

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

The Specific Programme: "Capacities" Framework Programme 7 (2007-2013)

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RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

Definition:

The term "Research infrastructures" refers to facilities, resources or services that are needed by the research community to conduct research in all scientific and technological fields

Examples:

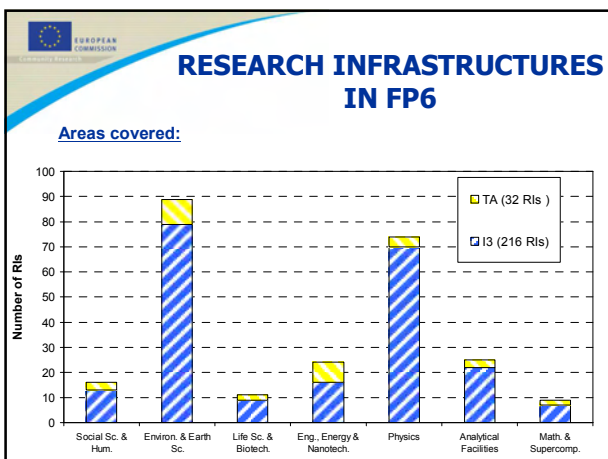
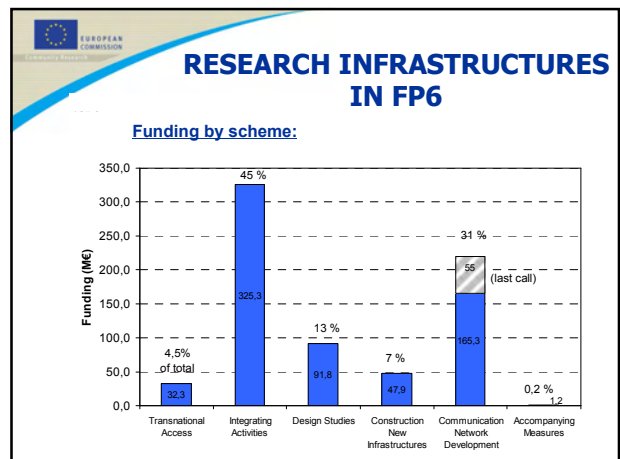
synchrotron radiation facilities, astronomical observatories, material testing facilities, environmental research observation stations, supercomputer centres, scientific libraries, databases...

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RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN FP6

Facts and Figures:

- Total budget: 722 M€ (2003-2006)
» of which 220 for GRID + GEANT
- Number of projects: 131
- Number of Research Infrastructures supported: 248
- Number of users: more than 20.000 researchers



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RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN FP7

Objectives:

- To optimise the use and development of the best research infrastructures existing in Europe
- To help create new research infrastructures of pan-European interest (or major upgrades of existing ones), in all fields of science and technology



RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN FP7

Activities:

- **For existing research infrastructures**
 - Transnational Access
 - Integrating Activities
 - ICT based e-infrastructures
- **For new research infrastructures**
 - Design Studies
 - Construction of New Infrastructures



Existing research infrastructures in FP7

Objective: *To optimise their use, performance and integration*

- **Transnational Access :** *To support opportunities of access to individual major infrastructures for transnational user groups*
- **Integrating Activities :** *To integrate the European infrastructures of a specific scientific community, promoting their coherent use and development (networking + transnational access + joint research activities)*
- **ICT based e-infrastructures :** *To foster the development high-capacity and high-performance communication (GÉANT) and grid infrastructures*



New research infrastructures in FP7

Objective : *To promote the creation of new research infrastructures (or major upgrades of existing ones) of pan-European interest*

- **Design studies:** *To support exploratory awards and feasibility studies for new infrastructures (bottom-up)*
 - **Construction of new infrastructures:** *To promote the creation of new research infrastructures based on the work conducted by ESFRI * on the development of a European roadmap for new research infrastructures*
- **ESFRI - European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures, <http://www.cordis.lu/esfri>**



New research infrastructures in FP7

Construction via a two-stage process:

- **The preparatory phase**
 - restricted calls targeting priority projects (based on the work of ESFRI)
 - To support construction plans, legal organisation, financial engineering, management structure
- **The construction phase**
 - Developed following the satisfactory implementation of the first phase
 - « Case by Case » approach (e.g. use of Article 171, the specific programme)



RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

More information:

- **Research Infrastructures on CORDIS**
<http://www.cordis.lu/infrastructures/>
<http://www.cordis.lu/ist/rn/>
- **ESFRI (European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures)**
<http://www.cordis.lu/esfri/>
<http://www.e-irg.com>