

From the President

"A merry Christmas to everybody! A happy New Year to all the world!"

-- Charles Dickens (A Christmas Carol)

I start with a note of sadness; it was in 2011 that Max Stempfhuber – euroCRIS board member - died as announced in Newsflash 44. He will be remembered in the CRIS conference series best paper award which will carry his name.

We euroCRIS members can look back on 2011 with considerable satisfaction. Membership has increased. We have held two very successful members' meetings in Bologna and Lille. The Rome Workshop in May produced the 'Rome Declaration' cementing our relationship with the Open Access / repository community. CERIF 1.3 is being released and we have already plans for CERIF 2 – reflecting the work of a very active Task Group. Led by the Projects Task Group we are involved as partners in running EC projects and in project proposals to improve the world of research information and to spread CERIF to other domains. 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 – we 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.

We have established the new LOD Task Group which links well with our participation in the ENGAGE EC funded project on e-government data. Our work with the OpenAIRE community is leading towards their adoption of CERIF for OpenAIRE+ and links with the CRIS-IR Task Group. Work continues on DRIS and Best Practice – tightly linked with the website activity. The Architecture Task Group has started work to define the basic services required for a CERIF-CRIS implementation. We have re-established and fortified our relationship with strategic partners. We have initiated formal strategic partnerships with CASRAI 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.

And so we move smoothly from 2011 to 2012. The CRIS 2012 conference in Prague has attracted 53 submissions and the programme committee is hard at work over the Christmas period reviewing the abstracts submitted. Also hard at work are several of us writing proposals for the deadlines of January 17th and February 22nd for EC-funded projects in two relevant programmes. We are engaging with the commercial CRIS vendors to define a compatibility test for CERIF-CRIS. The euroCRIS Task Group meetings in February in UK

provide the opportunity to interact strongly with the UK community where there are not only active projects in research information management but also in repositories and digital libraries and in research dataset management. A short Members' meeting will be held adjacent to CRIS 2012 and planning for our Autumn members' meeting is underway with the local organisers in Spain. All relevant dates are in the usual table at the end of this newsletter. I am confident 2012 will bring even more success for euroCRIS than 2011.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your contributions to euroCRIS activities in 2011 and ask you to continue with equal or even more energy in 2012. I finish this short article by thanking the Board: all the members give their time voluntarily to manage and promote euroCRIS despite having busy 'day jobs'. For their time, effort, wise counsel and friendship I thank them.

Membership issues

From the 21st of November we have welcomed the following new members:

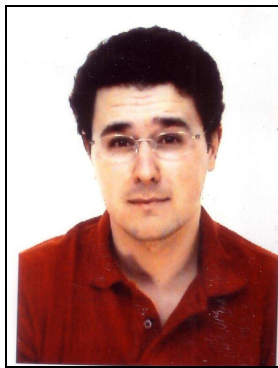
- Nikolaos Constantinou, National Documentation Centre, National Hellenic Research Foundation (EKT / NHRF), Athens, Greece (nkons@ekt.gr) has succeeded Cristina Pascual as delegate
- Fatemeh M. Sharhtash, Power and Water University of Technology (PWUT), Tehran, Iran (institutional) / fshartash@yahoo.com / <http://www.pwut.ac.ir/EN/Pages/default.aspx>
- John Donovan, Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland (institutional) / john.donovan@dit.ie / <http://www.dit.ie>
- Mark Connelly, Researchfish Ltd, Cambridge, United Kingdom (institutional) / mark.connolly@researchfish.com / <http://www.researchfish.com>
- Kathleen Callender, Graduate Research Support (GRS) (Kathleen.callender@sunderland.ac.uk) and Kevin Ginty (gintyk@gmail.com) & Albert Bokma (albert.bokma@sunderland.ac.uk), Centre for Internet technologies (CIT) of the University of Sunderland, United Kingdom, have joined as delegates
- Andreas Strotmann (andreas.strotmann@gesis.org) has succeeded Anja Wilde as delegate of GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, Köln, Germany. Peter Mutschke (peter.mutschke@gesis.org) joined as 5th delegate. Brigitte Haustein (brigitte.haustein@gesis.org) of the GESIS Berlin office (Dept. Data Archive for the Social Sciences) has succeeded Ulrike Becker, who has retired
- Rowan Wilson, University of Oxford, Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS), Oxford, United Kingdom (affiliate) / rowan.wilson@oucs.ox.ac.uk / <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk>
- Ioannis Tourountzis, Digitalo EPE, Thessaloniki, Greece (institutional) / tourountzis@gmail.com / <http://www.technixx.gr>
- Yogesh Patel, University of Manchester, Mimas, Manchester, United Kingdom (affiliate) / jennifer.matthews-2@manchester.ac.uk / <http://www.manchester.ac.uk>
- David Ebert (david.ebert@imperial.ac.uk) is the new contact person for Imperial College London (Department of Information & Communication Technologies) and succeeds Jonathan Breeze, who left the organisation
- Josef Dalla Via, Autonomous Province of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy (personal) / josef.dallavia@provinz.bz.it / <http://www.provinz.bz.it/de/default.asp>

- Sigbjørn Hernes (sigbjorn.hernes@uhr.no), senior advisor at the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions (UHR) at Oslo, has joined as 3rd delegate of this organisation

Address and email changes

Recently we have been faced with several undeliverable emails. From subsequent examinations it appeared that this was due to change of position, leave, retirement etc. Tracing the new correct address and email data, if at all possible, takes a lot of time. Therefore, may we kindly ask you to send any changes timely to the euroCRIS Secretariat: eurocris@eurocris.org / m.l.h.lalieu@planet.nl

Miguel-Angel Sicilia Linked Open Data Task Group (LOD TG) Leader



Brief curricular note

Miguel-Angel Sicilia (University of Alcalá, Madrid) is full professor at the Computer Science Department and currently directs a PhD program in applied IT and coordinates a MSc program on the same topics. He has been involved in the last ten years in different Semantic Web and metadata research projects, and he is currently coordinating the agINFRA FP7 project (<http://aginfra.eu/>) on research infrastructures in agricultural sciences, and the VOA3R ICT PSP project (<http://voa3r.eu>) on open access to research in agriculture and aquaculture.

Brief history of the inception of the TG

euroCRIS and the VOA3R project had a joint meeting in Bologna May 2011. The meeting was a follow-up of some previous communication of VOA3R partners with members of euroCRIS board regarding how CERIF was being implemented inside the VOA3R service, a social network for researchers in agriculture and aquaculture. The issue of exposing CERIF as linked data was discussed in Bologna as a key requirement to fit with the broader idea of opening access to research beyond free access to the outcomes (i.e. the papers). The joint meeting had a follow-up in July in an informal meeting of euroCRIS members and VOA3R technical staff hosted by the University of Alcalá. The outcomes of the discussion clearly pointed out to the need of formally addressing LOD in euroCRIS as an strategic mid-term objective. That identified need resulted in the proposal of the new TG.

The new LOD TG in euroCRIS

As a coordinator of VOA3R, I have supported the implementation of an early prototype of CERIF-based linked data (LD) as a demonstration of the way the sound CERIF modeling principles can be leveraged on the Web. I strongly believe that LD for CERIF will bring a new context to CRIS data sharing, solving many of the issues related to information

fragmentation that we currently face. Further, this will align CERIF with the LOD movement in better serving science. The short-term plans of the TG include the development of recommendations for exposing LOD in CERIF-based system, serving as a guide for implementation. This may in turn require a consideration of potential changes in the CERIF model to better support referencing data in other systems. Also, the support for linked data vocabularies would most likely require to deploy vocabulary maintenance systems inside euroCRIS, which will require alignment with the improvements to CERIF that would come up from other TGs. In general, considering LOD in the context of CRIS also brings many interesting problems as how to integrate fragmented descriptions of the same entity (e.g. the papers of a researcher who worked at several different institutions) or the way in which linked data should be aggregated at regional or national level to better support policy and decision making in research.

A beta version of a tentative CERIF-based implementation of LD is already available in the VOA3R project: <http://voa3r.cc.uah.es/> and for the next year, the outcomes of the TG will be the basis for the evolution of the CERIF-based LOD inside VOA3R. That implementation experience will also be used to gain insights about the practical application of LD patterns in CERIF-based CRIS. Also, the TG will address the alignment of these recommendations with the approach used in other related initiatives as VIVO and ENGAGE.

Task Group meetings in Bath, UK, 9-10 February 2012

As announced in the last Newsflash, UK community + CERIF experts meeting and a day with parallel TG meetings will be organized in Bath, UK. The meetings will be hosted by UKOLN. We wish to thank Rosemary Russell and the staff of the events team of UKOLN for their help and hospitality.

Details on the agenda, transport and accommodation are tabulated here, but will be stored also on the [membership meetings page](#), along with working papers, presentations and any updates to be added later.

Venue

The venue for the meeting days is:

The INNOVATION Centre
Carpenter House, The University of Bath
Broad Quay, Bath, BA1 1UD
Tel: +44 (0)1225 388711
www.theinnovationcentre.org.uk

Venue map and directions are at:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/bathventures/forbusiness/The_Innovation_Centre_-_Bath.pdf

Agenda and invitation to join

The UK (euroCRIS) community members and JISC projects participants will be separately invited for the UK community + CRIS experts day on the 9th of February (a.o. in depth discussion on CERIF-CRIS, tutorial and ‘surgery’ session).

Here is the draft agenda for the Task Group meetings on the 10th of February. There will be no separate Projects TG meeting. Administrative issues on projects will be discussed internally and synergies with work of other TGs will be discussed in the respective meetings.

You are kindly invited to join one or more of these meetings. If you are planning to attend the meeting day you are kindly requested to send a mail to the euroCRIS Secretary (eurocris@eurocris.org / m.l.h.lalieu@planet.nl) and mention which meeting(s) you would like to attend. The Secretary will coordinate with the TG leaders and UKOLN. Deadline for registration is the 6th of February 2012.

Time	Task Group		
09:00	<u>CERIF</u>	<u>CRIS-IR</u>	
10:00	To be assessed	Conversion between several data & metadata formats used in IR / library software and CERIF	
11:00			
12:00			
13:00	LUNCH BREAK		
14:00	<u>Architecture</u>	<u>Best Practice / DRIS</u>	<u>Linked Open Data</u>
15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open discussion on goals, approaches, schedule and risks - Discuss the specification document posted - Other business, next steps 	Presentation of previous work in this Task Group DRIS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to make DRIS useful: DRIS as an information hub - Invitation to submit CRIS descriptions into DRIS - Semantic Linkages Open Repository (SLOR) in connection with DRIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use cases for exposing CERIF as LOD - Revision of early implementation - Revision of tentative specifications for exposing LOD
16:00		Best Practice	
17:00		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Views on initial Best Practice topics - Set-up of a CERIF-CRIS Best Practice catalogue, structure - Possible motivations to submit materials for the Best Practice catalogue 	

Travel

Info about public transport links to Bristol airport (airport bus to Bristol Temple Meads station, then train to Bath):

<http://www.bristolairport.co.uk/getting-to-the-airport/by-train.aspx>

Taxi is expensive:

Bristol Airport to Bath: £45.00 - Bath to Bristol Airport: £40.00 (Abbey Taxis: + 44 (0)1225 444444)

Info about travel from all airports (including Heathrow and Gatwick) at:

<http://visitbath.co.uk/travel-and-maps/travelling-to-and-around-bath/travelling-by-air>

Bath tourist info at:

<http://visitbath.co.uk/>

Accommodation

For accommodation on the campus at the University of Bath go to:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/hospitality/beds/index.html>

For booking through the University of Bath travel agent, Ian Allan Travel, (payment made directly to Ian Allan) email: unienquiries@ianallan.co.uk

Alternatively, the Bath tourist office have an accommodation search service:

<http://visitbath.co.uk/accommodation>

Direct links for central hotels are:

4 star - Hilton Bath City Walcot Street Bath BA1 5BW tel +44 (0)1225 463411 http://www.hilton.co.uk/bathcity	Budget hotel - The Parade Park 8-10 North Parade Bath BA2 4AL tel +44 (0)1225 463384 http://paradepark.co.uk	Budget chain - Travelodge Bath Central Hotel 1 York Buildings, George Street Bath BA1 2EB http://www.travelodge.co.uk [NB: can be noisy!]
3 star - Mercure Bath Francis 6-12 Queen Square Bath BA1 2HH tel +44 (0)1225 424105 http://www.mercure.com	Budget hotel - Pratts Hotel South Parade Bath BA2 4AB tel +44(0)1225 460441 http://www.forestdale.com	Budget chain - Travelodge Bath Waterside Hotel Rossiter Road, Widcombe Basin Bath BA2 4JP http://www.travelodge.co.uk

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the euroCRIS Secretariat or – for the UK & CERIF experts meeting – Rosemary Russell: r.russell@ukoln.ac.uk , tel +44 (0)1225 386580.

Projects (by Nikos Houssos, Projects Task Group Leader)

Running projects

FP7 Infrastructures Programme

ENGAGE: The procedures for forming the euroCRIS ENGAGE team are being finalised after an open invitation that was run in October, relevant work will start in early 2012, mainly regarding using CERIF as the contextual metadata model of the ENGAGE for Public Sector Information data.

OpenAIREplus: euroCRIS work (subcontracted by EKT) is expected to be formally assigned and start in early 2012 for the alignment of the OpenAIREplus data model to CERIF.

EuroRIs-Net+: euroCRIS work (subcontracted by EKT) is expected to be formally assigned and start in early 2012 for ensuring CERIF compatibility of the data model underlying the public EuroRIs-Net+ RI stakeholders database.

Submitted proposals

FP7 Infrastructures Programme

The EXEDRA proposal has been submitted (on November 23rd) under the FP7 Research Infrastructures Programme (Call 10) in and in particular topic INFRA-2012-1.1.3 (Research infrastructures for archaeological datasets and related technologies). The proposal is coordinated by the University of Oxford and its main aim is to create a data infrastructure for archaeology, particularly serving research, technical innovation, conservation, collaboration with cultural heritage policy makers, and public access. euroCRIS is included in the proposal as a subcontractor of EKT for a task of the project concerning the linking of archaeological research data with research context (e.g. projects/activities, people, organisations) based on CERIF. Review results are expected until late February/March.

JISC Research Information Management Programme

euroCRIS has been involved in the following four proposals that have been submitted in a call of the JISC RIM Programme (on November 21st):

- DESCRIBE (Defining Systems to Capture Research Impact and Benefits), Lead institution: University of Exeter
- UK-RISE (UK Research Information Systems Exchange), Lead institution: UKOLN
- UK-RISS (UK Research Information Shared Service), Lead institution: King's College London
- NASSRI: Lead institution: University of Glasgow

Current information is that UK-RISE has not been funded but UK-RISS has.

We continue work as a partner in the active projects: C4D; Cerif-in-Action; IRIOS-2; CERIFy, RMAS having completed work on previous projects including CRISPool, Ready4REF, MICE and BRUCE.

Current opportunities considered

Opportunities are explored under the current ICT Call (FP7-ICT-2011-8, Submission deadline: 17 January 2012) – topic ICT 2011.4.4 (Intelligent Information Management) and under the current Science in Society Call (FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2012-1, Submission deadline: 22 February 2012) - topic SIS.2012.1.3.3-1 (Scientific data: open access, dissemination, preservation and use).

Workshop “Research Information Systems”. Karlsruhe, Germany, 22-23 November 2011 (by Sven Bittner, iFQ, Berlin)

The Institute for Research Information and Quality Assurance (iFQ) and the German Initiative for Network Information (DINI) have held the workshop "Research Information Systems" at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) on 22 and 23 November 2011.

The workshop attracted more than 160 participants from the German-speaking community, including representatives from universities, research institutions, funding bodies, system vendors, policy makers and advisory bodies. It was a densely-packed workshop, involving a panel discussion as well as 15 presentations. These presentations focused on the requirements and interests of various actors in the research process, ranging from science-policy over strategic to operative aspects of research information systems.

During the workshop it became clear that there is a great demand to further share experiences and views on research information and research information systems. Due to the range of different projects and viewpoints even within the German-speaking community, the enhancement and incorporation of common (European) standards should be intensified. The community addressed by this workshop is open to a greater involvement in the euroCRIS activities in the future.

News from Atira A/S (by Bo Alrø)

The Royal Danish Defence College

NEW CRIS IMPLEMENTATION: The Royal Danish Defence College has ordered Pure with the system's CERIF-based data model. More information about this project will be available at <http://www.atira.dk/en/>.

CERIF In Action JISC project

NEW JISC PROJECT: The "CERIF in Action" project continues on from earlier CERIF-related JISC projects such as Readiness4Ref, CRISPool, and CERIFy to find best practices and to define a standard CERIF-XML schema for the major UK data exchange projects within the sector.

JISC's project website states that "The objective is to take this agreed model through to production ready interfaces for two of the main commercial CRIS systems (Pure and Symplectic) and the largest repository platform (ePrints) in the UK to demonstrate the use of CERIF-XML in live scenarios and then share our findings and recommendations with the community via a roadmap for adoption." More information is available at: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/projects/cerifinaction.aspx>

Our role in the project is to deliver the proof of concept described above related to Pure. It will be done by implementation of a standardised import- and export component. It will bear resemblance to Pure's existing PXA import/export facility that may be known to some (Pure's XML Archive format export facility), but with the very important difference that the format will be CERIF-XML as defined within the CERIF In Action project. We will also participate in the projects discussions about CERIF. Leader of the Project Team from Atira will be Thomas Vestdam, M.Sc.CS, PhD.

Merry Christmas from Atira

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us - as illustrated by this CERIF-inspired Christmas tree, courtesy of our own Henrik Rasmussen ☺

<http://www.atira.dk/en/merrychristmas2011.html>

News from Avedas AG (by Thorsten Höllrigl)

ESF selects CONVERIS for MERIL – the future European Portal for Research Infrastructure

The European Science Foundation (ESF) has been charged by the European Commission with the mission to establish a new online Portal, MERIL, which continuously will gather and present information on all Research Infrastructure of European relevance. In the summer, the implementation of a Proof-of-Concept started, which now has been finalised and reviewed by selected stakeholders. Based on the input from the stakeholders, a Book-of-Specification has been elaborated for the final version of MERIL, which implementation started in December and is scheduled to be finished towards the summer 2012. As the new MERIL Portal will become an authoritative source in Europe for information on Research Infrastructure the results have already, and will continue to contribute to the work in the CERIF Task Group in order to make future versions of CERIF specifically apt to handle also this type of research information.

Province of Bozen/Bolzano in Italy chooses CONVERIS to realize a federated Research Information & Monitoring System

AVEDAS is pleased to announce that the Province of Bozen/Bolzano has chosen CONVERIS to implement a research information portal called ARISTOTELES. Research and innovation financing and executing organizations are brought together on this platform. Evidence and information on running research and innovation projects will be given, as well as the output of these projects made available for the scientific community and the public. This should enhance and cross-link the research and innovation effort of the whole region. ARISTOTELES will be a federated solution for a CERIF-based Current Research Information System (CRIS) using CERIF XML as data exchange format to interact with other research information systems within South Tyrol and worldwide. Therefore, the Province of Bozen/Bolzano acquired a licence agreement that lays the foundation for additional institutions in South Tyrol to seamlessly deploy CONVERIS as research information & monitoring system. Furthermore, ARISTOTELES will function as a portal for all researchers of South Tyrol to collect, manage and assess research and innovation related projects allowing South Tyrol to adequately track and present output of research activities of the province.

Free University of Bozen/Bolzano selects CONVERIS

The Free University of Bozen/Bolzano decides to use CONVERIS as research information system. Based on the license agreement with the Province of Bozen/Bolzano. The Free University of Bozen/Bolzano implements CONVERIS to collect, structure and use research information along the complete research process. Implementation will start at the beginning of January 2012 including Pre-Award Management, Management of Projects and Publications. Apart from the flexibility and ability to manage research information throughout the complete research life cycle that characterize CONVERIS, key to the university's choice is the seamless and loosely-coupled integration with the portal ARISTOTELES of the Province of Bozen/Bolzano. The exchange of information about current research projects at the university and their respective output will be submitted to ARISTOTELES by using CERIF XML.

University of Sunderland chooses CONVERIS in preparation for REF

Avedas is pleased to announce that, following tender, the University of Sunderland has chosen the CONVERIS Research Information System as its optimal solution for managing research information. Key to CONVERIS selection is its flexibility, CERIF compliance and dedicated REF functionality. As one of the three 'pathfinders' for RMAS, the University of Sunderland will focus the implementation on pre-award contract management and costing & pricing, but will also include CONVERIS support for publications management, REF

management and integrations with all the relevant internal corporate systems to provide support along the complete Research Life Cycle. The implementation will also serve as a showcase where CERIF XML will be used not only for the interoperability between institutions, but also between CONVERIS and the internal systems. The University of Sunderland and AVEDAS will work together to transform the data from HR, Student records and Finance to CERIF XML, which will be continuously fed into CONVERIS, and thereby demonstrate towards other institutions the benefits of a wider use of CERIF. The implementation started in December 2011 and will take the CONVERIS CERIF-based standard data model as its starting point. AVEDAS dedicated consultancy team for the UK will set up CONVERIS in line with the University's business processes and ensure integration within its IT-landscape, including connectors to pFACT, Oracle Finance, SITS, Eprints, LDAP and Chris21 (HR).

For your diaries

Date	Event	Where
20120209-10	UK community & euroCRIS experts meeting + euroCRIS Task Group meetings	Bath
20120321-23	EUA Annual Conference “The Sustainability of European Universities” http://www.eua.be/warwick.aspx	Warwick
20120522-25	4th International Conference on Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries http://www.isast.org	Limerick
20120606-09	CRIS 2012 Conference “e-Infrastructure for Research and Innovation” http://www.cris2012.org	Prague
20120613-15	18th EUNIS Congress http://www.eunis.org	Vila Real
20120627-30	LIBER 41st Annual Conference http://www.utlib.ee/liber2012/tartu.html	Tartu
20120709-12	EARMA Annual Conference 2012 “European Research and Innovation at the Horizon” http://www.earma.org/page/earma-ac-2012-dublin	Dublin
20120910-11	10th euroCRIS Strategic Seminar “Horizon 2020”	Brussels
20121028-31	23rd CODATA International Conference “Open Data and Information for a Changing Planet” http://www.codata.org	Taipei
20121129-30	14th International Conference on Grey Literature “Tracking Innovation through Grey Literature” http://www.greynet.org	Rome