



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION  
FOR RESEARCH INFORMATION

# An anniversary: 20 years of euroCRIS

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Strategic Membership Meeting

Nijmegen, December 1st 2022

# Structure of the Presentation

Preamble: What is euroCRIS and which conditions led to its creation?

1. 1991-2001: the formative years
2. 2002-2015: formalization and growth in Europe
3. 2016-now: reaching out beyond Europe
4. Strong and weak points of euroCRIS
  - In general
  - CERIF

# What is euroCRIS?

- An *international not-for-profit foundation (under Dutch Law)* of experts and users of research information in general and research information systems (CRIS) in particular,
- Mission: *To promote cooperation and exchange of information and expertise regarding research information and advance Interoperability in the Research Community through CERIF .*
- Main activities:
  - *Bringing the international Research Information Community together by the organisation of biennial conferences and biannual meetings for its members and (strategic) partners in the field of Research Information.*
  - *Development and governance of CERIF (Current European Research Information Format) and promotion of its use.*
- Part of pursuing the previously mentioned goal is establishing *Strategic Partnerships* with neighbouring organisations in the Research Information Ecosystem.
- Members of euroCRIS are: *Universities, Research Institutes, Funding Agencies, Research Councils, International Associations of Universities, Vendors of Research Information Systems, Publishers, ....*

## Conditions leading to the creation of euroCRIS

Actually the story started around the end of the 1980's when:

- As a result of the economically difficult times in various European countries the governmental budgets for scientific research came under pressure, forcing governments to look for ways to monitor the quality of research in order to make sure that the scarcer resources were spent responsibly (read: curtail weak research in favour of qualitatively better research).
- IT (online terminals/personal computers) had developed to a level that in principle made it possible to process and supply the necessary data for this.

Result: by the end of the 80's/start of 90's in a few European countries the first CRISs were being developed (e.g. **METIS** in The Netherlands, **NORA** in Norway...). And also the EC became interested in the possibilities of automated registration and processing of research information on their projects.

# 1. 1991 – 2001: the formative years

## 1991 – 2001: the formative years

In the years 1987-1989 the EC set up an expert group to examine how research information on its projects could be exchanged. Members of this group included Jostein Hauge (NO), Maurits van der Graaf (NL), Keith Jeffery (UK), Fulvio Naldi (IT) and was coordinated by Lieve van Woensel of the EC based in Luxembourg. This expert group produced the first version of CERIF: CERIF91.

In February 1991 Jostein Hauge, University of Bergen (UiB ) Norway held an International Seminar on Current Research Documentation in Bergen The usual suspects from the 1987-89 EC expert group attended. *This group became an informal euroCRIS, known as ‘the platform’ (for development of CRIS).*

In 1993 Maurits van der Graaf, the then Director of NBOI (the recently created *Dutch Bureau for Research Information*) held a Conference on Current Research Information in Amsterdam with a much extended attendance, including Anne Asserson of the UiB.

After these initial activities, the “euroCRIS avant-la-lettre” really took off which resulted in the organization of regular meetings and conferences through the remainder of the 1990’s.

## 1991 – 2001: the formative years

- CRIS95: first CRIS Conference of that name, 1995 Milan Italy, hosted by Italian National Research Council.
- Spring 1996: Amsterdam, Netherlands, Platform Meeting, again hosted by NBOI (M. Van der Graaf)
- September 1996: Lisbon, Portugal, Platform Meeting, hosted by the Portuguese Research Council (Maria-Flamina Ramos)
- Spring 1997: Bergen, Norway, Platform Meeting, again hosted by University of Bergen (J. Hauge)
- CRIS98: Luxemburg, hosted by the European Commission (EC, L. Van Woensel). First idea of formalizing euroCRIS discussed.
- CRIS2000: Helsinki. First Board (then called “*Planning Group*”) established with the Belgian *Eric Cantarella* elected as President, who, unfortunately died shortly after. The Platform then still an informal organization, not yet legally established.

## 1991 – 2001: the formative years

- November 2001: Planning Group meeting at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (UK), hosted by Keith Jeffery. Further step towards legal formalization with the first formulation of charters and the appointment of (a new) President (Keith Jeffery) as well as a Secretary (Marga van Meel, NBOI) and Treasurer (Walter Niedermayer). **First use of the name “euroCRIS”.**

### The “Founding Fathers” of euroCRIS



Jostein Hauge  
Norway



Maurits van der Graaf  
Netherlands



Eric Cantarella,  
Belgium, regretted  
First President.



Keith Jeffery, UK  
President 2001-2012

# 1991 – 2001: the formative years



**Meeting of the Planning Group in 1999 (Keith Jeffery to the right in front, with Anne Asserson (UiB) next to him)**

## 2. 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

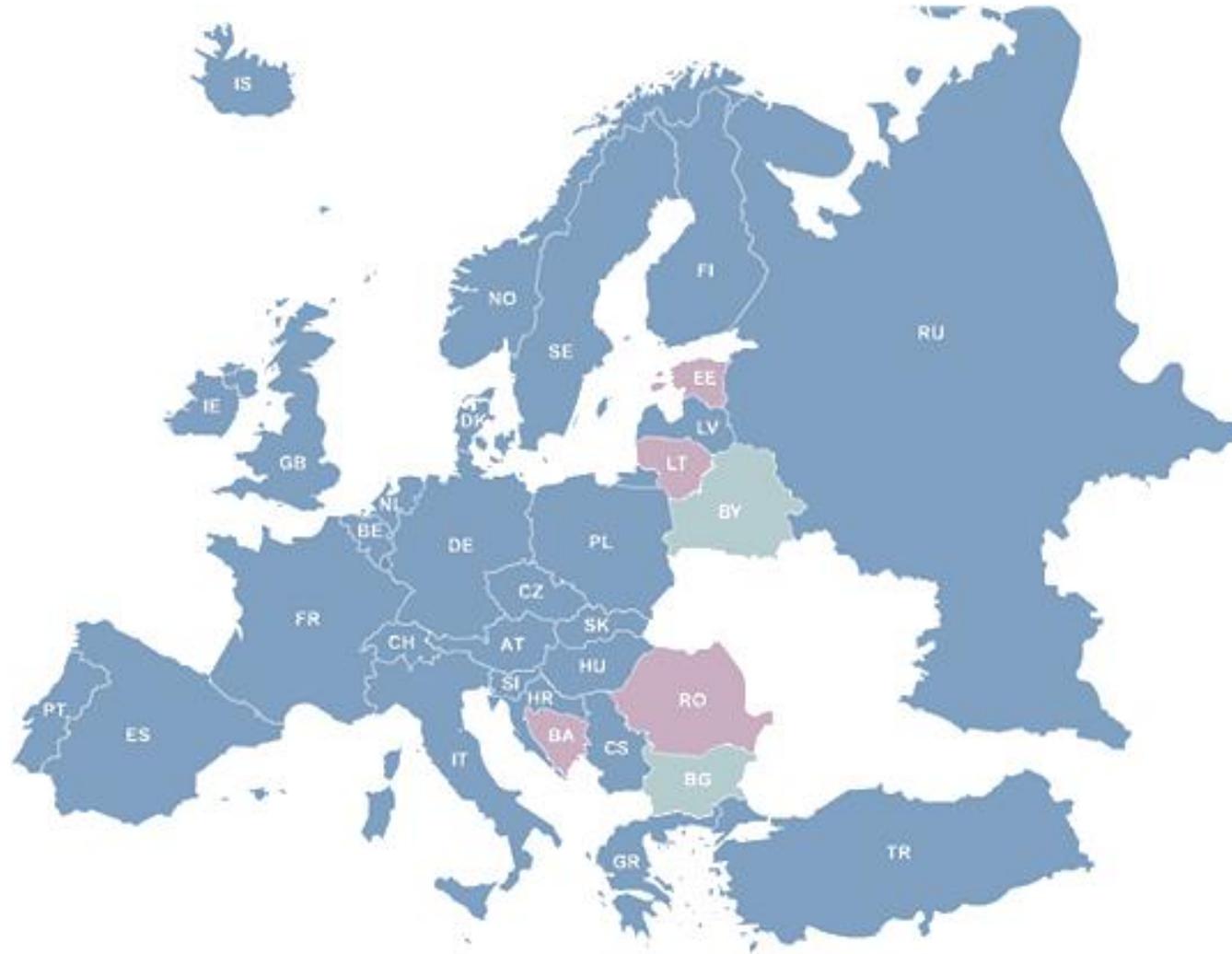
The events described previously led to the legal establishment of euroCRIS as a Foundation under Dutch Law on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2002.

From then on, over the next decade, the successful expansion of euroCRIS took off across Europe, with frequent and regular meetings per year and a membership of 200+ of which 150 organizations by the end of the period (2015), including universities, research institutes, research councils and manufacturers of CRIS systems.

## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

euroCRIS in 2015:

200+ members  
from 45 countries,  
mainly Europe.



**Members outside of Europe:**

**Australia - Canada - China - Colombia - Iran - Israel - Malaysia - Nigeria - Pakistan - South Korea - USA**

# 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

euroCRIS in 2015:

Strategic Partners



### euroCRIS Conferences:

- CRIS2002: Kassel, Germany, University of Kassel
- CRIS2004: Antwerp, Belgium, Flemish Government
- CRIS2006: Bergen, Norway, University of Bergen
- CRIS2008: Maribor, Slovenia, University of Maribor
- CRIS2010: Aalborg, Denmark, University of Aalborg / PURE company
- CRIS2012: Prague, Czech Republic, Ministry of Sciences
- CRIS2014: Rome, Italy, National Research Council

## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth



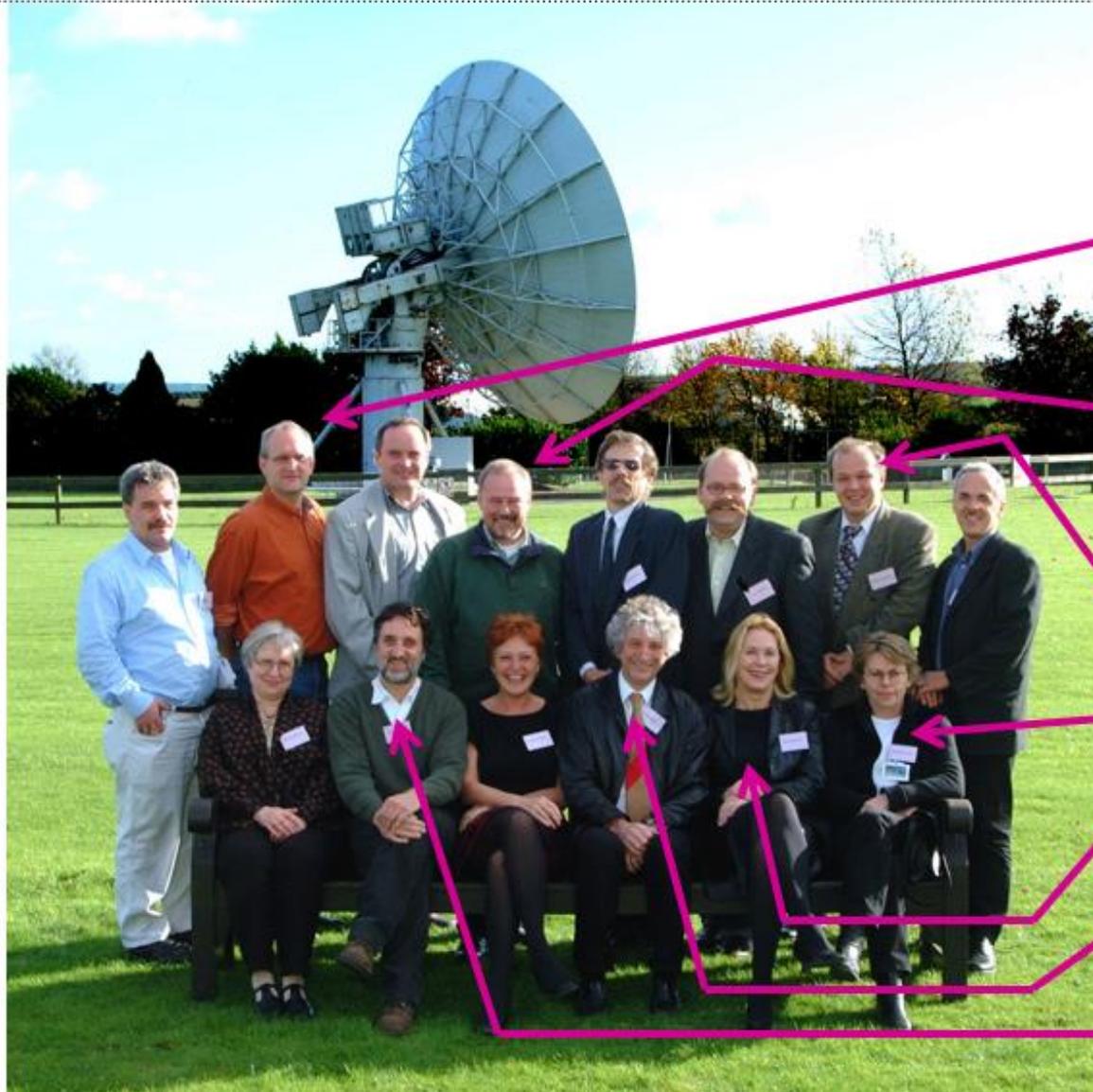
**Prague 2012: Delegation of the Board meeting with the Head of the EC DG for Research and Innovation.**

## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

### Members meetings:

- 2001: Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2001: Chilton/Didcot, UK
- 2002: Brussels, Belgium
- 2003: Antwerp, Belgium
- 2003: Fribourg, Switzerland
- 2004: Budapest, Hungary
- 2005: Tartu, Estonia
- 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2007: Stockholm/Helsinki
- 2007: Vienna, Austria
- 2008: Moscow, Russia
- 2009: Athens, Greece
- 2009: St Andrews, Scotland, UK
- 2010: Prague, Czech Republic
- 2011: Bologna, Italy
- 2011: Lille, France
- 2012: Madrid, Spain
- 2013: Bonn, Germany
- 2013: Porto, Portugal
- 2014: Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2015: Paris, France
- 2015: Barcelona, Spain

# October 2001: Member Meeting RAL: Decision to set up euroCRIS



## Future Board Members

Geert van Grootel

Wolfgang Adamczak

Andrei Lopatenko

Annemarie Nase

Anne Asserson

Keith Jeffery

Harrie Lalieu

## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth



Rome 2014: Keith Jeffery receiving the *euroCRIS Medal of Exceptional Merit*

## 2003-2013: Strategic Seminars in Brussels

In this period, every year in September, a so-called Strategic Seminar was organized in Brussels, facilitated by the Flemish Government, and concretely organized by Geert van Grootel, a Belgian Board Member at the time.

More specifically the goal of these Seminars was to discuss and exchange ideas and developments with the partner organisations of euroCRIS, including CRIS producers/vendors.

After 2013 these Seminars were integrated in the Autumn Membership Meetings of euroCRIS, from then on called: *Strategic Membership Meetings*.

# 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

## 2003-2013: Strategic Seminars in Brussels



## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

2012: a Memorable  
Moment: Meeting  
with the Czech  
Prime Minister



## 2002 – 2015: formalization and growth

2012: and a Sad Moment. Max Stempfhuber a very talented and promising Board Member from Germany dies at the age of 42.





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### 3. 2016 – now: reaching out beyond Europe

## 2016 – now: reaching out beyond Europe

- In the course of the last 6 years euroCRIS has established various contacts with parties outside of Europe, which have, in a few cases resulted in a formal charter of cooperation, a so-called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- In this respect, especially the contacts and cooperation with Latin America stand out, which were largely initiated and promoted by the current euroCRIS Secretary Pablo de Castro, a.o.t. thanks to his Spanish roots and mother tongue.

### The first substantial initiatives

- **Brazil** In 2016 a MoU was signed between euroCRIS and IBICT, the *Brazilian Institute for Information on Science and Technology*. This was the first MoU signed with a national research information (RI) organization outside of Europe, aimed at helping to set up a RI-infrastructure in the country. The signing of the MoU was followed by a visit of a euroCRIS team, later that year to Brasilia to more specifically present euroCRIS and explore the possibilities for cooperation.
- **Peru.** A second MoU was signed in October 2018, again with a Latin American governmental body, notably CONCYTEC: the *National Council of Science, Technology and Innovation* from Peru. Again the main aim of the MoU was for euroCRIS to provide advice and sharing of knowledge for the setup of a national CRIS-network

## 2016 – now: reaching out beyond Europe

After these two initial outreaches there has been an increase in the contacts and cooperations with interested parties outside of Europe. First of all there is an intensive dissemination activity towards Latin America led by our Secretary (Pablo de Castro) in cooperation with our President (Sadia Vancauwenbergh):

The following give some recent examples.

- *Aug 17, 2022* - Presentation Hatun Tinkuy (Peru) on euroCRIS (Sadia) and on research assessment (Pablo), <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/2202>
- *Sep 28, 2022* - Round table PUCP (Catholic University Peru) on research assessment (Peru). Presentation: "Estudios de caso de impacto en la evaluación de la actividad científica en el Reino Unido. Algunas reflexiones sobre su aplicación al Perú", (Pablo), <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/2229>
- *Nov 24, 2022* - CEPAL webinar euroCRIS (Chile), (Pablo+Sadia) <https://cepal.libcal.com/calendar/capacitacion/webinar-noviembre-2022>

Outside Latin America (and Europe), there is an ongoing collaboration especially with *India*, but also (on a smaller scale) with [the US](#), *Israel* and *New Zealand*.

## euroCRIS Conferences:

- CRIS2016, St Andrews, Scotland UK, U St Andrews
- CRIS2018 ,Umeå, Sweden, U Umeå
- CRIS2022, Dubrovnik, Croatia, U Zagreb (SRCE)/Croatian Min of Science

## Membership meetings:

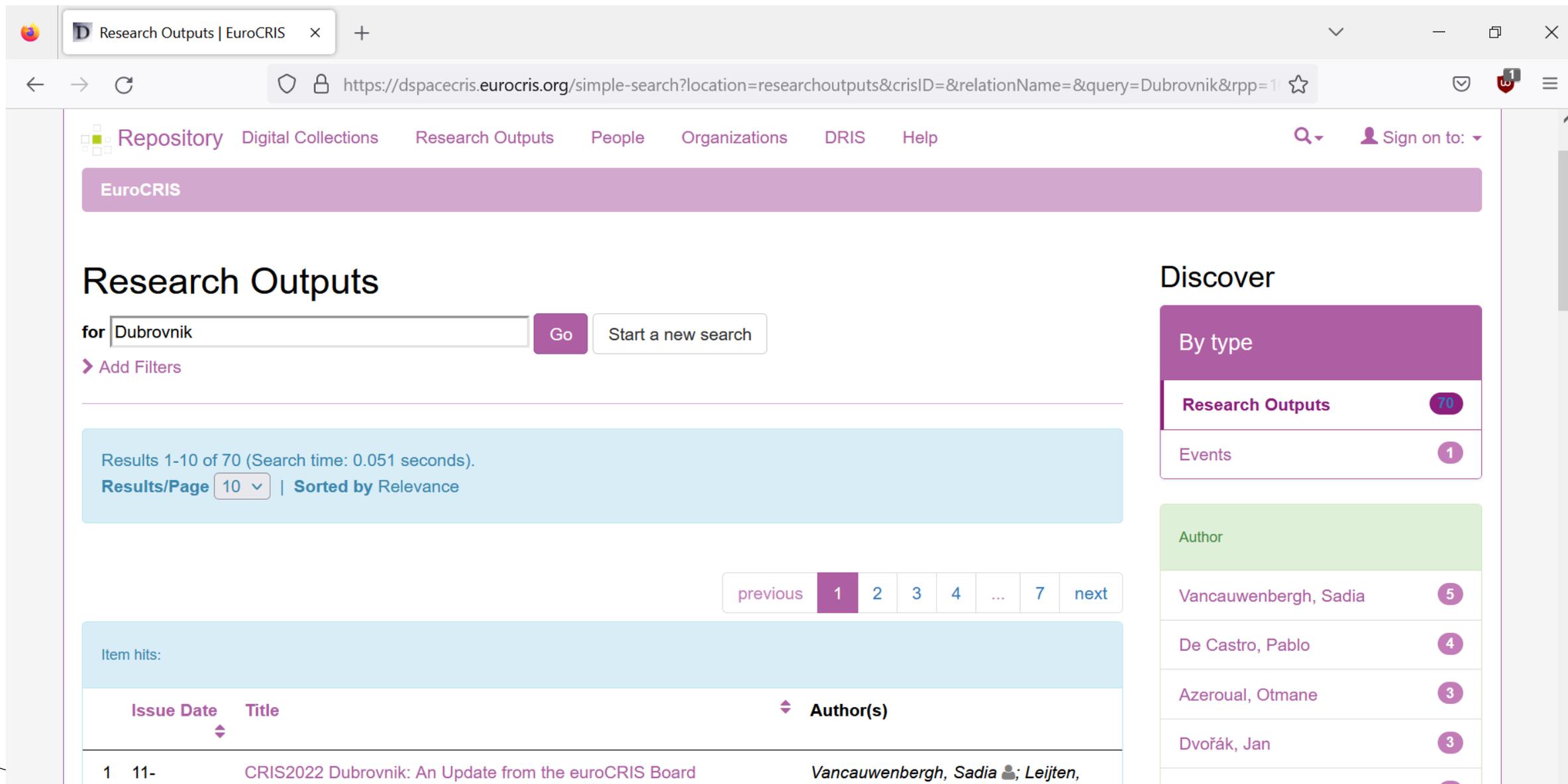
- 2016: Athens, Greece
- 2017: Dublin, Ireland
- 2017: Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2018: Warsaw, Poland
- 2019: Helsinki, Finland
- 2019: Münster, Germany
- 2022: Nijmegen, Netherlands

# 2016 – now: Strategic Partners

euroCRIS

Strategic Partners  
in 2022





The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://dSPACECRIS.EuroCRIS.org/simple-search?location=researchoutputs&crisID=&relationName=&query=Dubrovnik&rpp=1`. The website header includes navigation links for Repository, Digital Collections, Research Outputs, People, Organizations, DRIS, and Help. A search bar contains the text 'Dubrovnik' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar, there are options to 'Add Filters' and a status bar indicating 'Results 1-10 of 70 (Search time: 0.051 seconds)'. A pagination bar shows 'previous', '1', '2', '3', '4', '...', '7', and 'next'. The main content area displays a table of search results with columns for 'Issue Date', 'Title', and 'Author(s)'. The first result is 'CRIS2022 Dubrovnik: An Update from the euroCRIS Board' by 'Vancauwenbergh, Sadia' and 'Leijten'. On the right side, there is a 'Discover' sidebar with a 'By type' section showing 'Research Outputs' (70) and 'Events' (1), and an 'Author' section listing authors like 'Vancauwenbergh, Sadia' (5), 'De Castro, Pablo' (4), 'Azeroual, Otmane' (3), and 'Dvořák, Jan' (3).

EuroCRIS

## Research Outputs

for Dubrovnik

Go

Start a new search

> Add Filters

Results 1-10 of 70 (Search time: 0.051 seconds).

Results/Page 10 | Sorted by Relevance

previous 1 2 3 4 ... 7 next

Item hits:

	Issue Date	Title	Author(s)
1	11-	CRIS2022 Dubrovnik: An Update from the euroCRIS Board	Vancauwenbergh, Sadia; Leijten,

## Discover

### By type

Research Outputs 70

Events 1

### Author

Vancauwenbergh, Sadia 5

De Castro, Pablo 4

Azeroual, Otmane 3

Dvořák, Jan 3



EuroCRIS / EuroCRIS Research Output / Conference

Please use this identifier to cite or link to this item: <http://hdl.handle.net/11366/2025>

Title:	National research e-infrastructure landscape and trends
Authors:	Marić, Ivan 
Keywords:	e-infrastructure;University of Zagreb Computing Center (SRCE);open science;european open science cloud;European Research Area (ERA);Croatia
Issue Date:	14-May-2022
Publisher:	euroCRIS
Series/Report no.:	CRIS2022: 15th International Conference on Current Research Information Systems (Dubrovnik, Croatia, May 12-14, 2022)
Conference:	CRIS2022 – Dubrovnik 

Abstract: The presentation describes the leading role played by the University of Zagreb Computing Center (SRCE) in the development of the research e-infrastructure framework in Croatia. This effort involves the integration and interconnection of computational hardware and software technology, data resources and services, communications protocols and networks, as well as the human resources and organisation...

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## 4. Strong and weak points of euroCRIS and CERIF

# The significance or importance of euroCRIS

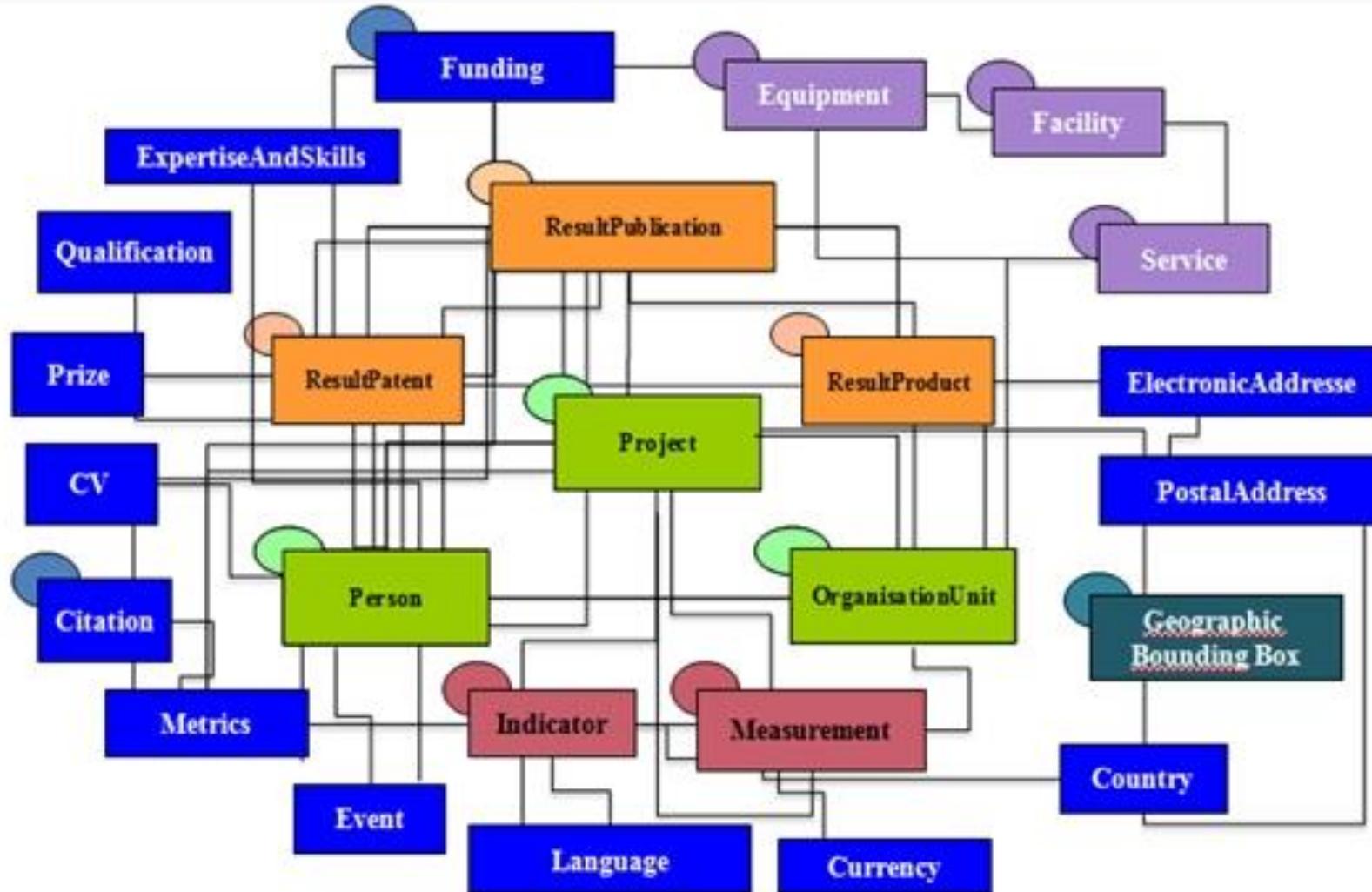
- 1. euroCRIS has managed to build a substantial international community on research information systems (CRIS) and their possible use as well as opportunities for this community to regularly meet, and as such is a leading and the biggest international organization in this field (with currently – 2022 - **300+ members from 65 countries of which 25 outside of Europe**).*
- 2. In the course of the years euroCRIS has built up an impressive knowledge base and expertise in research information (meta)data and ways to model these data, as a.o.t. expressed in the CERIF datamodel and exchange formats (more on this in a minute).*
- 3. euroCRIS has contributed significantly to the spread and success of various (commercial and non-commercial) CRIS systems, among which PURE and CONVERIS*  
This by providing them, through the euroCRIS Meetings and Conferences, a platform to showcase their products as well as a possibility to directly get in contact with a substantial audience of potential clients.

## Weak points and missed opportunities

- 1. euroCRIS lacks visibility and (as a result) recognition outside of its own community, and more notably among policy makers and the management on both a local, national and international level.*

(at the same time these professionals frequently use information extracted from CRISs as a base for their policy and reports, without being aware of its origin)
- 2. Related to this: in the course of the years euroCRIS has lost its (originally favourable) relation with the EC.* (basically in favor of the Repository Community and organizations representing this community such as OpenAIRE)
- 3. The development of CERIF has too long focused on a too detailed implementation of the Relational Datamodel, making the structure of as well as the work on CERIF quite complex and as a result has significantly slowed down the optimal development of CERIF both as datamodel and exchange format.*

# CERIF: meaning and evolution



**CERIF; Current European Research Information Format**

## CERIF: meaning and evolution

- The original aim of CERIF was for it to be the underlying (relational) datamodel upon which systems would be built. So CERIF was initially seen as the concrete datamodel for a CRIS, and so an integral part of the system.
- In the course of time this view was extended with the concept of CERIF as a standard exchange format (CERIF-XML) to transfer information from one CRIS to another.
- In *practice the development of CERIF turned out to be quite complex (too fragmented and detailed)* and could not keep pace with the concrete creation of CRISs by both institutions and commercial vendors. In other words: they could not wait for CERIF to be fully developed and so started to create proprietary datamodels for their systems (METIS, PURE, CONVERIS,...).
- The consequence was that gradually the idea of CERIF as a concrete and practical building block for “real-life” CRIS-systems was more and more questioned and abandoned.

## CERIF: meaning and evolution

- But at the same time the insight grew that CERIF could be of great value as a standard *reference model* for CRISs and an *Inspiration* to developers, a kind of complete “idealtype” model to which the concrete datamodels of CRIS-systems can be compared in order to test:
  - a) the completeness of their set of data (objects and attributes),and
  - b) the quality of their data-architecture.
- This view on CERIF as a reference model has become more and more common and is now widely shared among experts in the CRIS-community.
- At the same time the concept of CERIF as a practical and standard data-exchange model still is very “alive and kicking”, and currently is being updated from the a bit outdated XML-version to more contemporary technologies.



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THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!