

Workshop proposal

National Research Portal 101: The dos and don'ts of building a sustainable portal

This is a proposal for a CRIS2022 conference workshop to discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with the development of a national research information management system. The activity is conceived as a half-day workshop with the participation of different – mostly European – initiatives and projects to implement national and regional CRIS portals. Since this is planned as an on-site event and an opportunity for a face-to-face discussion in Dubrovnik, where the CRIS2022 conference will be held in May 2022, in-person participation is essential in order to have a lively exchange on the various topics outlined below.

Part 1: Introduction and Impulse Presentations

The WS is to be coordinated – both structurally and in terms of content – by the Austrian [RIS Synergy project](#), of which some representatives will be attending the CRIS2022 event. The RIS Synergy project team will introduce the goals of the WS and guide participants through the discussions.

The WS will start with short impulse presentations from some participants, featuring key aspects such as introductions, institutional affiliations, a brief overview of the project and, in short, one prominent feature or individual strength of the participant's national/regional portal.

However, it is also possible to participate in the WS without presenting. Those interested in participation can indicate in the registration process for the WS whether they would like to present their own CRIS initiative as part of the WS or not. We ask participants who want to present to submit their presentation materials (slides, freeform, creative materials, etc....) until **May 1, 2022** at the latest. Presentations can also be held virtually, as the initial phase of the WS will be conducted in a hybrid mode. Note that the interactive part will be carried out in person only.

Some of the national/regional CRIS initiatives we suggest take part in the workshop, both as participants and potentially as presenters, are listed below. They will be contacted and invited directly by the RIS Synergy workshop team. Particular emphasis is given to 'under construction' projects, as these are the ones which may benefit the most from the discussions. Ongoing projects are thus listed at the top of the following list and highlighted in italics.

- ***CroRIS project for a Croatian national CRIS***, <https://www.srce.unizg.hr/en/croris>
- ***Hércules project for a Spanish national CRIS***, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/1869>
- ***CRIS-IL project for a Israeli national CRIS***, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/1657>
- ***Research portal Denmark NORA*** (National Open Research Analytics), <https://www.nora.dtu.dk/>
- ***Icelandic national CRIS*** ([based on Pure](#))
- ***Finnish research.fi portal***, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/1790>

- **CRIS**tin Norwegian national CRIS, <https://www.cristin.no/english/>
- **SICRIS** Slovenian national CRIS, <https://bit.ly/34eA66r> (using COBISS as a basis, a model that has allowed national portals to be incipiently built in other countries in the region such as [Serbia](#), [Montenegro](#), [Bosnia & Herzegovina](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Albania](#) and others)
- **Flanders Research Information Space (FRIS)**, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/1867>
- **Catalan Research Portal (PRC)**, <https://portalrecerca.csuc.cat/?locale=en>
- **Portuguese national CRIS PT-CRIS**, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/664>
- **Dutch Research Portal NARCIS (National Academic Research and Collaborations Information System)**, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/989>
- **Estonia Research Information System (ETIS)**, <https://www.etis.ee/>
- **UnityFVG - Friuli Venezia Giulia**, <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/686>

Part 2: Group Discussions and Round Table

The discussions will be conducted in an interactive setting, hoping for dynamic participation from attendees representing other national CRIS projects.

Set-up: The participants will be divided into two groups (A and B), each reflecting on a different topic simultaneously. The groups will then change places. Depending on the number of participants, groups can be doubled, allowing for a smaller number of participants in each group. The group discussions will then be followed by a round table where all workshop participants are brought together. Based on the findings from the previous discussions, participants are invited to share ideas and to reflect on lessons learnt. This final part also allows for a more general Q&A and informal exchange about all aspects of a national research portal.

Group A: Concepts: First Steps and Getting Started

Since existing information on national research portals tends to put emphasis on implementation, we would like to take a step back and ask workshop participants to give insights into different starting points, decision-making processes, and policies underlying the portal's development. This discussion could focus on the following questions:

- **Who?** Who started the initiative? What was the initial situation like? Who operates the portal? Who is responsible for maintenance?
- **When?** When and how did the idea for a national/regional portal emerge? What are significant milestones and when did they happen? At what point in the project cycle did/will the portal go live?
- **How?** How is the portal financed? What legal background is provided? What does the decision-making process look like (e.g., is the portal a top-down or bottom-up initiative)?
- **What for?** What are the portal's main objectives and target groups? What is the portal used for (e.g., visibility, reporting tool, networking, etc.)?

Group B: Implementation: From the Idea to the Final Product

Group B will first focus on the actual (technical) implementation and project management. The following questions could serve as a guideline for this discussion block:

- **Information exchange:** What does the technical infrastructure look like? What standards are the data interfaces based on? Who are the system's data providers? How do you handle persistent identifiers (PIDs) in your system? If you use PIDs, which ones did you choose to implement? How did this decision come about?
- **System interoperability:** Which CRIS are connected through data interfaces (universities, funders, etc.)? Do you use international infrastructure such as OpenAIRE? Why/why not? Are the interfaces compliant with CERIF entities? Which CERIF entities are presented? How do you "bring together" different systems?
- **Realisation:** Have you been able to realise all ideas so far? What does the final product look like - what content is presented for which target groups?

Round table: Lessons Learnt

Based on the findings from parts A and B, the final part of the workshop allows for an open discussion on, and comparison of, the initial plans/starting positions for a national research portal and the actual implementation process.

- Comparing concept and implementation: How did initial ideas about portal contents and target groups change over time?
- What has to be considered when setting up a national research portal?
- Which challenges and obstacles can one face?
- What advice do advanced portal operators have for those just getting started?
- What changes has the portal initiated, if any?
- *Quo Vadis* National Portal: What is the future of national portals (as opposed to inter- or transnational portals)?

The goal of this workshop is to provide a platform for connection and engagement. National portals not only help establish an international infrastructure of research (information) data; they also facilitate (inter)national exchange. In the same spirit, this collaborative workshop would be an excellent opportunity to lay the foundation for further networking among national portal operators.

Participants - RIS Synergy

The following members of the RIS Synergy project consortium will organise and host the workshop:

1. Sabine Neff (TU Wien)
2. Simone Hartmann (TU Wien)
3. Ulrike Hicker (TU Wien)
4. Michael Greil (University of Vienna)
5. Elena Fürst (University of Vienna)
6. Vanessa Erat (University of Klagenfurt)
7. Michael Strassnig (Vienna Science and Technology Fund - WWTF)