

views technology joint Best RDA metadata
Executive EC leader including Work ORCID
page projects meetings successful semantic
used meeting DFG Bonn attracted delegates
widely membership information activity Repositories many Institutional
VIVO Declaration members Strategic working visits
Europe programme 2nd countries researchers

euroCRIS

topic data new Systems held Funding adoption Certif Cris
project Porto Task STOA Groups related
forums Porto available
DRIS Data links
Following UKRISS management
personal Board Architecture increase
team wide
purpose access common link communities
linked presentations Research working access
Lattes various strategic Group affiliate
work presentations organisations CC-REFIM trade form Twitter local
session DFG implementation funded year Information partner
participants model de interest Seminar Information
software discussion partners CASRAI years PASTEUR40A
ENGAGE open platform CERIF DSpace-CRIS
meeting
output French Open workshop
linked well Indicators
two Membership development EuroRIS-Net+
discussions major

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Highlights

- Membership increase from 186 to 234
- euroCRIS partner in European HOLACLOUD project
- euroCRIS presentations in strategically important events
- Strategic partnership with EARMA and EUNIS
- Highly successful CRIS2014 congress in Rome
- Very attractive Strategic Membership meeting in Amsterdam.

Members

In 2014 euroCRIS registered 15 institutional, 26 personal and 5 affiliate new members. There were 2 upgrades from personal/affiliate to institutional membership. The net growth of delegates was 20. At the end of 2014 euroCRIS membership stands at 135 institutional, 72 personal and 27 affiliate, with 370 named delegates (out of a potential delegate count of 774) from 46 countries. This is a net growth of 5.7 %.

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

CRIS2014



The 12th biennial CRIS Conference was organized on May 13th-15th in Rome under patronage of the Institute for Research on Population and Social Policies (CNR-IRPPS) and euroCRIS. The conference was a big success with 180 attendees and many, many interesting presentations and discussions. The URL of the CRIS2014 website is: <http://www.cris2014.cnr.it>.

The full text of the presentations was already available at the start of the conference through the link <http://dSPACECRIS.eurocris.org/handle/11366/178>. A selection of pictures is available on the euroCRIS website. The conference – with the theme ‘interoperability’ - reveals the crucial role of

CERIF in research information. The focus of the discussions was on the usage of the CERIF. This discussion is closely related to communication on the CERIF data model.

Other recurrent themes are Research Evaluation (with indicators and metrics), the interoperability framework, persistent identifiers like ORCID, metadata for datasets and the advantages of CERIF, strengthening of the cooperation with the Strategic Partners and with (commercial) vendors and broadening of the services offered to the euroCRIS members. The Maximilian Stempfhuber award was this time given to the following two papers:

1. *From Open Data to Data-Intensive Science through CERIF* (Keith Jeffery, Anne Asserson, Nikos Houssos, Valérie Brasse, and Brigitte Joerg)



2. *Research Information Standardisation as a Wicked Problem: Possible Consequences for the Standardisation Process- Case Study of the Specification Process of the German Core Dataset* (Mathias Richert and Werner Drees).

Strategic Membership meeting Amsterdam

Every year euroCRIS organises – with one or more of its representatives its members meeting in November. This year, it has been decided to combine the traditional annual Strategic Seminar with the Members Meeting. This combined event was called the Strategic Membership Meeting and was held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on 11–12 November in the Trippenhuis, head office of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW). Eurocris organised this meeting in collaboration with DANS.



The focus of this Strategic Membership Meeting (SMM) was rather broad. First of all it is a platform for direct contact between our members and our Strategic Partners. Besides, the meeting is the ideal environment to discuss euroCRIS (strategic) policy with both members and strategic partners. In short: the strategic discussions within euroCRIS have got a more use case-based orientation, with a direct involvement of our members. The theme chosen for this event was ‘Interoperability in Research Information’. In contrast to regular members meetings, the accent in the SMM lays in the discussions, leading to concrete follow-up actions.

The meeting was very successful, thanks to an audience (about 140 attendees) coming from different areas within research information (research administrators; (data) librarians; funders;



vendors of CRIS-systems). Of course the location in the main office of the KNAW in the old centre of Amsterdam contributed to the success.

Related to the central thema, an accent lays in the role of CERIF – more specific, CERIF xml) in the exchange of research information data. In this setting, the introductory presentation by Ed Simons (euroCRIS), David Baker (CASRAI) and Josh Brown (ORCID) was very welcomed, as it gave an overview of the opportunities of exchanging information based on commons standards and formats.

euroCRIS gave all ist strategic partners the opportunity to present their views on reseach information and the role of interoperability in the exchange of this information.

To be more specific, the worlds of research information and traditional repositories are converging as funders more and more ask researchers to deposit both datasets and publications as outcomes of research projects.

Key speaker Julia Lane also points to the possibilities and chances of the interconnecting of all kind of output-types. This includes types like tweets and linkedIn-information adn cereer development.

Our members and strategic partners have very well received this new formula. So we certainly have the idea to continue with it. Most important, interesting new plans have been initiated, that may lead to further improvement of interoperability within research information systems.

Projects

ENGAGE



The ENGAGE project aimed at developing an intelligent, semantically enhanced, collaborative platform to discover, access, visualize and curate Public Sector datasets from EU countries.

The work on this project ended May 31th, 2014. The platform deployed within the project, the work made on mapping CERIF to several open data-related standards, and the 3-layer metadata model centered around CERIF that was designed here too, set good bases for implementations of similar platforms relying on CERIF. Along this line, euroCRIS is involved with partners to submit follow-on proposals to appropriate EC Calls.



PASTEUR4OA

PASTEUR4OA supports the aim of encouraging the development of matching policies on open access and open data in the European Union according to the European Commission's Recommendation on "Access to and preservation of scientific information" (July 2012) and in view of maximizing alignment with the Horizon 2020 policy on access to the research funded by the Commission.

The project has started in February 2014. Most activities were focused on contacts with Open Access community stakeholders in European countries in order to get a picture of the OA policies in these countries. Besides, the euroCRIS representatives have played a role in the collecting of OA policies in Latin American countries, and in providing a view on the European landscape at the level of the infrastructure required or useful to support OA policies.



HOLA CLOUD

Starting in 2015, euroCRIS will be participating in another EC-funded project: HOLA CLOUD. The full title of the project is: *Effective collaboration for European RD and Innovation in software, services and Cloud computing: Knowledge discovery and Road mapping*. HOLA CLOUD aims to establish effective mechanisms for efficient collaboration among the members of the software, services and Cloud computing community. The euroCRIS team will be key in the 2 main deliverables: an online platform where CERIF will format the metadata for the content, and a scientific conference, first of a series roadmapping the cloud computing developments in Europe.

CERIF-CRIS Reference Implementation Project (CC-REFIM)

The goal of this project is to provide a reference system able to reliably check and confirm CERIF compatibility of CERIF-CRIS software platforms and of individual operational CERIF-CRIS systems. This implies the setting up of an operational reference database with remote access for development purposes.

For this project euroCRIS collaborates with members, such as EKT (the Greek National Documentation Centre) for the first phase in 2014, who implemented a platform relying on a full CERIF database and integrating the REST API being defined by the Architecture Task Group. In the next step, fake data covering the entire CERIF data model will be entered, in 2015.



CERIFication of Snowball Metrics

Snowball Metrics is a project started up to enable benchmarking by driving quality and efficiency across higher education's research and enterprise activities, regardless of system and supplier. The project is a collaboration between Elsevier, UK, euroCRIS and universities from the UK, USA, and Australia. Within the project, metrics have been defined. The aspiration is for these metrics to become global standards that enable institutional benchmarking, and to cover the entire spectrum of research activities.

CERIF is necessary to translate the Snowball Metrics methodology to enable institutions to benchmark their performance regardless of the systems they have implemented. euroCRIS has delivered an [initial version of the specification](#) of Snowball Metrics in CERIF.



CERIF-compliant euroCRIS Institutional Repository

In close collaboration with [GrandIR Ltd](#) euroCRIS has delivered a unique CERIF-compliant repository, based on the DSpace-CRIS software. The resulting open source [dSpace-CRIS repository](#) combines the agile open access content management provided by DSpace with additional CERIF-compliant CRIS features built on top of it. By doing so, DSpace-CRIS has both classic repository features and CRIS-specific features (creation and population of CERIF entities like persons, organisations, and projects).

The repository, now hosted by [CINECA](#), uses handles as persistent identifiers. The presentations given during CRIS2014 and the Strategic Membership meeting can be found in [this repository](#).

Collaboration and Strategic Partnerships

Apart from the Strategic Membership Meeting, euroCRIS goal is to collaborate with its existing strategic partners and to initiate collaboration with other relevant organisations. Board members have attended meeting of these partners and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed with EARMA and EUNIS.

Research Data Alliance (RDA)



The Research Data Alliance (RDA), an international initiative aiming to accelerate and facilitate research data sharing and exchange organised two plenary meetings last year, in Dublin and in Amsterdam. In Dublin and Amsterdam, Keith Jeffery and Brigitte Jörg co-chaired breakout sessions on Data in Context. In Amsterdam, euroCRIS also presented a poster on ENGAGE, and some material in a session on Education and Training on Handling Research Data.

Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR)



The worlds or the repositories and these of the CRIS-system tend to converge. This development is clearly visible in the new tools for CRIS-systems that have the possibility to act as a traditional repository as well. In relation to this, euroCRIS and COAR see the need for sees sharing of expertise and experience. There exist already cooperation in the field of harvesting and the usage of the OpenAIRE Guidelines. Both organisations see also an important role for CASRAI (see below).

CASRAI



In May 2014, in collocation with CRIS 2014, CASRAI held its Reconnect14-EU conference. The euroCRIS Board Members Ed Simons and Brigitte Jörg attended this meeting as members of panels on 'Reusing Application and CV Data in EC proposals' and on 'CASRAI inside CERIF - a Turnkey Approach'. David Baker, euroCRIS Board Member, but here as the CASRAI executive director, was the organiser of this event.

In November 2014, the Reconnect 14 Conference was held in Ottawa. The [presentations](#) are available.



ORCID

ORCID, <http://orcid.org> is an open, non-profit, community-based effort to provide a registry of unique researcher identifiers and a transparent method of linking research activities and outputs to these identifiers.

This year ORCID and euroCRIS discussed possibilities for exposing ORCID-data in CERIF-xml. The idea is to start a common project on this topic.



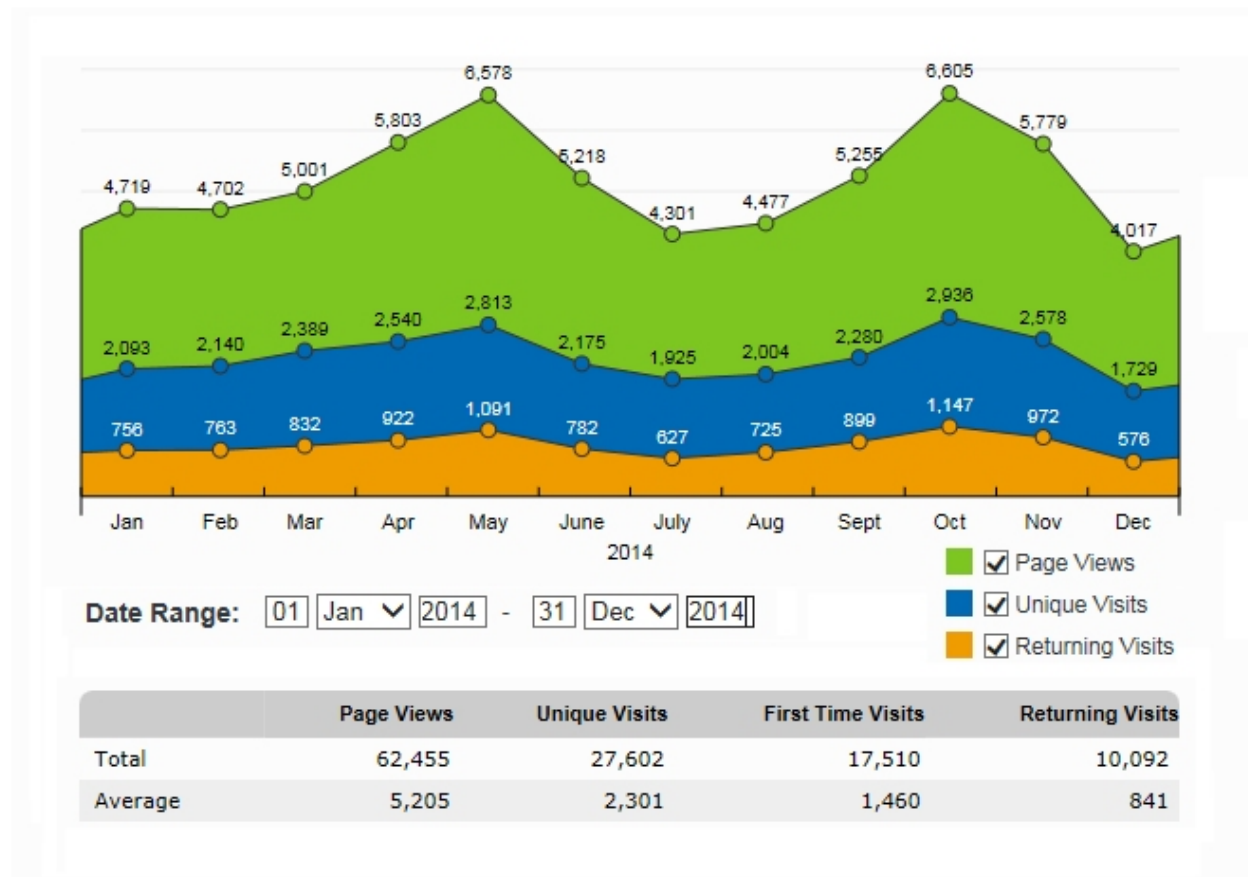
ISNI (OCLC)

ISNI, the International Standard Name Identifier, is administered by OCLC. In CRIS-systems it is y important to know which organisations, programmes and project are described. ISNI plays a crucial role in this respect. This year euroCRIS has started its first informal contacts with ISNI. ISNI is a strategic partner of ORCID.

Website and communication

This year behind the scenes a lot of developments have taken place related to the website. Agreements with CINECA have been signed regarding the hosting of the new website. A preview of this attractive website has been shown during the Strategic Members Meeting in Amsterdam. Although many important steps have been taken, time was too short unfortunately to present the website in this very calendar year. The new website is foreseen to be up and fully functional in Spring 2015. Also the new DSpace-CRIS repository will be harmonised with the new graphic layout chosen for the website.

Below the web statistics for the year 2014 are shown. In comparison with 2013 there are no significant changes in the usage of this website.



Newsflashes

In 2014 five Newsflashes (Issues 64-68) were published, with information on Board and membership issues, projects, euroCRIS and partner events, and news from our commercial members.



euroCRIS on Twitter

In 2014 euroCRIS continued to use its Twitter-account: https://twitter.com/eurocris_org. This communication channel is used in particular to distribute information on important developments related to projects, events and CERIF.

Board

The present Board underwent some changes during 2014. Most important was the resignation of Harrie Lalieu as the euroCRIS Secretary. Many years Harrie has been the binding element within the Board, having detailed knowledge of all affairs as from 2005. Although retired in 2012, he continued his work in the years 2013 and 2014.



In Spring 2014 he decided to hand over the secretariat to his successor, DANS. euroCRIS thanked Harrie for all his work done for the Association in all these years during the CRIS2014 meeting and appointed him as an Honorary Member.

As from May 2014, the euroCRIS-funded Secretariat has been taken over by DANS. This Secretariat consists of two persons, Gaihrrie Ganesh and Arjan Hogenaar, the latter being also the new euroCRIS

Secretary.

Brigitte Joerg (Board Member for Strategy and External Relations) had to resign in June because she had accepted a new job at ThomsonReuters. Brigitte has done an excellent job in the advocacy of the CERIF-format and in the further development of the CERIF data model. For her work she has received the euroCRIS Medal of Exceptional Merit. Her task in the Board regarding Strategy and External Relations has been taken over by Ed Simons (euroCRIS President).

The Board met in 2014 in The Hague on 10 February at DANS. Further Board Meetings were held on May 12 (Rome), July 3 (virtual), September 12 (virtual), and November 10 (DANS).

Executives

Harrie Lalieu as the Secretary did a fantastic job in composing reports and archives that have been used by the new Secretariat at DANS. The old and new Secretariat have put a lot of efforts – apart from the regular work on Board issues and communication with the members – in supporting the finalisation and starting of European projects like ENGAGE and PASTEUR4OA.

The **Treasurer** (*Barbara Ebert*) reports at the end of 2014 a liquidity of € 27,581.52 (*business + savings account*). The Board has decided to apply for a VAT-number and for an additional bank account in the Netherlands (apart from the already existing Belgium bank account). The Board has decided to take actions in order to raise more funds to cover the costs of running the Association euroCRIS. An internal audit was performed on 22 April in The Hague. In the members business meeting in Rome on 13 May the financial report on the year 2013 and the budget for 2014 were presented to the members and approved.

EC projects has been separately documented and archived. The Board discussed the possibilities of the development of a sponsorship and donations policy. This policy will be elaborated in 2015.

The **Executive for Conferences** (David Baker) has been very active in the organisation of the CRIS2014 Conference “Managing Data Intensive Science – The Role of CRIS in Realizing the Digital Agenda”. He was assisted by Daniela Luzi (Institute for Population and Social Policy Research (IRPPS-CNR), head of the local Organizing Committee, and Miguel-Angel Sicilia, head of the Programme Committee. Collocated with CRIS2014 the [CASRAI Europe ReConnect14](#) “Data-centric Management of Research & Innovation” was held on May 2014.

The **Executives responsible for Strategy and External Relations**, were Brigitte Joerg (until June 2014) and Ed Simons (as from July 2014). In collaboration with DANS Ed has organised the Strategic Membership Meeting in Amsterdam.

A MoU has been signed with EUNIS. Besides, a separate MoU has been signed with the National Technology University of Athens, regarding the follow-up of the ENGAGE-project.

The **Executive for the Communications** (Anna Clements) had the lead in the website redesign process (formulation of requirements, evaluation of quotes, selection of the design bureau, assessment of iterations, draft sitemap to fit the new navigation structure). This has resulted in a complete description of outlook and functionalities of the new website.

In his role as **President** Ed Simons coordinated the work of the Board. He had many contacts in the framework of strategy, notably with ORCID, ISNI, EARMA and EUNIS He had signed the agreements with DANS regarding the organizational and financial conditions for the implementation of the new euroCRIS office.

Task Groups

CERIF Task Group (leader Jan Dvořák, deputy Thorsten Hoellrigl)

The CERIF TG met 2 times in 2014:

Over the year considerable progress has been made on many issues, among which Research Data extension, model cleaning aspects, vocabulary governance structure, questions regarding research evaluation, semantic management aspects, expression of Snowball Metrics using CERIF, finalizing the OpenAIRE guidelines for CRIS managers.

Jan Dvořák gave CERIF tutorials in Rome and in Amsterdam

Best Practice / DRIS Task Group (leader Pablo de Castro, deputy Michele Mennielli)

A a CERIF-compliant institutional repository has been implemented.

Projects Task Group (leader Valerie Brasse)

The projects TG is very active in setting up procedures related to project management in a broad sense. The finalisation of the ENGAGE projects, the starting of the PASTEUR4OA and the preparation of the granted HOLACLOUD were key activities, as well as the coordinating writing and submission of several proposals, and the coordinating the internal CC-REFIM project. 2014 has also seen the creation of a dedicated page on the website to communicate about projects, a page that will be moved and enhanced in the new website in 2015. Furthermore, the TG has a role in completing of the UKRISS showing the benefits of CERIF-xml in exchanging information. Finally the TG contributed to the development of a first specification of Snowball Metrics in CERIF.

CRIS-IR Task Group (leader Danica Zendulková)

The TG collaborates closely with the Best Practice / DRIS TG.

CRIS Architecture and Development Task Group (leader Nikos Houssos)

The internally funded euroCRIS CERIF-CRIS Reference Implementation Project (CC-REFIM) has started. The OpenAIRE^{plus} guidelines for CRIS managers, concerning harvesting of information by OpenAIRE from CRIS have been published.

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

The the VIVO-CERIF mapping is ready as well as the VIVO-CERIF translation software

Indicators Task Group (leader Grete Christina Lingjærde)

CERIFing a subset of the Snowball Metrics, developed by Elsevier in cooperation with some UK universities and euroCRIS, has been realised.

Plans for 2015

The professionalisation of the association will be further developed in close consultation with DANS. Furthermore, tasks within the Board will be reshuffled leading to more efficient activities of the individual board members.

Also in 2015 euroCRIS will seek to participate in European projects. As already mentioned, the new website will be launched and collaboration with other organisations, for instance in the form of Strategic Partnerships, will be realised.

Funding policy, membership fees, and sponsoring

- A re-designed website, including a publication repository
- The implementation of a CERIF-CRIS reference implementation to underpin the core activity and “brand” of euroCRIS
- A new funding policy, including a limited raise in membership fees and well as opening up the possibility for donations and sponsorships

All of these steps are important conditions for a continued, appropriate execution of our mandate, as well as for the improvement of both our communication with and services to our members.

Following the Strategic Membership Meeting in Amsterdam, the Spring Membership Meeting will be held in Paris at AMUE on May 11-12, 2015. Looking at the success of the Strategic Membership Meeting, the organising of a similar meeting in autumn is conceivable.

Arjan Hogenaar,
April 2015