

Research infrastructure evaluation

results and recommendations for research infrastructure policy in Lithuania

Gábor B. Makara

Panel Chair

Panel members and affiliations

Mare Ainsaar	University of Tartu	Estonia
Kristjan Haller	University of Tartu	Estonia
Esko Kauppinen	Aalto University	Finland
Juhani Klemola	University of Tampere	Finland
Vladimir Kren	The Institute of Microbiology	Czech Republic
Toomas Kübarsepp	Tallinn University of Technology	Estonia
Makara, Gábor (Chair)	Institute of Experimental Medicine	Hungary
Taina Pihlajaniemi	Oulu University	Finland
Yves Petroff	Brazilian Synchrotron Light Laboratory	France
Mathias Senge	Trinity College Dublin	Ireland

The Panel procedure

- Each proposal was read and evaluated by at least *3 panelists*
- Two written evaluations for each item were circulated
- All Panel members discussed critical details
- Usually, a further panel member also read the proposal/evaluation before the interview.
- *Ranking was by consensus* in all but one case and included all criteria in a complex decision
- Proposals were characterized as project, institutional or national
- A single written evaluation consolidated all information

Definition of national research infrastructure (NRI)

- Unique research infrastructures
 - national and possibly international importance
 - its size and cost requires national level considerations

Research Infrastructures are *unique facilities, resources or services* that are required for *top-level activities* in any given field or set of fields. The concept spans the *whole range of science and technology*, ranging from the Social Sciences and Humanities to Physical Sciences and Engineering. They include distributed Research Infrastructures as well as single sited ones, even virtual infrastructures delivered as electronic services (based on the ESFRI roadmap)

Criteria for evaluation

- All criteria were considered
- Open Access and Smart Specialization not discriminatory
- Excellence, high demand and unique national research infrastructure
- Financial feasibility – estimated order of magnitude

Advice for applicants

- Training
- Proofreading
- Slogans and general statements
- Interviews
- Scores – full scale was used

Recommendations for next step

- Consider this a 3 stage procedure
 - First and second stage now completed
- Shortlist proposals
- Open call for shortlisted proposals, require
 - Precisely characterized demand, future users
 - Detailed investment proposals
 - Creation
 - Maintenance
 - Operational details, costs
 - Governance
 - Performance indicators, milestones
 - SWOT analysis
- Evaluate with 2-3 experts of the field (ESFRI help?)
- Panel decision (include international and national panelists)
- Contract, legal conditions

Recommendations for research infrastructure policy in Lithuania

- Terminology
 - Project, institutional, area, national levels
- Policy should include all levels of infrastructure
 - Include valleys as part of the infrastructure policy
 - Do not duplicate as an NRI what is available in the valleys
- A predictable portfolio of funding
- Dual- or multipurpose infrastructure –
 - treat as a special case if it serves not only research
- Ongoing process – not a single opportunity!
- Joining international research infrastructure
 - Careful consideration
 - Long-term costs and benefits

Thank you!