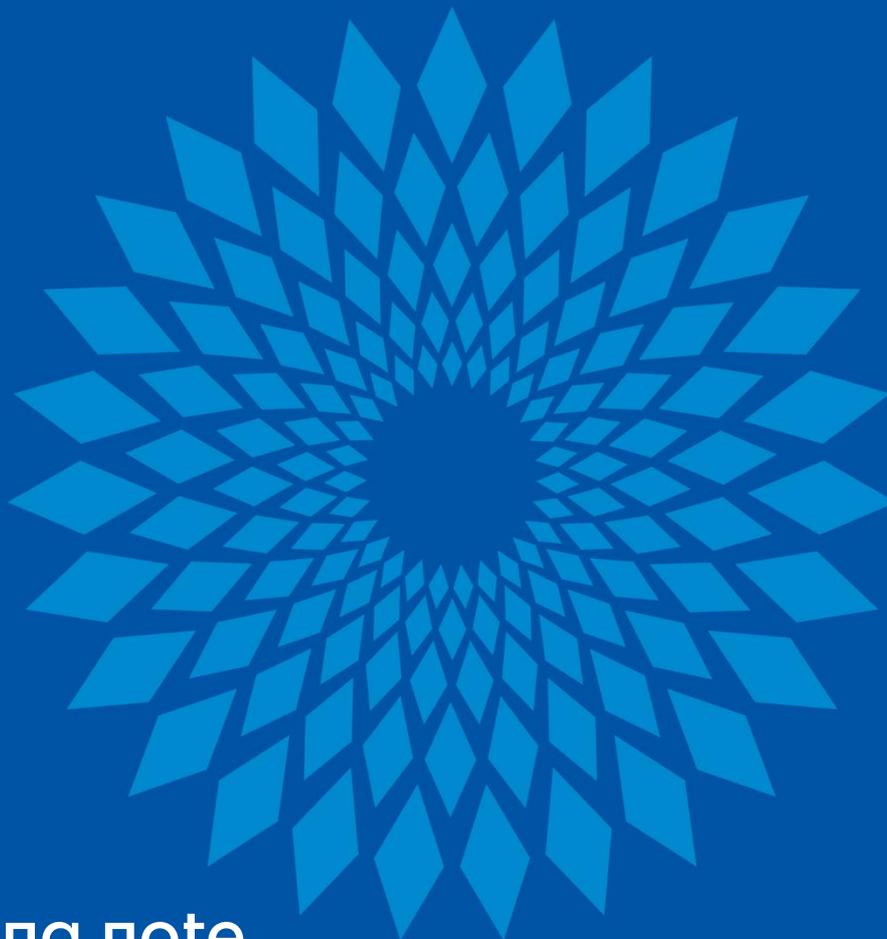


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Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union



Briefing note **Research Infrastructures**

Conference on Synergies
in the Research and Innovation
Funding in Europe

Prague, Czech Republic
7 – 8 July 2022

Briefing note for the parallel break-out session Research infrastructures

Research infrastructures are facilities providing the research and innovation communities with unique knowledge and expertise, exceptional experimental devices and technical resources, and extensive collections of data sets and related computing services, **which are essential to carry out breakthrough fundamental research**, extending the frontiers of the human knowledge beyond yet known horizons, **as well as cutting-edge applied research, advancing the technology development.**

Research infrastructures integrate a broad range of stakeholders in multidisciplinary as well as cross-sectorial way, facilitating the problem-solving and solution-oriented approach, feeding into disruptive science-based innovations, which are **key to address the most pressing societal challenges and urgent economic needs of utmost relevance and impact, and strengthen the resilience and preparedness of the societies** to tackle crisis scenarios requiring knowledge-based solutions.

Research infrastructures rooted in the macro-regional strategies trigger and accelerate the societal and economic development, when attracting the investments, promoting the amplification of the civil infrastructure and services, stimulating the business supply chains and industrial boom, and offering high-skilled job opportunities. **Thereby, they have a huge potential to bridge the research gap and close the innovation divide, and increase the capabilities of communities to resolve their local needs.**

The complete life-cycle of research infrastructures usually spans over decades, thus requiring a long-term political and funding commitment in a way of high-strategy investment, creating stable, reliable and predictable environment for the financial planning in the phases of the concept development and design, the preparatory, implementation, construction and operation phases, the phases of upgrades, and the decommissioning and termination phases.

A synergy approach to the research and innovation funding in Europe is, therefore, a key assumption to satisfy the financial needs of research infrastructures throughout all of their life-cycle periods and safeguard long-term sustainable development of their capacities. A closer alignment of the research, educational, innovation, industrial, regional and other sectorial policies when it comes to their design, creation and implementation may provide answers to these questions.

Research infrastructures have been included as a key investment priority in both the Member States' and the European Commission's policy-making, including the Member States' national programmes, the EU Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation, the EU Cohesion Policy Funds, or the EU Recovery and Resilience Funds. Synergies have been put in practice. However, with new programming periods, new challenges always arise and call for action to smooth the implementation of synergies.