



# Mapping international Research Infrastructures: RISCAPE project



Ari Asmi is a Finnish Doctor in atmospheric physics from the University of Helsinki. Currently the ENVRIplus project director, he will also be coordinating the RISCAPE international RI landscape analyses project. He has a wealth of experience in working on the development, analysis and strategic issues of environmental research infrastructures.

***The European Research Infrastructures in the International Landscape (RISCAPE) is a new European Commission-funded H2020 project, focusing on international research infrastructures landscape analyses.***

The project will run from January 2017 until the end of 2019. RISCAPE is a strategic project for European research infrastructures, the ESFRI and the Commission. Environmental research infrastructures -- and therefore the ENVRI community -- are one of the key focus areas of the project.

### **What is landscape analysis?**

Research infrastructure landscape analysis presents us with a solid tool in consistently identifying and characterizing research infrastructures, their products, operations and policies. Such reports offer various applications insofar as they provide information on key players in the field, identify gaps and overlaps in research tools and services and can also support funding decisions and

research planning or convey a fair assessment of the competitiveness in a given field.

However, landscape analyses can be challenging. The recently published ESFRI landscape analysis of European RIs (see ESFRI roadmap at [www.esfri.eu/roadmap-2016](http://www.esfri.eu/roadmap-2016)) shows the diversity of selection criteria, which are specific to the different scientific areas they are meant to assess. Even within a given research area, resolutions or even salient aspects may differ. Conversely, user communities like those of funding agencies may seek information which is not necessarily conveyed in such analyses.

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The level of these complexities is incremental at the international level. Earlier landscape

analysis efforts on a more limited scale demonstrated that even the term “research infrastructure” may adopt widely different meanings according to regions, sometimes even within the same country.

### **Inter-cluster collaboration**

As a result and to produce a landscape analysis properly, we need added knowledge in terms of how specific RI aspects differ from one field to another. Luckily, H2020-funded ESFRI cluster projects, including ENVRIplus, allow us to tap into the relevant domain-specific information and access of Research Infrastructure expertise.

The RISCAPE consortium relies on cluster project coordinators, or key partners, to leverage the information collected through their respective cluster activities and related connections, to derive the domain-based information required by landscape analyses. The selected partners cover all the Environment, Energy, Health & Food, Physical

# Article



Sciences and Engineering, Social and Cultural Innovation and e-sciences domains of the ESFRI roadmap.

## Strategic aims

Meanwhile, a proper analysis depends on the close collaboration of all data users, to ensure the results are indeed usable. RISCAPÉ plans on interacting with a stakeholder panel, consisting of major users of landscape reports it identified as the European Commission, national funding agencies, ESFRI panels, the OECD and other key international actors. This interaction principle will transpire in all aspects of project operations, impacting on which infrastructures will be analysed, how and when. As an addi-

tional benefit, the project intends on triggering inter-cluster collaborations on general strategic science issues and hopefully fostering new scientific results and interactions.

## Project facts

*RISCAPÉ's main objective is to provide systematic, focused, high-quality, comprehensive, consistent and peer-reviewed international landscape analysis reports on the position and complementarities of major European research infrastructures in the international landscape.*

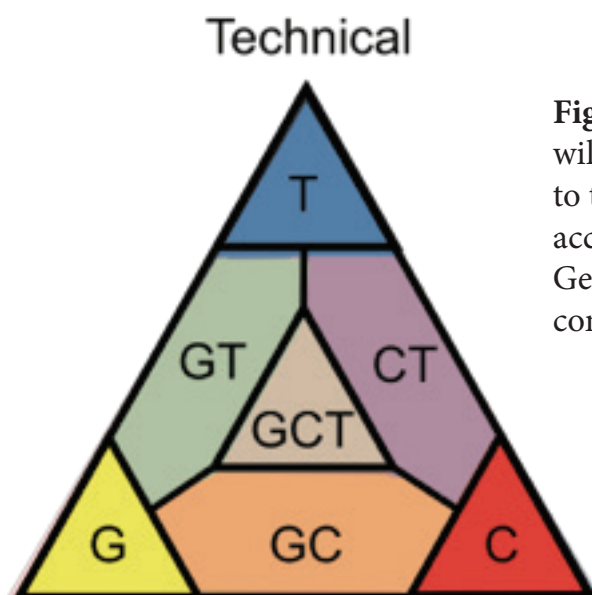
The project is coordinated by

ENVRIplus project director Ari Asmi, on behalf of the University of Helsinki and the resulting environmental landscape analyses will be carried out as part of the ICOS ERIC.

Website: [www.riscap.eu](http://www.riscap.eu) |  
Twitter: @RI\_landscape

## The ENVRI community and ENVRIplus

By 2017, the ENVRI community will be approached in order to identify key international RIs in their field. This key activity aims to produce the preliminary list of the international RIs RISCAPÉ will analyse in detail. This activity will be operated in synergy with the landscape activities scheduled as part of ENVRIplus task 17.3.



**Figure 1** - International RIs will be analysed and compared to their European counterparts according to their Technical, Geographical and Challenge complementarities.

Geographical

Challenge

