

EU TNA funding for industry users

Lessons learnt

*Patricia Postigo McLaughlin
European Commission
Directorate General for Research and Innovation
Research Infrastructures team*



The European Research programme

- Intra-EU collaborative culture. Internationalisation of science at all levels.
- First EU research programme in the 70s. Now in its 9th edition – EUR 95,5 billion for 2021-2027
- The broader EU research programme includes a sub-programme on research infrastructures.
 - The first funding for TNA was offered already in FP2 (1987-91, €30 million).
 - The big breakthrough came in the early 2000s with the ERA; RIs were seen as one of its pillars, and ESFRI was created in 2002. The sub-programme started to fund not only TNA, but also the preparation of new pan-European RIs ('ESFRI projects').
- The programme today (next slide):

Purpose of RI programme & challenges under HE

What we do

- We fund **ACCESS**
- We facilitate agreement of Member States on roadmaps for future pan-European RIs and RI upgrades (via ESFRI)
- We support the **implementation of ESFRI roadmaps** with grants for the **preparatory phase of future RIs.**
- We created and support the implementation of the **ERIC** regulation
- We **foster international cooperation** of facilities, linkages with the private sector (as user and supplier) and compliance with the **European Open Science Cloud.**

What we DON'T do

- We **do not BUILD RIs.** MS and third countries come together to build new RIs with Structural Funds & National Funding/in-kind contributions.

EU grants for TNA

- In Horizon H2020 they were called Integrating Activities. In Horizon Europe they are called INFRASERV.
- In Horizon H2020 they were conceived for consortia bringing together one same type of facilities. In Horizon Europe they were aimed at bringing together in a consortium different types of services aimed at one same field of research (eg cancer). Some caveats.
- These grants are financed with money allocated to the basic science part of the EU science budget. However, EU money funds also industrial TNA users – they are however obliged to publish results unless they are SMEs.
- Overall industrial participation in the EU TNA programme is low.

Some general considerations

- Core objective / secondary objectives
- What we know
 - Industrial TNA use is overall low
 - Industrial vs academic users (fast access, consultancy, value of the network)
 - Big companies vs SMEs (publishing results, local access)

The main issues reported are transnational requirement vs local networks and redefining TNA to include consultancy services.

- What we can do

The work ahead

- Facilitate exchange of information
- Understand the information we need for a full picture
- Understand trends and technological areas that can be supported from other areas of Horizon Europe or future framework programmes
- Consolidate the results of INFRASERV grants. Next WP 2025-2027 may bring a further revision of access grants, preparing the road for the next Horizon programme.

Thank you