

ICRI 2014

Session 5: the way forward



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The OECD Global Science Forum

www.oecd.org/sti/gsf

- Created in 1992 as a « Megascience Forum », transformed into the GSF in 1999
- A versatile structure where senior government officials (from 30 countries) develop findings and action recommendations on high-priority science policy issues
- A long tradition of investigating research infrastructure issues, related to all scientific domains
- Not just talks ! GSF activities lead to very concrete outcomes:
 - Work on neutron sources led to critical decisions in Japan, US and Europe (ILL, J-Parc, ESS)
 - Current work on astroparticle physics may lead to a concrete international roadmap
 - Four international research collaboration developed within the GSF:
 - The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)
 - The International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF)
 - The Global Earthquake Foundation (GEM)
 - Scientific Collections International (SciColl)

Lessons learned from recent GSF activities on RIs

- ***Roadmapping of Large Research Infrastructures (2008)***
- ***Establishing Large Research Infrastructures: Issues and Options (2010)***
- ***Data and Research Infrastructure for the Social Sciences (2013)***
- ***International Distributed Research Infrastructures (2014)***
- ***The Impacts of Large Research Infrastructures on Economic Innovation and on Society (CERN Case Study) (2014)***
 - Increased diversity of RIs types and uses, in all scientific domains
 - Setting up truly global RIs is still a challenge
 - No real mechanism to involve all stakeholders from initial stages
 - Still very much a « club » of large institutions
 - Lack of good legal frameworks for global RIs
 - Sustainable operation of international RIs is a real challenge
 - Current focus on socio-economic impact of RIs may be misleading
 - Data management and access policies not adapted to current needs

Some action proposals for the future

- **Develop international transparent decision-making processes for global RIs**
- **Develop suitable legal frameworks for international RIs**
- **Develop proper funding schemes at national and international levels to ensure the sustainability of international RIs**
- **Develop new international standards for RIs data management and access**

The OECD Global Science Forum may be the place for such debates !