EMBEDDEDNESS OF HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE DANUBE REGION
The main objective of RI2integrate project was to exploit the economic development potential and to better the integration of the operation of the EU’s excellent R&D Infrastructure (RI) investment projects through devising and implementing innovative tools for policy learning on macro-regional embeddedness in the Danube Region.
PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

The RI2integrate partnership consist of 17 project partners (9 ERDF partners, 1 IPA partner and 7 Associated partners) and covers 7 Danube countries.

RI2integrate project partners from HU, CZ, AT, RO, SRB, SLO, HR represent regional and national research institutions, universities, governmental bodies, decision makers, and intermediaries. Each partner stands for a particular type of organisation involved in the utilization of excellent research infrastructures.

Consortium consist of following organizations:

LEAD PARTNER:
- ELI-HU Nonprofit Ltd., Hungary.

ERDF PARTNERS:
- Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd., Hungary,
- Horia Hulubei National Institute of R&D for Physics and Nuclear Engineering, Romania,
- Institute of Physics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic,
● FH JOANNEUM Gesellschaft mbH, Austria,
● Institution for development of competence, innovation and specialization of Zadar County, Croatia,
● University of Maribor, Slovenia,
● Magurele High Tech Cluster, Romania,
● Central Bohemia Innovation Centre, Czech Republic.

IPA PARTNER:
● Development Agency of Serbia, Serbia.

ASSOCIATED PARTNERS:
● Ministry for National Economy, Hungary,
● Ilfov County Council, Romania,
● Central Bohemia Region, Czech Republic,
● Steirische Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft mbH, Austria,
● Zadar County, Croatia,
● Technical University of Kosice, Slovakia,
● Municipality of Ruše, Slovenia.
EXISTING INITIATIVES

By the collection and systematization of existing initiatives and policy background, gave us opportunity to collect and integrate good practices into the newly developed tools.

The main aim was to collect all relevant initiatives for further investigation and use them in the further phases of the project.

The embeddedness of research centres and their connectivity to local, regional and national economic and social system is the key prerequisite for the effective technology transfer. The low effectivity and intensity of transfer of knowledge is often cited in the most research strategic documents. The research outputs from the public research are not transferred effectively to the business sector.

All project partners developed their own regional reports.
PPI (PUBLIC PROCUREMENT FOR INNOVATION) UTILIZATION

Public procurements are the significant part of European budget and so they make such a type of specific market.

Totally 13.8% of European GDP is distributed by the public procurements, so the public procurement is a very big potential market for all actors (private, public, R&D sector).

The public procurement instrument could strongly support the R&D sector, help citizens to get innovative goods or services and spread the innovative solution at the market. So the final outcome of PPI should be the raising competitiveness regarding getting and spreading innovative products and services at the market and to the customers (citizens).

Public services could be improved by these R&D activities so the public procurement of innovation (PPI) is the ideal tool to get these things better.

The main motivation for PPI implementation could be highlighted in these points:

- Speed the public sector modernisation using the innovative solution;
- Get better value for public money through cooperation – sharing costs for similar needs and solutions;
- Help to bring R&D solution to the market, create growth and jobs in EU, to increase the competitiveness of EU;
- Support the spreading of the innovative solution on the market.
ROADMAP FOR FORMING SCIENCE PARKS AROUND EXCELLENT RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

This ROADMAP aims to provide the guide for setting up an operating vehicle for a state-of-the-art Science and Technology Park (STP) in the Danube Region. This model can be easily replicated to serve the purpose of creating a chain of STP’s in close proximity of the Region. While the core action of creating a STP are considered to be standard procedure, each individual STP will have to rely on specific assets available in their own development region. Science and Technology Parks (STPs) are developments of real estate (tangible) and human resource (intangible) assets in which land and buildings are used to house public and private R&D facilities, high-tech and science-based companies, support services, intellectual property and venture capital.
COMMUNITY AWARENESS RAISING TOOL FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE UTILIZATION

The first part of this document the relevant and current policy background is reviewed and the connections between EU policies and the RI2integrate project, especially with this activity are described. The aim of that part is to provide context to this tool. In the next chapter the theoretical framework behind the visitor centres is synthesized in the light of the educational possibilities with highlighting the practical use of the theory and providing recommendations for creating visitor centres’ concepts.

The next chapter provides guidance and practical advises in the field of preparing an action plan with the aim of establishing a visitor centre. For each step of action planning it provides recommendations about how to involve stakeholders, what activities must be implemented and what is the ideal timing of each step and what outputs must be produced.

The last part of the document puts special attention on the integration of the RIs’ visitor centres on local and regional level and on the marketing and branding of them. Two good practices are also described here that can be sources of ideas when planning and establishing a visitor centre for youth.
Finally 4 PPI pilot actions were implemented during RI2integrate project: Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Serbia. These pilots were implemented in different sectors:

- Sustainable energy - Greetings of the Sun monument
- High speed internet for small municipalities in Central Bohemia
- Smart public lighting in Martónvásár
- Smart city and tourism - photovoltaic info panel in Lepterija
Main steps of PPI pilot activities were identified in the RI2Integrate project framework:

1. Preparatory step - find out actual national legal limits to PPI implementation, setting up the team and the issue/need we would like to solve using PPI.
2. The needs definition - to define the problem, its target group and make basic CBA analysis.
3. The market research step - market consultation including the research organisations/infrastructures.
4. The list of innovative technologies with evaluation of their potential.
5. PPI template preparation and filling (D.5.1.1)
6. PPI pilot package and knowledge compendium - summarization of pilot activities (D.5.1.2)

Raising awareness activities about risk management during PPI implementation.
PILOT - SCIENCE PARK
CONCEPT IMPLEMENTATION

Science park development tool was developed during project implementation. The main conclusions resulted from the project partners information on RI related science and technology parks are following:

A. Networking is essential: improve social knowledge on STPs importance, create functional collaboration links among organizations, provide infrastructural support for the development of innovation, managerial and technological entrepreneurship issues leading to startups, support training for experts, mentors and advisers;

B. Ensure wholesome and consistent support for:
- startups and developing companies, strong regional orientation in terms of boosting regional development;
- set-up and functioning of well-established STPs with a significant economic impact;
- strong partnerships with knowledge institutions and key players in national innovation ecosystems;
- a strong focus on people with professional experience and practical skills who have common aspirations and are led by a dedicated leader;
- provision of a wide range of high quality tailor made services for startups and developing companies with strong local and regional orientation capable to contribute to boosting regional development;
PILOT - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PILOTING

The pilot phase of visitor centre implementation covered two implemented awareness raising campaign through visitor centres in HU and AT. Awareness raising guidelines were developed as the result of implemented pilot activities. This guideline introduces the principles of public awareness raising and aims to increase the understanding of the awareness raising process. The guideline pays particular attention to the main objective of RI2integrate project which is the better integration of research and development infrastructures (RI) to the Danube Region and the improvement of scientific knowledge transfer to local economies. In this handbook special emphasize is put on the presentation and possible application of awareness raising concepts, methods and tools in relation to the research and development infrastructures.

This handbook has been developed primarily as a resource for decision-makers, administrators, the academic staff, lecturers, teachers and community leaders dealing with issues of public awareness raising. The approaches and strategies presented in this guideline aims to stimulate the application and further development of awareness raising methods in RI institutions.
CONCLUSIONS

RI2integrate brought together 4 types of organizations dedicated to sustainable improvement of their services for the sake of Research Infrastructure 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 main result of the project is successful exploitation of the economic development potential of excellent research infrastructures at Danube Region level. This will result in improved transfer of scientific results into the economy in the Danube Region, in line with the different needs of the participating countries.

The common challenge for RI2integrate project was to accelerate macro-regional embeddedness of RIs in the Danube Region (based on the ELI network) with involving all interest groups or all RI2Integrate project stakeholders. Successfully communicated activities have resulted in the preparation of instruments, which have been validated and improved through realized pilot projects. The acquired knowledge will be further promoted and disseminated in the Danube Region through the project sustainability plan, therefore Memorandum of Understanding was prepared and signed by all project partners.

The implementation of the defined durability actions in the Durability Plan (DTP1-184-1.1 „RI2integrate”) would be continuously monitored. 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.