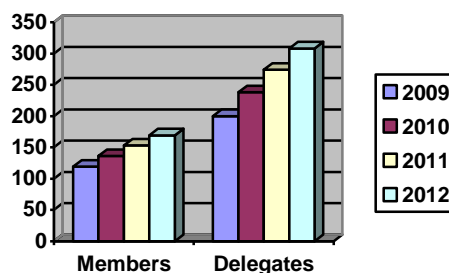


Highlights

- Membership increase from 153 to 167
- First Task Group meetings day in Bath
- Very successful CRIS 2012 Conference in Prague
- Strategic partnership with COAR
- Successful members meeting in Madrid
- Board elections for the term 2013-2014



In 2012 euroCRIS registered new 19 institutional, 6 personal and 8 affiliate members. The net growth of delegates was 49. At the end of 2012 euroCRIS membership stands at 109 institutional, 38 personal and 20 affiliate, with 307 named delegates (out of a potential delegate count of 603) from 41 countries. This is a net growth of 11.2%.

Membership directory at <http://www.eurocris.org/MembersListAll.php?order=cfName>

Members meetings

The purpose of the biannual members meetings is to inspire the local communities that are planning to or using a CRIS. Members meetings are an opportunity to talk inside the euroCRIS community.

In this Conference year no Spring members meeting was scheduled. Instead of this a parallel Task Group (TG) meetings day was organized at Bath, UK, on the 10th of February. The aim of this day was threefold:

- To gain more attention for the work of the TGs, which are the “engine room” of euroCRIS
- To facilitate co-operation across TGs.
- To encourage active participation of members in one or more TGs.

This day was preceded by a CERIF Tutorial and UK data surgery day on the 9th of February.

This new type of meeting appeared to be a very successful formula. The Board has got a lot of positive feedback and decided to combine future members meetings with (half-day) parallel TG meetings.

Bath

More than 50 people participated in the CERIF tutorial and UK data surgery organised by UKOLN, euroCRIS and JISC. Many were from outside the UK (as a result of the euroCRIS Task Group meetings which followed the next day). This number reflects the high level of interest in CERIF not only in UK higher education institutions, but also across the research councils and other research organisations, and the desire to understand more about using CERIF effectively. All the CERIF CRIS vendors were also represented. The sessions included some short introductory

presentations on the current UK CERIF landscape and the benefits to be gained by using CERIF in a UK context. Data surgery sessions focused a.o. on a synthesis of existing UK CERIF mapping work, so involved a number of JISC projects, including CERIF in Action, IRIOS and CERIFy. Discussion centred on some of the issues to be resolved e.g. multiple identifiers, person names, titles, vocabularies. The CERIF in Action project will define and implement the resulting data model. Other sessions covered CERIF use in the Research Management and Administration System (RMAS); CERIF and research datasets; linked open data; and a taxonomy of research equipment for inclusion in CERIF. The presentations given can be found on <http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/events/cerif-2012-02/programme/#presentations>

During the Task Group meetings day the members took the opportunity to discuss hot items and translate these from and to their daily practice. For Architecture and Linked Open Data (LOD) it was a kickoff meeting. Architecture had the draft Specification for a Service-Oriented CERIF Implementation on the agenda; the LOD group discussed the TG aims and objectives, the CERIF LOD recommendations, the plan for 2012, main deliverables and outlook. Best Practice/DRIS and CRIS-IR took the opportunity for coordinated action with the DRIS (Directory of Research Information Systems) registration form and the survey of CRIS and Institutional Repositories. These are open for comment on the Best Practice – DRIS Forum. Last, but not least, the CERIF TG is very active and continued its series of technical meetings, this time with a much broader participation than the core group. It was decided to launch a formal CERIF 1.4 pre-release, to continue cooperation with CASRAI on mapping, start cooperation with VIVO and coordinate with the LOD TG a related public euroCRIS service. A Newsflash Task Group Special was issued: <http://www.eurocris.org/Uploads/Web%20pages/newsflash/Newsflash%2052.pdf>

Madrid



On the 5th and the 6th of November the Autumn members meeting took place in Madrid in the magnificent ambiance of the Residencia de Estudiantes. It was the biggest membership meeting ever with on the first day an attendance of over 80 people, about 50 of whom were representing the Spanish CRIS, IR and library communities. Highlights of this meeting were:

- Presentation of the newly elected Board 2013-2014
- Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by euroCRIS and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) to establish and promote a cooperative relationship
- Inauguration of the new Indicators Task Group
- Introduction to Snowball Metrics and presentation of the Snowball Metrics Recipe Book



Full attention during the plenary sessions



Spanish session

In the **Spanish national session** an overview was given of the state of the art of CRIS implementation and integration with open access repositories in Spain. This was illustrated in further presentations with implementations of i.a. the Polytechnic University of Catalunya and the Andalusian regional government. The focus in the Spanish RIM landscape is on the Normalized Curriculum Vitae (CVN), which is developing towards a national standard to exchange research information. The plan is to extend CVN to full CERIF compatibility. This will be undertaken by a temporary joint euroCRIS-FECYT Working Group. The **Jostein Hauge session** covered visualisations of the Dutch research landscape developed by the Digital Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) from NARCIS; a case study on federation and the necessity of standards by AVEDAS; the establishment of the DINI Working Group “Research Information Systems” (AG-FIS) in Germany; and a discourse on participation, transparency and compliance aspects connected with the struggling for acceptance in implementing a CRIS in the era of new public management. Furthermore, the recent plans for merging three Italian research organisations – CASPUR, CILEA and CINECA – into one national supercomputing consortium was reported. Finally, Keith Jeffery as outgoing President sketched in a bird’s eye view the 10 years’ history of euroCRIS since its establishment as not-for-profit association and gave his view on the future covering both technical and non-technical aspects. In the **Topic session Identifiers** it was explained how the CERIF 1.5 model supports the incorporation and maintenance of persistent identifiers. A presentation was given on ORCID, a registry of persistent unique identifiers for global author identification. The pre-ORCID situation and a successive-stage strategy for the implementation of ORCID in Spain was discussed as well as the value of a (CERIF) CRIS for ORCID implementation.



Best Practice-DRIS TG meeting



Signpost to the Residencia de Estudiantes

On the TG meetings day the Linked Open Data (LOD), Best Practice / DRIS and CRIS-IR Task Groups met separately to introduce themselves to newcomers, present their work programmes and discuss the latest developments. In a joint session of Best Practice / DRIS and CRIS-IR the new Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS) and the CRIS-IR survey were presented.

For the presentations on the euroCRIS Membership meetings page:
http://www.eurocris.org/Uploads/Web%20pages/members_meetings/201211%20-%20Madrid,%20Spain/

For an extensive report with background information:
<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue70/eurocris-2012-11-rpt>
ORCID website: <http://about.orcid.org/>

CRIS 2012 Conference in Prague



This 11th conference in the biennial series of CRIS Conferences, held from 6-9 June in Prague, was organized under the patronage of the Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Czech Republic. The theme of CRIS 2012 was: “e-Infrastructures for Research and Innovation – Linking Information Systems to Improve Scientific Knowledge Production”.

CRIS 2012 has attracted a rather large number of submissions that document well the current trends in all aspects of CRIS. The big challenge many authors approached from different angles is in setting up meaningful and scalable links between CRIS and other information systems, and among CRIS themselves to provide an international overview of research. In this way, CRIS are becoming integral parts of research e-Infrastructures; the connected CRIS in fact form a very important e-Infrastructure themselves.



Petr Nečas, the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, with representatives of the Research, Development and Innovation Council of the Czech Republic and euroCRIS Board members and Conference leaders



Keynote session audience

More participants registered than ever before: 154 from 26 countries. We were pleased to welcome also many new people: about one-third of the conference participants represented organisations that are not yet euroCRIS members. Because of the number of high-quality papers submitted it was the first time that, apart from the plenary keynotes and invited talks, the conference was split up into three parallel tracks – management, technical and outlook – and workshops, with vivid discussions.

The Max Stempfhuber Award for the Best Paper of CRIS 2012 was awarded to Brigitte Joerg, Jan Dvořák and Thomas Vestdam for their paper *Streamlining the CERIF XML Data Exchange Format Towards CERIF 2.0*.

The papers and presentations are available on:

<http://www.eurocris.org/Index.php?page=CRIS%202012%20-%20Prague&t=1>.



Keith Jeffery with the winners of the Max Stempfhuber Award



Conference dinner

Strategic September Seminar in Brussels



The purpose of the annual Strategic Seminar is to talk with strategic partners and to form policies. Participation is by invitation only and speakers and audience reflect expertise related to the topic.

The theme of the 2012 seminar, held on the 11th and 12th of September in Brussels, was “Horizon 2020 and beyond”. This was the 10th seminar in the series. It nearly coincided with the 10th anniversary of euroCRIS’ registration as a not-for-profit organisation. Whereas former seminars highlighted several aspects related to research and CRIS, like e.g. Open Access, GRIDs, Repositories, e-Infrastructure, we thought that this dual anniversary was a good opportunity to look forward like we did in the first seminar held in 2003, where the ERA and integration of CRIS was the central theme.

The EC has published its intentions for an ambitious programme of R&D to 2020. It brings together the various pre-existing programmes such as the Framework Programme, Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, European Research Council, and the European Institute for Innovation and Technology. There are linkages to other programmes and to structural funds. In this seminar it was explored what this means to CRIS (Current Research Information management systems) and how we meet the challenges.

There are several aspects of Horizon 2020 that could and should be supported by CRIS following the CERIF standard.

The new emphasis on research impact and knowledge transfer will require recording of the outputs, outcomes and impacts of research in a consistent manner and the use of reliable metrics for measurement and comparison. Furthermore, the accurate attribution of outputs, outcomes and impacts to persons, organisations, projects, funding etc. is of prime importance.

H2020 brings new opportunities for research and CRIS can assist researchers in finding appropriate complementary partners, especially in multidisciplinary project proposals where the researcher is finding partners outside of his or her traditional domain. Furthermore, CRIS can assist in finding suitable industry/commercial partners for knowledge transfer and innovation.

Increasing emphasis not only on open access to publications, but also to datasets and software requires not only storing the artifacts but also constructing appropriate metadata for them and for the relationships between them – including aspects of rights, intellectual property and costs. Analysis of historical trends in research requires CRIS and can provide significant input to planning research work programmes and initiatives both nationally and Europe-wide.

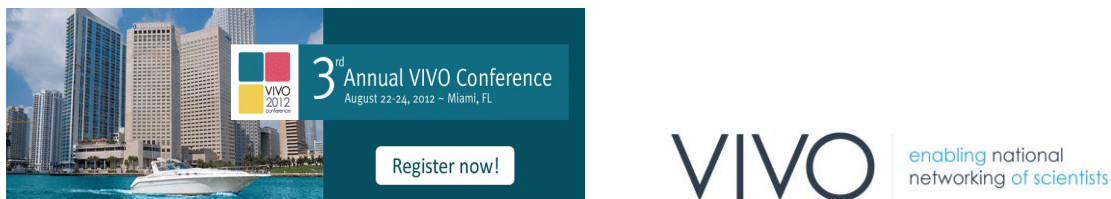
The role of CERIF (Common European Research Information Format) as a standard for interoperation is critical to allow CRIS to support Horizon 2020. It is noticeable that the various proposed solutions and the commercial offerings are all centering on the use of CERIF.

On the website seminar page you will find the presentations:
http://www.eurocris.org/Uploads/Web%20pages/seminars/Seminar_2012/ and the report.

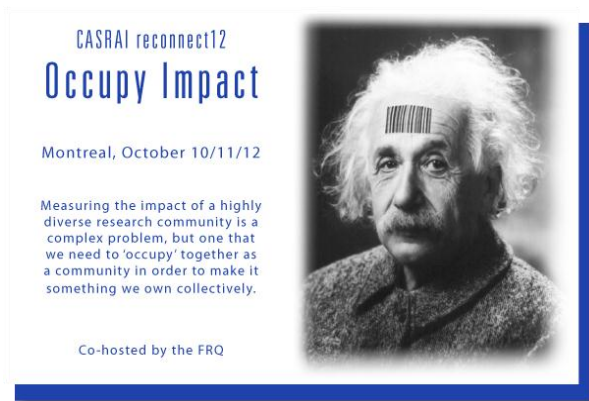
Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships



CASRAI and JISC, both strategic partners of euroCRIS, entered into a partnership and JISC became the first UK member of CASRAI. The first areas of focus for this partnership are research impact and research datasets. CASRAI is already an active participant in the JISC-funded DESCRIBE project on research impacts and the partnership will build on that collaboration. For datasets, JISC and CASRAI will work together to form a joint UK/Canada committee (with associated review circle) to explore how they can incorporate the discovery and accessibility of scientific datasets into the standard dictionary.



VIVO had its 3rd annual conference from 22-24 August in Miami <http://vivoweb.org/conference2012>. Three joint sessions with euroCRIS were included: one describing euroCRIS and CERIF, one describing the cooperation involving Linked Open Data and one a panel session involving also CASRAI. Keith Jeffery attended and presented at all three of these sessions. Plans for integration and interoperation were discussed. Keith Jeffery provided an outline proposal for cooperation to be approved by each organisation and then taken to US and EU funding organisations. The objective is that from any VIVO, LATTES or CERIF-CRIS a user should be able to access any installation of any of these 3 types of CRIS and that any user should have available the same information available as a conventional information system (usually relational) or as a semantic web (LOD).



The 1st CASRAI International Conference Occupy Impact was held from 10-12 October in Montreal and focused on the very topical subject of how to define impact, operationalize it, measure/evaluate and deal with it. On behalf of euroCRIS Ed Simons attended. The presentations are available on : <http://www.verney.ca/casrai2012/presentations/presentations.php>

The strategic collaboration with CODATA was continued. Brigitte Joerg attended the 23rd International CODATA Conference (28-31 October, Taipei). A joint paper entitled “CERIF-CRIS, a Research Information Model for Decision Support. Use and Trends for the Future” was presented with Anne-Françoise Cutting-Decelle (Ecole Centrale de Lille, CODATA France and University of Geneva/ICLE), Nikos Houssos (EKT, euroCRIS), Miguel-Angel Sicilia (University of Alcalá, euroCRIS) and Keith Jeffery (STFC, euroCRIS).



On the 6th of November, during the membership meeting in Madrid, euroCRIS and the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish and promote a cooperative relationship. COAR is an international association of Open Access Repository initiatives and networks, envisioning a global knowledge infrastructure. It aims to facilitate greater visibility and application of research through a global network of open access repositories, based on interoperability and international cooperation. euroCRIS and COAR share a vision of open and accessible research results and objectives to promote seamless knowledge infrastructures. Both organisations agree on their joint objectives to develop international cooperation for repositories embedded within research information infrastructures. The motivation for this partnership is to share knowledge and experience, to support each other's endeavours in the field defined in the agreement.

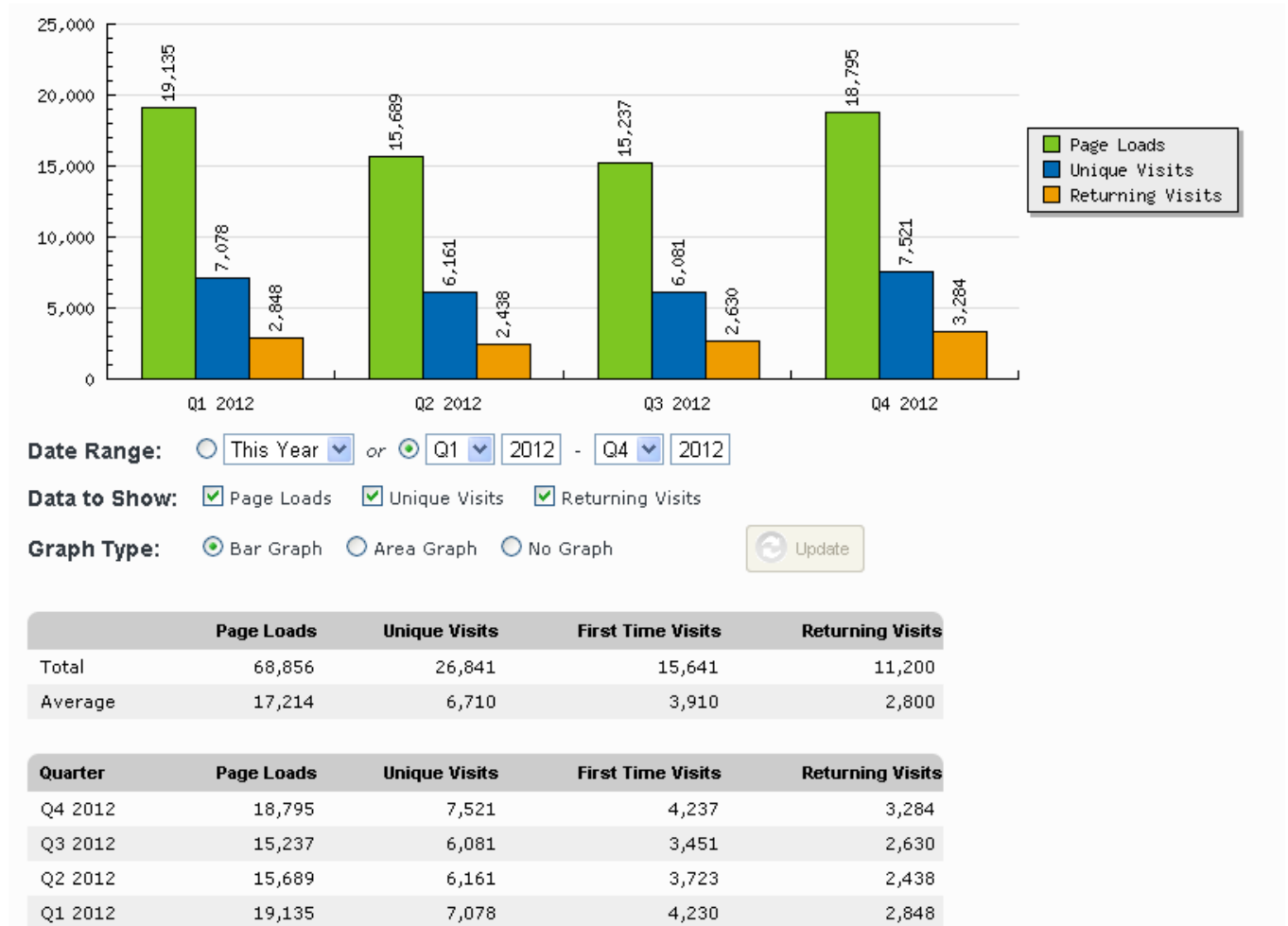


Alicia López Medina (COAR) and Keith Jeffery (euroCRIS) have just signed the Memorandum of Understanding

Website

Statistics over the year 2012 show that the euroCRIS website has achieved nearly 69,000 page views, which is an average of 188 page views per day (including the weekends). The number of unique visitors was nearly 27,000. On the average the website has attracted about 43 first time visits every day. 71.6% are returning visits.

This is a considerable improvement as compared to 2011: 25% more page views and views per day, 31% more unique visitors and 29% more returning visits.



Board

The second half of his year was marked by the Board elections. These biennial elections are certainly never a routine, but this time they were very special since three old hands stepped down: Keith Jeffery as President, Anne Asserson as Executive for Strategy and External Relations and Geert van Grootel as Treasurer. They have shaped our association and euroCRIS is greatly indebted to them. During a joint meeting of the old and new Board in January 2013 and the members meeting in Bonn in May 2013 Keith, Anne and Geert will get their official farewell.



Keith



Anne



Geert

The Board elections were held in October. Following a Call for Nominations and a Ballot paper with the profiles of candidates and instructions for voting, institutional and personal members were invited to cast their votes. There were 15 candidates for 12 positions (Secretary is a part-time permanent position).

47% of the voting members, representing 73% of the institutional members has voted. All incumbent candidate Board members were re-elected. Four new candidates have been elected to the Board. The new Board was presented to the members during the business session of the members meeting in Madrid.

Before the end of the year the Board reached agreement on the positions. The Board for the term 2013-2014 is:



*Ed Simons
President*



*Harrie Lalieu
Secretary*



*Barbara Ebert
Treasurer*



*Brigitte Joerg
Strategy and External
Relations*



*David Baker
Conferences*



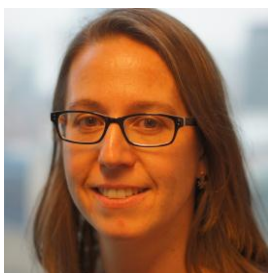
*Anna Clements
Communications*



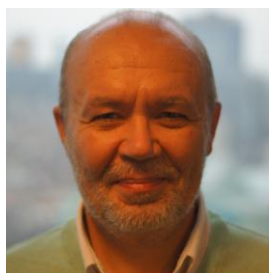
*Jan Dvořák
TG CERIF*



*Nikos Houssos
TG Architecture*



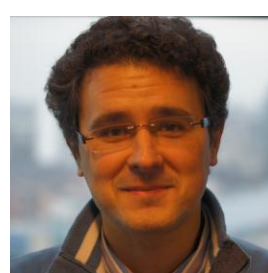
Valérie Brasse
TGProjects



Sergey Parinov
TG Best Practice-DRIS



Danica Zendulková
TG Institutional
Repositories (CRIS-IR)



Miguel-Angel Sicilia
TG Linked Open Data (LOD)



Tina Lingjærde
TG Indicators

Executives

The part-time euroCRIS-funded **Secretary** (Harrie Lalieu) has continued the great work in keeping euroCRIS running in the sense of governance. Communication with the members and the outside world is increasing, as is his work on the website and in projects (administration, contracts). From the 1st of May he replaced the Treasurer during his hospitalization and rehabilitation.

The **Treasurer** (Geert van Grootel / Harrie Lalieu) reports a healthy state of the accounts. The positive balance was about 8,500 € and the accumulated balance amounts to 26,300 €. This provides room for investments in a euroCRIS reference database and services. It was the first year in which projects in which euroCRIS is involved were financially managed (RMAS, ENGAGE, EuroRIs-Net+).

The **Executive for Conferences** (Barbara Ebert) prepared the very successful euroCRIS biennial conference, which was held from 6-9 June 2012 in Prague and concluded the administrative and financial records. She co-operated intensively with the local organizing committee, the programme committee and the euroCRIS Board. She also reached agreement with the Institute for Population and Social Policy Research (IRPPS-CNR) on the joint organisation of the next conference (CRIS 2014) in Rome.

The **Executive responsible for Strategy** (Anne Asserson) has continued to drive euroCRIS forward creating a wide pathway of opportunities, as well as organising the strategic seminar and liaising with our strategic partners. Ambitions are to obtain more financial support for euroCRIS beyond money for projects and to widen strategic links beyond Europe. The 10th seminar on “Horizon 2020 and beyond” was a worthy conclusion of her executive work. The **Executive for the Website** (Ed Simons) further upgraded the website – both as regards structure and lay-out – implemented were the facilities for News messages and the Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS).

In his role as **President** Keith Jeffery continued to initiate strategic discussions with partners as well as EC project proposals with strategic goals. With his document “From the outgoing President” he passed on wise advices to the new Board.

Task Groups

The new Indicators Task Group

In the Call for Nominations a new Indicators Task Group was introduced. The group is expected to develop an active programme of research and generation of best practice (linked with TG Best Practice/DRIS) in the use of indicators (scientometrics, bibliometrics) for evaluating research. The TG should develop a catalogue of known methods with appropriate analysis of their effectiveness and efficiency. The expected output is CERIF-compliant software services (jointly with CERIF TG and Architecture TG) to perform evaluation of research including for commonly used national or international methods.

The Indicators TG was introduced during the first plenary session of the TG meetings day in Madrid on the 6th of November.

CERIF Task Group (leader Brigitte Joerg, deputy Jan Dvořák)

CERIF went through several development stages with extensions, updates and upgrades, culminating in the implementation of CERIF 1.5. Research Data is becoming a new important topic. As CERIF National Co-ordinator Brigitte Joerg is heavily involved in UK CRIS projects and policies.

Best Practice / DRIS Task Group (leader Sergey Parinov, deputy Barbara Ebert)

Together with the CRIS-IR Task Group a joint questionnaire for CRIS and Institutional Repositories was developed. This facilitates institutions that operate both a CRIS and a repository. The Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS) was implemented. The development of documents for a Best Practice catalogue was extensively discussed.

Projects Task Group (leader Nikos Houssos)

The work on ENGAGE (<http://www.engage-project.eu/engage/wp/>) was continued with contributions to deliverables. The project had a positive first review. The work on the Research Infrastructure Knowledge Repository of EuroRIS-Net+ (<http://www.euroris-net.eu/>) was successfully concluded with two deliverables. The work on OpenAIREplus (<http://www.openaire.eu>) – streamlining the data model with CERIF in areas of conceptual overlap – was continued. OpenAIRE decided to adopt CERIF. A joint paper on the OpenAIREplus model by CNR, EKT and euroCRIS was presented at the Metadata and Semantics Research Conference (MTSR 2012) in Cádiz. euroCRIS continued to participate in a series of UK projects funded under the JISC Research Information Management Programme. The RMAS project (<http://www.rmas.ac.uk>) was concluded mid-2012.

Although not funded, the work on the project proposals PRODROME (Supporting and Promoting a Strengthened European Research Area through Open Metadata Access) and PERICLES (Pan-European Research Information Coordination, Linking and Evaluation Standard) has provided a lot of potential research partners and challenges to build on in the future.

CRIS-IR Task Group (leader Danica Zendulková, deputy Ed Simons)

The CRIS-IR Task Group co-operated with the Best Practice / DRIS Task Group in the development of a joint questionnaire. A metadata comparison was made between CERIF, Dublin Core and MARC21.

CRIS Architecture and Development Task Group (leader David Baker)

The Architecture Task Group agreed to jointly develop a list of requirements for the proposed first iteration of a service-oriented reference implementation. It was agreed that the requirements would be encapsulated within a Create, Read, Update, Delete (CRUD) grid. A few high priority services were identified.

Linked Open Data Task Group (leader Miguel-Angel Sicilia)

In the first meeting in Bath the roadmap and agenda of activities for this new Task Group were assessed. The work during the 1st year resulted in the release of a first version of a LOD specification and reference implementation using the D2RQ framework on top of a CERIF relational database. These results have been applied in the EU projects VOA3R and ENGAGE and have been released open source to foster further adoption.

Plans for 2013

As was concluded in the Annual Report 2011, with participation in projects along with an ever wider adoption of CERIF, euroCRIS is in a position to influence more strongly policy in Europe and wider on research information – including digital libraries, research datasets and software and the supporting e-infrastructure for research.

For the new Board there is no reason to change policy drastically, but there are some challenges to be faced.

- The Board has decided to develop a CERIF test database for compatibility testing. For the reference implementation and the Compatibility system euroCRIS can make some investments, but additional funding is needed.
- CERIF is becoming widely accepted and surpasses the pure technical and maintenance level. This means an increasing demand of support and services and pressure on (Board) members who do this work voluntarily. With further extension of implementations and adoption by partner organisations the issue of scalability will become even more manifest.
- Capacity for administrative and financial project management and for consultancy becomes increasingly important.

Therefore proper mechanisms for funding, accounting, etc. – i.e. a “business model” – must be put in place. The Board has already discussed on internal task forces and plans and will discuss further policies.

The **Members meetings for 2013** are already confirmed: 13-14 May in Bonn (host: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, German Research Foundation) and 14-15 November (host: University of Porto).

Negotiations for the **11th euroCRIS Strategic Seminar** (September, Brussels) are ongoing.

As mentioned above, euroCRIS and IRPPS-CNR have agreed on the joint organisation of the next biennial CRIS Conference **CRIS 2014** in Rome. The theme will be “Managing Data Intensive Science - The Role of Research Information Systems in Realising the Digital Agenda”.