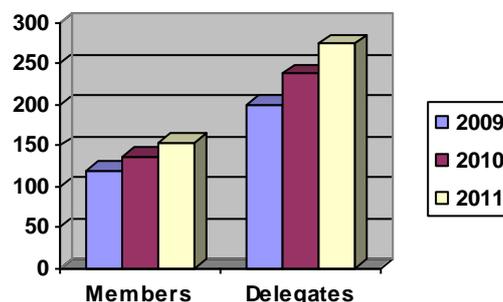# ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Highlights

- Membership increase from 136 to 153
- Two successful members meeting (Bologna and Lille)
- Rome Declaration jointly with OA community
- Additional strategic partners
- Significant increase of implemented CRIS

Membership continues to increase. In 2011 euroCRIS registered 22 new institutional, 6 personal and 6 affiliate members with altogether 69 delegates. This means that 26.2% of the membership is new. At the end of 2011 euroCRIS membership stands at 97 institutional, 38 personal and 18 affiliate, with 274 named delegates (out of a potential delegate count of 541) from 40 countries. Membership directory

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.

Bologna The premises of CINECA at Casalecchio di Reno on the outskirts of Bologna were the scene of this very successful membership meeting, which was held on the 26th and 27th of May organised by Nicola Bertazzoni. With 65 participants from 15 countries the interest was overwhelming and, with half of the audience, the Italian research information community was very well represented.

The pre-meeting tutorial associated with the euroCRIS-VOA3R workshop on the 25th of May attracted more people than ever before. Among the participants there were also

representatives from the VOA3R consortium.

The presentations given in the overview session, the "CRIS in a University IT Environment" topic session, and the Italian and euroCRIS (Jostein Hauge) sessions

provided a showcase of the latest development in the Italian and European CRIS and repositories communities. Presentations, as well as the list of participants and programme can be downloaded from the euroCRIS members meeting page. The videos of the presentations are available from CINECA's website.

Lille The 2011 autumn meeting was held on the 2nd and 3rd of November at the University of Lille 3. This was again a very successful event, both from a scientific and business/social networking point of view. Over the two days, 40 euroCRIS members from 14 countries and representatives from various French institutions had a fruitful exchange of views. Following the overview session given by the Board, the French session and the euroCRIS (Jostein Hauge) session summarized recent and forthcoming developments in CRIS and CERIF implementations. The topic session "Transfer of Research into Education" resulted in an interesting discussion, led by the host Joachim Schöpfel, on teaching CRIS systems to his Information Science students at University of Lille and on potential CERIF application to the teaching environment and scholarly activities beyond research. Presentations, as well as the list of participants and programme can be downloaded from the euroCRIS members meeting page. A report is available on the SONEX Workgroup blog http://sonexworkgroup.blogspot.com/

The 2nd Workshop on CRIS and Institutional Repositories in May in Rome was held again at the main office of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) in Rome on the 23rd and 24th of May. The purpose of this workshop was to maintain and stimulate the community interested in both CRIS and repositories, and their metadata, with a view to joint research activity. The presentations and discussion results are available on the events website http://www.irpps.cnr.it/en/events/2nd-workshop-on-cris-cerif-and-institutional-repositories-integrating-research-information-crisoar . The meeting resulted in a firm agreement on the need to coordinate the developments in CRIS and OAR for the benefit of the wider research community. This was laid down in the "Rome Declaration on CRIS and OAR", which was published by both euroCRIS and OpenAIRE. Work with the OpenAIRE community is leading towards their adoption of CERIF for OpenAIRE+ and links with the CRIS-IR Task Group.

> ### Rome Declaration on CRIS and OAR
> We, representing the communities concerned with CRIS and OAR, hereby declare:
> - That high quality research information is critically important to research institutions, research funders, policymakers and society at large;
> - That information on publicly-funded research should be available, shareable and integrated seamlessly;
>
> therefore we commit:
> - To develop, support and promote an architecture (including data model and services) suitable to pursue these principles;
> - Jointly to adopt, develop and promote applicable open standards;
> - To advocate these principles among all stakeholders.

Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships

The relationship with strategic partners has been re-established and fortified. Formal strategic partnerships with CASRAI were initiated to converge to a common vocabulary and with the VIVO team whose CRIS (based on semantic web/LOD technology) is used widely in the USA. There has been much more interest in CERIF and CRIS throughout Europe – and indeed more widely.

More information on the euroCRIS activities in 2011 may be obtained from issues 42 through 49 of our series of Newsflashes http://www.eurocris.org/Index.php?page=newsflash&t=1 , which are also increasingly used by the members for bringing their news.

Following a first exchange of views in 2010, euroCRIS (CERIF TG) and VOA3R http://voa3r.eu/ delegates met in Bologna on the 25th of May. Aim of this joint meeting was to discuss the status of implementation of CERIF inside VOA3R and linked data / semantic web and CERIF in the context of VOA3R. Further discussions took place in a second meeting on the 28th and 29th of July at Alcalá de Henares.

euroCRIS and the Consortia Advancing Standards in Research Administration Information (CASRAI) http://casrai.org/ have agreed on collaboration as international partners in a standards-based common platform for research reporting. Inspired by the need for flexibility and to overcome the slow processes of formal

standardisation euroCRIS and CASRAI wish to find an optimum balance and propose an integrated standards-based platform combining the strengths of both organizations into a solution. The ultimate aim of this collaboration is to promote adoption of the platform in countries around the world to advance research interoperability on a global scale. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by both parties.

VIVO http://vivoweb.org/ is an open source ontology and software system designed at Cornell University for researchers and used in many universities in the USA that has attracted interest more widely internationally. It is based on the Semantic Web / Linked Open Data concept. This partnership brings together two major approaches to making interlinked inform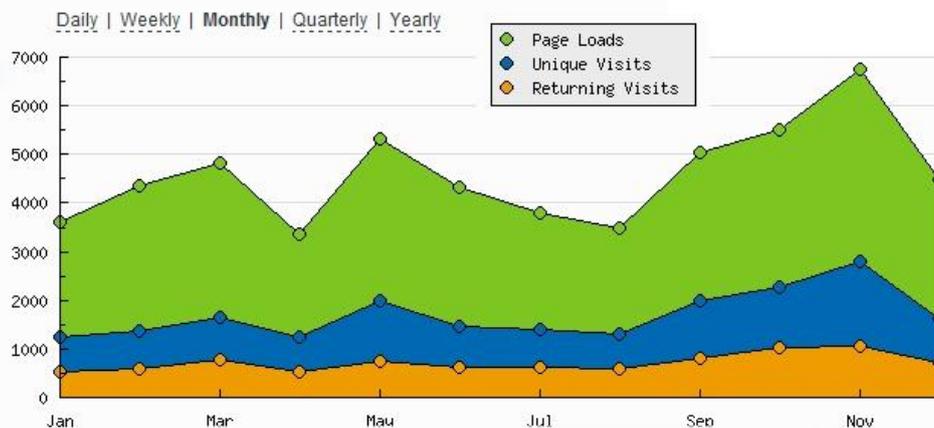ation on research available. Researchers, managers, funding organizations and innovators will benefit from the availability of both VIVO-based semantic web / linked data browsing and CERIF-based formalized querying and processing. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by both parties. euroCRIS and VIVO structure their cooperation in three aspects: (a) Interoperation and convergence of semantics in the two systems; (b) interoperation of the systems to allow homogeneous access over heterogeneous research information systems; (c) Exploring utilizing the VIVO user interface for researchers as a 'front-end' to the CERIF research information storage environment.

Implemented CRIS In various countries projects involving euroCRIS members are underway, perhaps most noticeably in UK with the many JISC-funded projects in their RIM (Research Information Management) programme involving both universities and research funding organisations.

Commercial CERIF-CRIS vendors – notably Atira, Avedas and Symplectic (but not forgetting InfoScience Praha and Interway s.r.o. from Bratislava and some local developers) – have made many sales and there are now (estimate) over 200 CERIF-compatible CRIS systems. During this year both Elsevier and Thomson-Reuters delivered improved systems for aspects of research information management and are converging to CERIF.

Website Statistics over the year 2011 show that the euroCRIS website has achieved nearly 55,000 page views, which is an average of 150 page views per day (including the weekends). The number of unique visitors was over 20,000. On the average the website has attracted 32 first time visits every day. It is satisfying to see that 42.5% of the unique visits are return visits.

In addition to uploads of new CERIF releases and the output of membership meetings and seminar the most important implementations were a new euroCRIS brochure, a new Board gallery, a banner for "hot news", the "Rome Declaration" and the announcement of CRIS 2012 with link to the conference website.
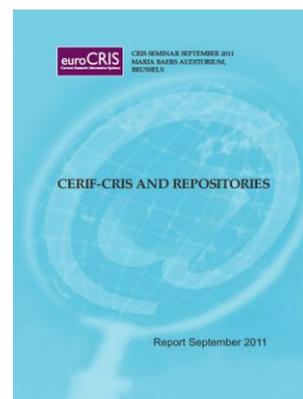
Discussion forums have been installed in the website members area. These forums will be used for communicating on topics: the discussion is being archived and can be consulted later again, whereas email communication is mostly getting lost in a deluge of unrelated messages. The forums have already been extensively tested and used by the Board. Preparatory work has been done for the Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS) registration form, the DRIS database and Task Group areas.

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 2011 Strategic Seminar (12-13 September) took the topic 'CERIF-CRIS and Repositories'. After more than 10 years of access to output of research time had come to review the current architecture and to analyse advantages and disadvantages. This was a lively, exciting and particularly relevant seminar set against a backdrop of increased evaluation of research and the need to manage effectively publication metadata in the wider research information context including organizations, people, funding, research infrastructures etc. With commercial publishers, commercial CRIS suppliers, repository software developers, CRIS software developers, researchers and research managers the community representation was appropriate. The consensus output was to integrate existing systems using CERIF as the common denominator Strategic partners involved in this seminar were ALLEA, CASRAI, CODATA, ESF and JISC. On the seminar page you will find the presentations http://www.eurocris.org/Uploads/Web%20pages/seminars/Seminar_2011/ and report.

Max

In deep distress the Board of euroCRIS had to announce the untimely death of Maximilian Stempfhuber, who passed away on the 25th of April 2011 at the age of 44. Max has been involved with euroCRIS for many years as active member and latterly as a Board member responsible first for Workshops and then Architecture. His intellect, capacity for work, good ideas, cultured style and especially his humour will remain in the mind of all of us. As well as his scholarly output, we have tangible memories in the many photographs he took of euroCRIS events.

Board The Board welcomed two new members: David Baker (CASRAI), who succeeds Maximilian Stempfhuber as Architecture TG leader and Miguel-Angel Sicilia (University of Alcalá de Henares) who will lead the newly established Linked Open Data TG. During the membership meeting dinner in Bologna on the 26th of May we bade farewell to Wolfgang Adamczak, who worked for conferences during almost 10 years. On behalf of euroCRIS Keith Jeffery presented him with an inscribed beer tankard. The Secretary, Harrie Lalieu, attended on the 29th of August Wolfgang's official farewell on the occasion of his retirement from the University of Kassel.

Task Groups As usual, the Task Groups formed the 'engine room' of euroCRIS activity in 2011 and their leaders have positions on the Board.

The CERIF Task Group (leader Brigitte Jörg, deputy Jan Dvořák) has been been very active and has met 5 times in Rotterdam, Copenhagen, Bologna (with VOA3R), Alcalá de Henares (with VOA3R), Bratislava and Strasbourg. The intensive discussions and work over the past year culminated in a major new release, CERIF 1.3, incorporating a substantial update with respect to entity elaboration and extension in the data model. Much effort was put into research infrastructures, but also geographic aspects, indicators and measurements. The Semantic Layer in particular has been improved. Cooperation was started with VOA3R (Linked Open Data) and CASRAI (Vocabularies).

The Best Practice / DRIS Task Group (leader Sergey Parinov, deputy Barbara Ebert) has been working on a registration form for the Directory of Research Information Systems (DRIS) and formulated several modalities for the dissemination of Best Practices. Visions under discussion on future exploitation following implementation and update of DRIS (with the website team) relate to the development of DRIS into a Data and Information Space (DIS) or Virtual Research Environment.

The Projects Task Group (leader Nikos Houssos) coordinated the submission of several proposals for EC funding. euroCRIS participates in the project ENGAGE http://www.engage-project.eu/engage/wp/ (An Infrastructure for Open, Linked Governmental Data Provision towards Research Communities and Citizens)co-ordinated by the National Technical University of Athens. In the EuroRIs-Net+ http://www.euroris-net.eu/ project, co-ordinated by EKT/NHRF, euroCRIS assists with the development of the Research Infrastructure Knowledge Repository. euroCRIS' task in the OpenAIRE*plus* http://www.openaire.eu/ project is to streamline the data model with CERIF in areas of conceptual overlap. Moreover, euroCRIS participates in a series of UK projects funded under the JISC Research Information Management Programme. euroCRIS members request to be involved in projects and participation is managed by the Projects Task Group.

The CRIS-IR Task Group (leader Danica Zendulková, deputy Ed Simons) has been working on a formats comparison and a questionnaire for Scientific Institutional Repositories.

The CRIS Architecture and Development Task Group (leader David Baker) made a restart and has been working on a Specification for a Service-Oriented CERIF Implementation.

The newly established *Linked Open Data Task Group* (leader Miguel-Angel Sicilia) has formulated aims and objectives related to leveraging CRIS data by exposing it to Web technology so that it can be interlinked to other datasets and become more useful. Like the Architecture TG, the Linked Open Data TG will closely cooperate with the CERIF TG.

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.

The **Treasurer** (Geert van Grootel) reports a healthy (if not wealthy) state of the accounts. Following the once-only investment for the implementation of the new website in 2010, the accumulated balance is increasing again.

The Executive for Conferences (Barbara Ebert) prepared the euroCRIS biennial conference, which will be held from 6-9 June 2012 in Prague. She co-operated intensively with the local organizing committee, the programme committee and the euroCRIS Board.

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 Executive for the Website (Ed Simons) upgraded the website in many aspects – both as regards structure and lay-out – implemented the discussion forums and strengthened the security layers.

In his role as *President* Keith Jeffery has initiated strategic discussions with partners as well as EC project proposals with strategic goals. He has also been involved heavily in the UK CRIS projects.

Plans for 2012 With participation in EC funded projects and UK projects, and with two major EC proposals in the pipeline related to research information coordination, linking and evaluation & a strengthened European Research Area through open metadata access – along with a wide adoption of CERIF – we are in 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. The 10th euroCRIS Strategic Seminar (10-11 September 2012, Brussels) will look forward with Horizon 2020 on the background.

With a high-quality **conference** CRIS 2012 "e-Infrastructures for Research and Innovation" (6-9 June 2012, Prague) euroCRIS aims at setting the scene for further research in research information management and technology. The Task Groups are currently in a co-ordination process and will have joint meetings. **Member meetings** are already in the planning: 6th of June 2012 (pre-conference business meeting, Prague) and 5-6 November 2012 (Madrid). In the autumn of 2012 Board elections will be held for the term 2013-2014. The Board will take care for continuity of work of TG leaders and Executives and for a proper transfer of duties where applicable.