



Regional Cooperation Council and Open Access to Research Infrastructures

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RCC

- The Regional Cooperation Council serves regional cooperation and European and Euro-Atlantic integration of South East Europe in order to spark development in the region to the benefit of its people
- RCC enables the implementation of regional programmes aimed at economic and social development

What is Research Infrastructure

Official EU definition

- Research Infrastructures are facilities that provide **resources and services** for research communities to conduct research and foster innovation.
- They can be used beyond research e.g. for education or public services and they may be single-sited, distributed, or virtual.
- They include
 - major scientific equipment or sets of instruments
 - collections, archives or scientific data
 - computing systems and communication networks
 - any other research and innovation infrastructure of a unique nature which is open to external users

What is **Open** Research Infrastructure (ORI)

- Infrastructure **accessible to researchers from other organizations** (and laboratories) including industry
- Access
 - Research-driven. Access based on relevance, granted after payment of additional costs related to access compared to the normal operation of the research infrastructure
 - Market-driven. Market-oriented access, granted upon payment of the full access fee

Services (1)

- 1) Access service
 - a) access to data
 - b) access to software
 - c) access to IT resources and digital services
 - d) access to aggregators
 - e) access to facilities
 - f) access to equipment
- 2) Analysis service
 - a) data analysis service and
 - b) sample analysis service
- 3) Expertise (consultancy) service
- 4) Data management
 - a) maintenance service
 - b) data storage service

Services (2)

- 5) Material processing service
 - a) material maintenance and modification
 - b) material production service
 - c) material storage service
- 6) Support service
 - a) project development
 - b) development of models and tools
 - c) development of solutions
 - d) certification and benchmarking
 - e) knowledge and technology transfer
- 7) Training and education service
- 8) Logistics service
 - a) financial service
 - b) transport service
 - c) other logistics services

Examples of research infrastructure

- DNA sequencer
- Tensile Testing Machines
- Laboratory brewery
- Experimental agricultural property
- Meteorological database of Serbia
- Repository of medical images (x-ray, CT, MRI)
- Data center
- Super computer
- Program to simulate the behavior of structures

Network of Open Access Research Infrastructure in the WB

- Idea to create a regional database for research infrastructures, supported by RCC, was first presented in January 2020.
- By the end of 2020, the Protocol on Open Access to Research Infrastructure in the Western Balkans was developed

Protocol on Open Access to Research Infrastructure in the Western Balkans

- The purpose of this Protocol is to enable **access** of researchers from research organisations/institutions to the existing Research Infrastructures by setting framework principles to be implemented by their owners, that is, Research Performing Organisations (RPO) in the Western Balkans.
- The Protocol is applicable to all researchers from RPOs regardless of the stage of their career.

Structure of the Protocol

- Definition
- Guidelines on Open Access to Research Infrastructures
- Access processes and interactions
- Legal conformity and limitations
- Research Data Management and Transparency
- Acknowledgement and co-authorship
- Ethical conduct and research integrity
- Health, safety, security and environment
- Network of Open Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans
- Monitoring
- Final provisions

Guidelines on Open Access to Research Infrastructures

- RPOs shall have a policy defining how they regulate, grant and support Access to External Users.
- In granting Access to External Users RPOs shall not discriminate on any personal, economy or nationality grounds and shall establish equal opportunities policies.
- Access to Research Infrastructures may be provided according to three different Access modes, i.e. “**research-driven**”, “**market-driven**” and “**wide**”.
- The RPO, depending on its function, contractual and legal obligations, may regulate its Open Access Policy to one or any combination of available Access modes.

Network of Open Access Research Infrastructure in the WB

- 1st Meeting on 9 March 2021
- Declaration of Commitment from Members Participating in the Network of Open Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans was developed
- Network governing structure, i.e. Steering Committee and Advisory Committee members were verified in Jun 2021.

List of all OA Network members

ALB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aleksander Moisiu University<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DIMTV Lab○ ICT Lab○ LLL Centre;• University of Medicine in Tirana.
BIH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Banja Luka;• University of Bihać;• CREDI;• University of East Sarajevo;• University of Sarajevo;• University of Zenica.
KOS*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Mitrovica.
MNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Montenegro.
NMK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ss. Cyril and Methodius University<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rectorate○ Institute for Social, Political and Juridical Research○ Institute of Economics○ Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering
SRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Belgrade Computer Centre• University of Kragujevac, (Faculty of Engineering, Center for Bioengineering)• Belgrade Metropolitan University• University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences, and Speech Technology Laboratory• Institute Mihajlo Pupin SR

Policy for Open Access to Research Infrastructures

- Pilot RPO selected
- Guidelines for creating a Policy for Open Access to Research Infrastructures provided
- Consultancy of a expert provided
- Also, a research infrastructure mapping process was conducted in the WB4 through the RCC's technical assistance in 2020 and 2021

Open Research Infrastructure Portal of Serbia

The purpose of the Open Research Infrastructure Portal of Serbia

- The ORI portal of Serbia enables RPOs to expose the existing research infrastructure and the services they provide
- For interested organizations to find services based on research infrastructure and find out under what conditions they can be obtained

Stakeholders

MSTD

ME

SF

IF

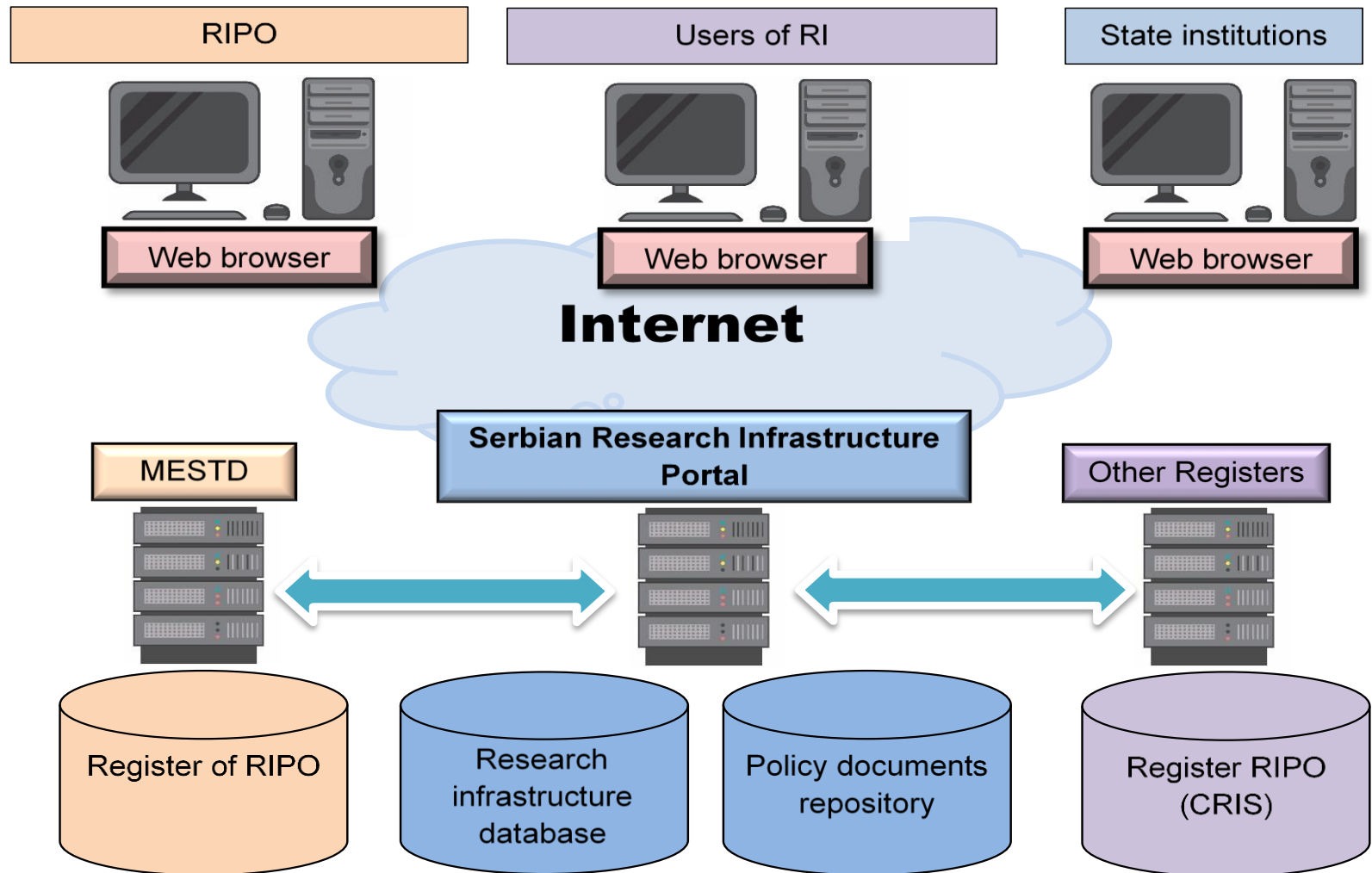
CoC

ORI PORTAL

SERVICE
PROVIDERS

SERVICE USERS

Eco-system of open research infrastructure of Serbia



Application structure

1. Portal administration module
2. Module for registration of research infrastructure
3. Module for search and use of RI and services
4. Report generation module

Portal administration module

1. Authentication of portal users (login)
2. Registration of the RPRIPOs and RPSI
3. Synchronization with other registers
4. Backup of research infrastructure database
5. Backup of document repository

Module for registration of research infrastructure

1. Updating profile of RIPO
2. Registration of RPRIPO
3. Data entry and updating profile of RPRIPO
4. Data entry and updating RI data
5. Data entry and updating data on the RI services
6. Data entry and updating data on the rules for the use of RI

Module for search and use of RI and services

1. Registration of users
2. Searching and browsing RI using keywords and filters
3. Searching and browsing of services using keywords and filters
4. Searching and browsing of RIPO
5. Browsing the rules for the use of RI
6. Applying for RI service
7. Responding to requests for RI service
8. User feedback on RI service
9. Accepting a service offer
10. Updating the log of research infrastructure use
11. Submission of proposals for the procurement of research infrastructure
12. Submission of proposals for a new service
13. Browsing other platforms for research infrastructure

Report generation module

1. Statistics of RI and services browsing
2. Statistics report on use of RI services
3. Statistical report on services provided
4. Report on proposals for the procurement of non-existent RI
5. Report on proposals for the formation of a new (non-existent) service

Benefits for business organizations and entrepreneurs

- Finding the equipment needed to develop and test innovative products and services in the country
- Finding services that accelerate the process of development, optimization and testing of products and services in the country
- Better planning for the development of innovative products and services
- Shortening the time from idea for a new product or service to market
- Improving the quality of products and services
- More efficient use of own development capacities

Benefits for RPOs

- Expanding cooperation with economic organizations, social institutions and other NGOs from Serbia and abroad
- Finding ideas and partners for projects
- Raising the capacity of technical and scientific research personnel
- Additional income from the provision of services
- Facilitated coverage of depreciation and equipment maintenance costs
- Understanding the needs for new research and development services
- Increasing the visibility and reputation of NIO
- Inflow of talent from neighboring countries and beyond

Benefits for researchers

- Work on real research and development challenges in economic and social organizations
- Closer cooperation with the economy, other NGOs and social organizations
- Discovering real development challenges and creating scientific and innovative projects to solve them
- Raising own research capacities
- The satisfaction of applying the acquired knowledge and skills in solving real development problems
- Additional income

Benefits for MSTD, SF and IF

- Monitoring the efficiency of using the existing research infrastructure
- Better understanding of the needs of scientific, economic and social organizations for new research infrastructure
- Fact-based decision-making on new equipment procurement requests
- Avoiding duplication of capacity
- Better scientific research results
- Reducing the brain drain

Benefits for the state and society

- More efficient use of equipment and return on investment before the equipment becomes obsolete
- Faster development of small and medium-sized enterprises, economic organizations in general
- Accelerated economic growth
- Smart specialization
- Stopping the outflow of highly skilled personnel from the country
- Better reputation of the state in the environment and the world
- Better understanding of citizens about the justification of investing in science and research

By intensifying the use of the existing research infrastructure, the innovation capacity of the economy would be significantly increased, and the scientific results of RPOs would be improved without additional investments.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION**

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