



In view of ever more complex and differentiated innovation and research funding mix in the **Danube macro-region**, coupled with the current circumstances of financial crisis that highly affects the public sector investments, the absence of adequate ex-ante review, monitoring and impact oriented assessments on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) programmes and specifically on **research infrastructures (RI)**, is a serious bottleneck for the entire STI funding system and the innovation management cycle. This is exactly where **ResInfra@DR project** (2017-2019) steps in: it focuses on research infrastructures in the Danube macro-region and it offers mutual learning opportunities for policy makers and the policy delivery organisations involved in the financing, and parent organisations arranging the operation of research infrastructures.

### **Sustainable development through region-specific methodologies and co-funding**

Evidence based policy making and successful RI investments require strategic tools and guidelines to enhance socio-economic impact: ResInfra@DR aims to contribute to the efforts both to establish new research infrastructures as well as to requested processes for the upgrading of the existing RIs and to reassess their functionality i.a. by the development of methodologies which adequately reflect the specific situation in the Danube macro-region.

Moreover, its efforts to ease the utilization of RIs on regional level are necessary to prove the usefulness of proper public funding in research and development (R&D). ResInfra@DR links socio-economic actors of RI in the Danube macro-region by improving the framework conditions for innovation and stimulates the private actors to co-fund in future RI investments i.e. in private public partnerships.

### **Benefits from an enhanced transnational cooperation in ResInfra@DR**

Facing a strong trend of a “European practice” towards further internationalisation of RTDI (Research, Technology, Development and Innovation) evaluations and reviews, the core benefits of enhanced transnational cooperation in ResInfra@DR are :

- the mutual learning opportunities for policy stakeholders and policy delivery organisations involved in the financing, and the parent organisations arranging the operation of research infrastructures;

- better governance of macro-regional objectives and STI policy delivery;
- the development of joint guidance documents, methodologies and tools that are endorsed by a range of stakeholders from a whole macro region.

**The core activities follow the strategic outline of ResInfra@DR and provide**

- a dialogue focusing on relevant regional, national and macro regional but also EU level policy fields involving also end-users of RIs;
- special trainings for defined target groups, thus contributing to capacity building with an outreach to the entire macro-region and beyond the involved partnership;
- a collection of a dataset of competent (and qualified) reviewers for RI assessments;
- two pilot activities focusing on (1) peer reviews of nine existing RIs and (2) Ex ante assessments of three planned RIs in the macro region;
- Dedicated dissemination and capitalisation actions contribute to the policy take up and utilisation of the results.

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