

Open Access Initiatives in Europe and Western Balkans

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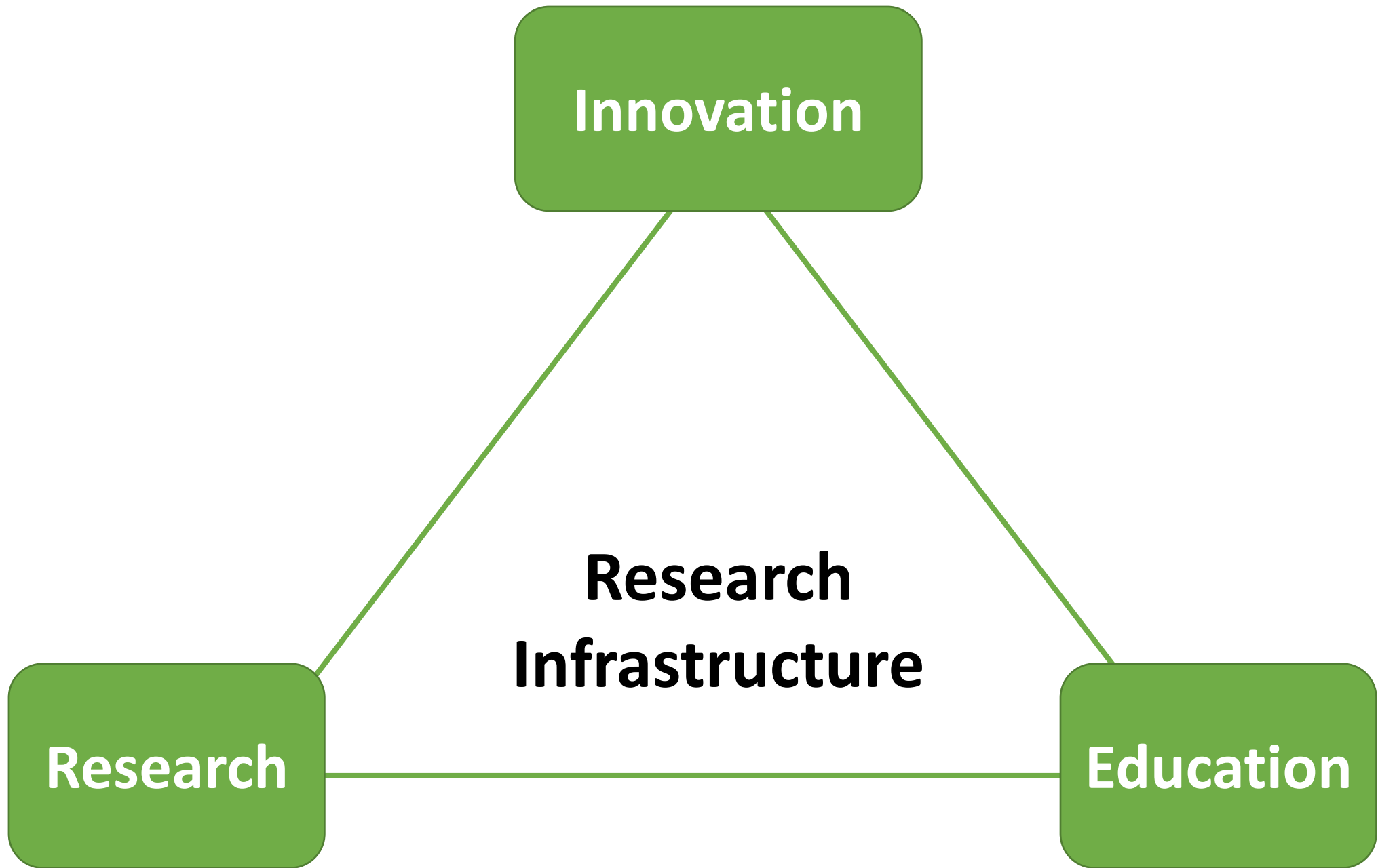
On-line event, 26 January 2021

Outline

- What is Research Infrastructure?
- What is Open Access?
- What are the Benefits of Open Access RI for WBESS?
- Open Access Initiatives for Social Science Research in Europe (including WB)
- RCC Regional Initiative Network of Open Research Infrastructures
- How to develop an Open Access Policy?
- WB Regional policy developments and initiatives

What is Research Infrastructure?

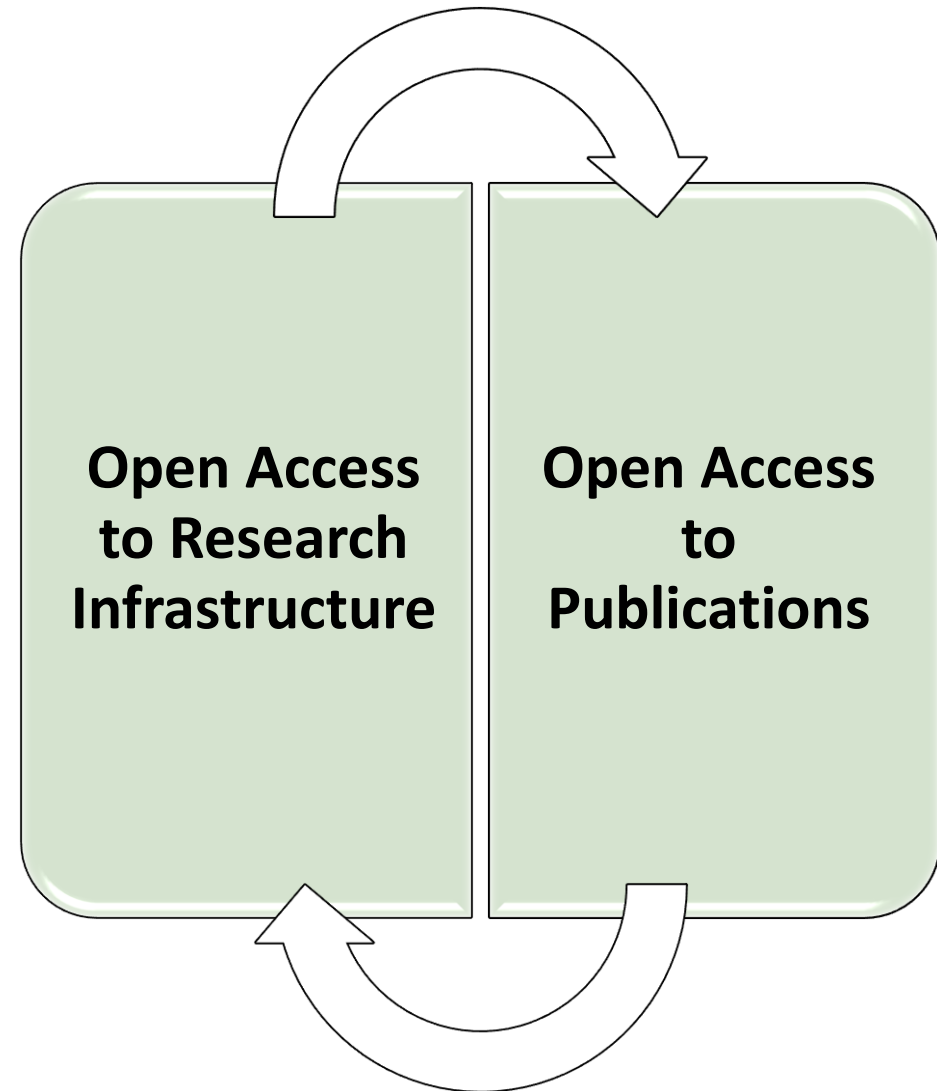
- ‘Research Infrastructures’ are facilities, resources and services that are used by the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields.
- They include:
 - major scientific equipment (or sets of instruments),
 - knowledge based resources such as collections, archives and scientific data,
 - e-infrastructure, such as data and computing systems and communication networks and
 - any other tools that are essential to achieve excellence in research and innovation.
- They may be:
 - 'single-sited', 'virtual' and 'distributed'.



What is Open Access?

“Research Infrastructure is open to all interested researchers, based on an open competition and selection of the proposals evaluated on the sole criteria of scientific excellence by international peer review.”

European Strategy Forum
for Research Infrastructure
(ESFRI)



CREDI as OA RI

- CREDI [Open Access Policy](#) - was prepared through the Technical Assistance provided by the Regional Cooperation Council in June-October 2020 under the Open Access Research Infrastructure in the Western Balkans Support Programme.
- CREDI is currently member of: ESS, CESSDA, OpenAIRE
- Coordinator of two national networks: DASS-BiH (Data Archive for Social Sciences in Bosnia and Herzegovina) and ESS-BiH (European Social Sciences in Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Running InQuire program

What are the Benefits of Open Access RI for WBESS?

- Better efficiency and use of the existing RIs
- Streamline the investments into the future RIs
- Ensure optimization of access to RIs by industry and wider research community, public sector and civil society
- Enable and enhance cross-border cooperation

Open Access Initiatives for Social Science Research in Europe (including WB)

- European Strategy Forum of Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)
- European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC):
 - **CESSDA**
 - **ESS**
 - SHARE
 - DARIAH
 - CLARIN
- Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium (CERIC)
- Horizon 2020 projects:
 - EOSC
 - **OpenAire** (now Legal Entity)
- RCC Regional Initiative Network of Open Research Infrastructures

European Strategy Forum of Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)



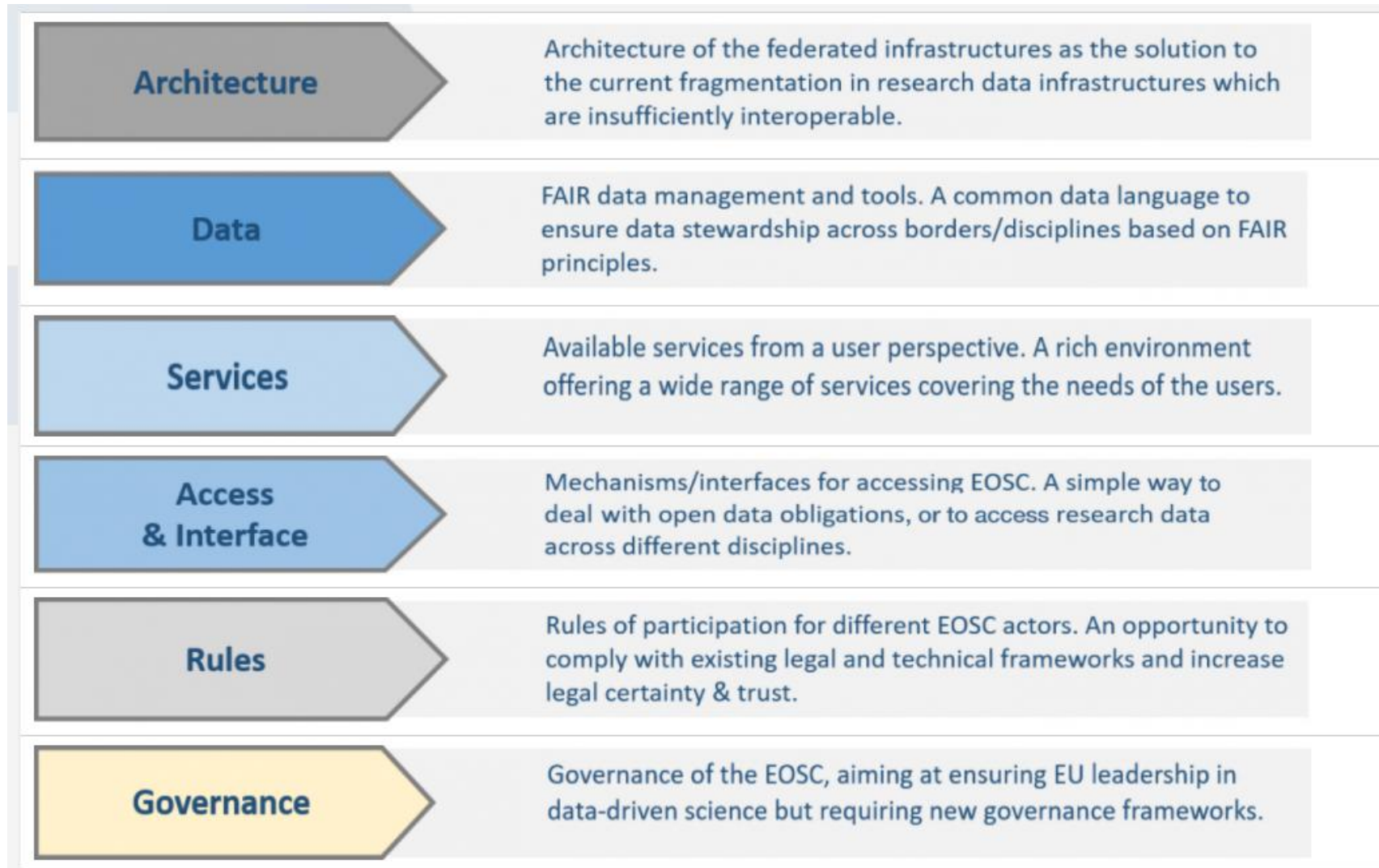
- ESFRI plays a key role in policy-making on Research Infrastructures in Europe.
- Composed of national delegates nominated by research ministers of EU countries and countries associated with Horizon 2020. ESFRI's mandate:
 - establish a European roadmap for RIs for the next 10-20 years, stimulate the implementation of these facilities, and update the roadmap as needed
 - support a coherent and strategy-led approach to policy making on Research Infrastructures in Europe
 - facilitate multilateral initiatives leading to a better use and development of Research Infrastructures, with the ESFRI acting as an incubator for new initiatives

European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)

- A specific legal form that facilitates the establishment and operation of RIs with European interest.
- The ERIC allows the establishment and operation of new or existing Research Infrastructures on a non-economic basis



The European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)



OpenAIRE



- Started and has developed within Horizon 2020 projects
- Mission: Shift scholarly communication towards openness and transparency and facilitate innovative ways to communicate and monitor research.
- Vision: Transform society through validated scientific knowledge. Allow citizens, educators, funders, civil servants and industry find ways to make science useful for themselves, their working environments, the society.
- CREDI as member of the OpenAIRE

RCC Regional Initiative

- In 2020 the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariat launched an **Open Access Research Infrastructure in the Western Balkans Support Programme**
- with two specific purposes:
 - (1) to guide the preparation of the Open Access policies for 30 selected Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans, specifically, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia, and
 - (2) to train management, administrative and research staff to introduce principles of Open Access to 30 selected Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans.
- The foundation for the establishment of the **Network of Open Research Infrastructures in the Western Balkans**

WB current and future regional initiatives – mapped by RCC

- Policy
 - WB6 Protocol (ongoing discussions)
- Initiatives
 - AL: ADAS - Albanian Data Archive for Social Science
 - BiH: Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research (CREDI)
 - Future Kosovo Social Sciences Data Centre (KSSDC)
 - ME: Future Montenegrin Social Science Data Archive (MSSDA)
 - SR: NanoCentre Serbia (NCS)
 - South East European International Institute for Sustainable Technologies (SEEIIST)

How to develop Open Access Policy?

- To define:
 - Users
 - Access
 - Contractual and IP (Intellectual Property) aspect
 - Costing and pricing
- RCC technical support program developed several resources, including template for OAP

START with: Objectives for the OA Policy

- What is your rationale for adoption 'Open Access'?
- Why might your institution adopt an Open Access Policy? What are the objectives? What are their relative priorities? What do you want to achieve? What is the timeframe for meeting your objectives? (short, medium and long term?)
- What might help you to achieve the OA objective (drivers?)
- What might prevent your realizing this objective (barriers?)

CONTINUE and FINISH with:

- Defining scale and value (small-scale, mid-size, large-scale)
- Inventory of RI
- Describing your research infrastructure and its current management
- Defining spectrum of access
- Defining users of a research infrastructure
- Offering and managing access for users
- Decide upon contractual and intellectual property aspects
- Calculating costs and price
- Defining settlement procedure

Some notes to remember:

- Any laboratory and equipment within a university / research organisation is a RI
- Research organisation should have an up-to-date inventory of their research infrastructures
- 'Open access' does not mean 'free access'
- RI can be used by numerous groups of users, both from within and outside the organisation that hosts/owns a specific research infrastructure
- A clear offering of services by a RI should be prepared
- User application and assessment process should be clearly defined
- It is possible to prioritise some users
- Obligations of both the users and a RI (as well as its hosting organisation) should be clearly described in a contract (or a similar document), including ownership of Intellectual Property, confidentiality and acknowledgements

Thank you for your attention!

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Open Access and WBESS

- Discussion