

**DTP1-184-1.1 „RI2integrate”**

**Embeddedness of high quality research infrastructures in the  
Danube Region**

**DURABILITY PLAN**

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Developed by ELI-ALPS (LP) with the involvement of Expedient-ML Ltd. as external expert

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The main objective of the RI2Integrate project was to exploit the economic development potential and to better integrate the operation of the EU's excellent R&D infrastructure (RI) investment projects through devising and implementing innovative tools for policy learning on macroregional embeddedness in the Danube Region.

To reach the objective, RI2Integrate partnership considered the following characteristics:

- The EU flagship R&D infrastructure investment (Extreme Light Infrastructure – ELI) is under development in the Danube Region. In addition to its scientific impacts, it offers the opportunity to decrease relative economic backwardness and uneven territorial distribution of research facilities.
- One of the main roles of the new research infrastructures (including ELI) is the converting the scientific results into economic success while building bridges in their macro-regions. To maximize the positive effects of their operation, the government, industry, academia and civil participants all have to work together to drive structural changes and support macro-regional embeddedness.
- The already implemented RIs in the Danube Region shows the lack of coordination of capacities, disparities in synergies and modest transfer of knowledge.
- Additionally, the macro-regional embeddedness that could support the competitiveness is only partly achieved (isolated operation). The relevant EU initiatives (especially Digital Agenda for Europe) highlight that the Open Innovation 2.0 paradigm (integrating Quadruple Helix and Smart Specialization) could accelerate networking, collaboration, corporate entrepreneurship, community involvement and R&D integration.

The common challenge for RI2Integrate project was therefore to accelerate macro-regional embeddedness of RIs in the Danube Region (on the basis of the ELI network) with involving all interest groups along Quadruple Helix (QH) to develop framework conditions of RI utilization.

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The main objective of RI2Integrate project has been fixed with deep knowledge on all listed challenges. All mentioned challenges have been integrated and the main objective have finalized as: to exploit the economic development potential and to better the integration of the operation of the EU's excellent R&D Infrastructure investment projects through devising and implementing innovative tools for policy learning on macro-regional embeddedness in the Danube Region.

Following the addressed challenges, RI2Integrate has improved strategic frameworks and cooperation in order to build up excellent research infrastructure in the Danube region. It has been realized through develop a new networking platform and tools along QH with the involvement of R&D institutions, public authorities, SMEs and NGOs and develop new tools addressing the identified challenges.

The specific objectives of the project have been defined by the systematization of the needs and challenges as follows:

- Direct R&D utilization in industry and local business involvement related challenges have been addressed by Programme Specific Objective (PSO) 1 /Support enterprises by using a systematic approach to their relation to RIs covering supplier opportunities and R&D networking/;
- Direct utilization of R&D results in public (governmental) investments and developments have been addressed by PSO2 /Supporting government involvement through the utilization of Public Procurement on Innovation (PPI) tool that ensures high level support from public authorities/;
- Raising awareness of the wider community to get better knowledge on their individual and territorial development potential have been addressed by PSO3 /As the high quality research infrastructures are not only accelerators of macro-regional economic competitiveness, but a basis for raising awareness of innovation, a supporting tool for knowledge sharing with the general public is crucial/.

The main outputs were the 3 tools which have been developed and tested with the active participation of designated partners for each tool for boosting macro-regional embeddedness of Research Infrastructures:

- a guide for public procurement of innovation;
- a guide for aiding research infrastructures related business ecosystem (Science and Technology Parks) and
- a roadmap for community awareness raising

The main result is the improved transfer of scientific results into the economy of the Danube Region, taking into consideration the variety of needs in the participating countries, through the improvement of cross linkages among R&D&I, SMEs, community and government.

RI2integrate brought together 4 types of organizations dedicated to sustainable improvement of their services for the sake of RI embeddedness support. Sustainability of the project's achievements, practices, networks and policy implementation have been ensured by involving policymakers and representatives of existing innovation networks in RI2integrate project management structures as well as by events and active collaboration with these actors in knowledge transfer activities. The developed and tested tools implemented and enhanced by RI2integrate are the key instruments for establishing sustainable transnational structures.

The partnership is committed to sustain the project results following some general principles:

- Project results are available for public use on the webpage of the project (with the responsibility of ELI-ALPS and UM as communication responsible) and PPs webpages (with the responsibility of individual PPs).
- Contents are integrated in the existing websites of all partners to be accessible after RI2integrate closing date.
- Tools are available for free usage after project closure. Network members assure that tools will stay updated at least 3 years after project closure.

- A free, general training package has been developed including all developed initiatives to support the adaptation of the project results.

Following the given framework conditions, RI2Integrate project have implemented all planned activities and successfully supported RI embeddedness. As the partnership is committed to sustain the results and accelerate further collaboration in the related topics, the current durability is given to define and support the follow-up activities.

## 2. MAIN DURABLE RESULTS

The RI2Integrate partnership has **developed three main tools on RI embeddedness**. Namely, one PPI related, one with science park focus, and one for youth awareness raising. The three tools, as one of the main outputs of the project have supporting character for the whole Danube Region:

- **Public procurement of innovation** is a new concept in the Interreg Danube region. European directives for public procurement were implemented but the following methodological documentation is missing – the manual for procurers, raising awareness about the possibilities of PPI and some monitoring indicators for new national procurement laws and PPI implementation.
- RI2integrate and other EU projects could help to implement PPI concept more effectively by: i) raising awareness among public procurers about possibilities of procuring the innovative solutions; ii) close the gap between the innovative and public authorities sector to know about each other and their needs and iii) to increase utilizing of innovative solution at the market and so support the hi-tech and the most innovative actors and increase the competitiveness.
- This methodology is mainly focused on public authorities and other state agencies which are responsible for distributing public funding and/or the providing public services. Mainly in the public services, the innovative solutions would bring the real added value for end users – citizens. This PPI concept is there in strong synergy with smart city trend, which combine classical public services (waste water management, security, health system) and the most innovative technologies (IT, nanotechnologies, satellite data,...).
- The final outcome of these trends should be more effective and available public services using these innovative technologies and more available and expanded innovative technologies itself at the market.

- **Roadmap for forming Science Parks** around excellent RIs was elaborated on the basis of the international trends and worldwide experience and contacts with decision makers in all the fields of interest for a science and technology parks from the first steps in a STP implementation to the needs of startups founders, banks and venture capitalists. A special attention was paid to the features of the business ecoenvironment development in the Danube Region and the contribution of the project partner countries described in their national reports.
- The roadmap was developed based on the day to day experience of people responsible for launching and managing science and technology parks in a Danube Region country but also on the recognized authority of the International Association of Science Parks with a good knowledge of the success or failure factors in whole world.
- The roadmap provides a guideline for setting up science and technology parks taking into account the best practices developed in the Region as well as useful information on the different approaches and results including their support programs to improve their capacity to provide useful knowledge, services and instruments.
- Science and Technology Parks are usually not technology transfer actors themselves as probably are most of their tenants. As technology transfer and Intellectual Property Rights protection may become essential for tenants business training and consultancy services on these issues have to be organized and provided (see Macro regional guideline for RI embeddedness).
- As a third pillar, a **youth awareness raising guide** has been developed. The youth awareness guidebook intended to provide an overview of public awareness raising campaigns. It aimed to support the activities related to the world of awareness raising and overviewed possible ways of planning a campaign, presented some different approaches, applicable tools for campaigners and briefly discussed how to communicate with the youth in a awareness raising campaign. It also summarized some key factors which needs to be met or considered while initiators of public

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awareness raising campaigns plan the process. Later an example of a science centre has been presented to show how awareness raising could be translated to the aim of this project, which intends to start awareness raising in relation to research and development infrastructures. The main goal of this pillar was to present few ideas related to public awareness raising campaigns, and did not intend to become a guideline for how to do certain awareness raising projects, it rather aimed to become a toolkit to generate discussion on the topic and stimulate new ideas for initiators.

- Considering the durability perspectives, a **knowledge transfer training** programme has been implemented, involving organizations from all Danube countries. A guide for knowledge transfer trainings has been developed that a) gives a common understanding on preparation and proposed training methods, b) defines a training pack, as the overview of the proposed training content, c) proposes an agenda.
- As a further output of the project, a **Memorandum of Understanding** has been signed by organizations from all Danube Countries. The purpose of this MoU is to establish, within the framework of the RI2integrate project an International Committee in the Danube Region. This International Committee forms the basis for the yearly monitoring and interregional consultation of RI embeddedness in the Danube Region.

All the above described outputs are giving a strong background to assure the durability of the project results, as well as give a valuable input for further cooperation among the partners and over the partnership.

### 3. FOLLOW-UP APPROACH

The current durability plan follows the approach of using four elements of durability, namely:

- Planning
- Implementation
- Monitoring
- Improvement

Additionally, the definition of the durability actions follows a six-step procedure:

- identification of the needs related durability
- identification of the resources to sustain the results
- definition of values
- define funding schemes
- identify potential partners
- forming the actions

As the main durability measure from organizational perspectives, a transnational RI2integrate Committee (as the durability outcome of the networking platforms developed in the project) has been funded by a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). MoU and the related International Committee are the basic framework for all durability issues of RI2integrate from the perspectives of finance, management and organisation.

The durability will be assured by:

- tailor-made, well communicated and adaptable tools will be developed and tested,
- by the integration of the results into policy documents
- by developing new sustainable initiatives on RI embeddedness, the economic ecosystem of the involved territories will be strengthened
- raised awareness and strengthened commitments on the issue addressed among all stakeholders

- improving knowledge of youth on territorial development opportunities.

## 4. DURABILITY GOALS AND ACTIONS

<b>Durability Goal #1:</b>	Operation of International Committee (IC) grounded by the Memorandum of Understanding
<b>Durability element(s):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) promotion of results to enable the utilization of newly developed solutions</li> <li>2) continuous policy update</li> </ol>

Primary Activity	Secondary Activities / Deliverables	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Resources needed
Promotion of RI2Integrate results	Organization/Participation of/on thematic events.	Project partnership and networking partners.	2 events per year from 2020.	PPs internal resources + connection to existing initiatives.
	Daily operation of IC.	Members of the IC with the leadership of ELI-ALPS.	Continuous after project end.	PPs internal resources.
	Knowledge transfer training upon individual requests.	Project partnership.	Continuous after project end.	Internal resources + possible service fee
Policy update	Continuous cooperation with policy responsible bodies at national/regional level.	PPs internally and policy responsible bodies at national/regional level.	Continuous after project end.	No resources planned.

	Continuous cooperation with related EU initiatives.	PPs + other IC members	Continuous after project end.	Need to be individually designed during implementation.
	Developing follow-up projects base on RI2Integrate results	PPs	Continuous after project end.	Need to be individually designed during implementation.

<b>Durability Goal #2:</b>	Promotion and utilization of RI2Integrate tools
<b>Durability element(s):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PPI tool utilization</li> <li>2) Science Park tool utilization</li> <li>3) Awareness raising tool utilization</li> </ol>

Primary Activity	Secondary Activities / Deliverables	Person/Group Responsible	Timeline	Resources needed
PPI tool utilization	Regulatory updates at national level	PPs – regulatory bodies	Continuous after project end.	No resources planned.
	Cooperation with PPI-related organizations	PPs, Central European Innovation Procurement Network	6 monthly meetings after project end.	Internal PP resources.
	Participation on relevant events/knowledge sharing	PPs involved in PPI pilot implementation	Continuous after project end.	Internal PP resources.
Science Park tool utilization	Feasibility studies for RIs	ELI-ALPS, ELI-NP	2020-2022	Needs further EU/national funding.
	Cooperation with related initiatives	PPs + IC members	Continuous after project end.	Internal PP resources.
	Participation on relevant	PPs + IC members	Continuous after project end.	Internal PP resources.

	events/knowledge sharing			
Promotion of RI2Integrate results	ELI summer schools	ELI-ALPS, ELI Beamlines, ELI-NP	1 per year from 2020	ELI own resources.
	Thematic events	Project partners and cooperating partners.	At least 2 thematic events per year from 2020.	PPs internal resources.
	Visitor centre implementation	Involved RIs	Continuous after project end.	Needs further EU/national funding.

## 5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The responsible organization for 6 monthly monitoring is ELI-ALPS. The methodology of the monitoring is an online questionnaire that must be filled in by RI2Integrate partners. The results of the questionnaires will be evaluated by the International Committee and further improvement will be defined. Parallely, the durability actions will be updated if necessary.

The questionnaire is planned to have the following questions:

ASPECT	OVERALL RATING	PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED	POSITIVE/SATISFACTORY ASPECTS/RESULTS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Schedule of the durability actions (can be evaluated by individual actions)	1-5			
Internal communication within the partnership	1-5			
External communication during the implementation of the actions	1-5			
Results of PPI tool utilization	1-5			
Results of Science Park tool utilization	1-5			

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ASPECT	OVERALL RATING	PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED	POSITIVE/SATISFACTORY ASPECTS/RESULTS	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Results of awareness raising tool utilization	1-5			
Results of awareness raising tool utilization	1-5			
Results of policy updates at national/regional level	1-5			
Success in development follow-up projects/initiatives	1-5			
Operation of RI2Integrate International Committee	1-5			

## 6. FURTHER IMPROVEMENT

The implementation of the defined durability actions will be continuously monitored as indicated in the previous chapter. By the results of the monitoring, further improvement and changes will be done. The responsible body for the improvement is RI2Integrate International Committee (IC), led by ELI-ALPS.

The IC will decide on the improvement – if needed - on the following tasks, defined in the Memorandum of Understanding:

- Promotion of RI2Integrate Project results
- Open networking for RI utilization issues
- Encouraging use of common tools in order to establish unified RI embeddedness mechanisms in Danube Region
- Enabling transfer of best practices, knowledge and solutions between Danube countries
- Promoting policy recommendations to policy decision-makers
- Preparing proposals for common future policy and project initiatives
- Cooperation in connection with knowledge sharing on RI embeddedness

As for the improvement, the decision-making body of the International Committee (Managing Body) will accept the needed improvements and communicate it to RI2Integrate partners.