of ICRI 2014 is journalist Yannis Rizopoulos (mobile No +30 6977 795318).

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### ICRI 2014 Secretariat



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