



# THOR: Connecting People, Places, and Things

**EuroCRIS Strategic Membership Meeting**

**Barcelona, November 11 2015**

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For the THOR consortium



# Technical and Human infrastructure for Open Research

Establish seamless integration between articles, data, and researchers across the research lifecycle

Make persistent identifier (PID) use for people and research artefacts *the default*

Must include technical **and** a human component



ORCID

EMBL-EBI



LIBRARY  
HSILIRB



# THOR basics

- 2.5 year project, launched in June 2015
- Horizon 2020 – European Commission
- THOR enhances and connects established tools
- A mix of service improvements and community work

# THOR basics

- Building integrations in four early adopter communities
  - Biomedical (EMBL-EBI)
  - Earth sciences (Pangaea)
  - High energy physics (CERN)
  - Humanities and social sciences (BL plus)
  
- Shaped by the needs of the global research community – our goal is seamless interoperability

# Overlapping activities

- **R and D** - Deciding what needs to be done
- **Integrate and build services** - Doing what needs to be done
- **Train and communicate** - Getting others involved
- **Evaluate and sustain** - Making sure it works, and it lasts

# Research and development

**Activity:** develop a deep understanding of current workflows and communities of practice

- Investigate and harmonise existing metadata schemas
- Incorporate new concepts into metadata schemas
- Link PIDs across platforms
- Share information on the use and adoption of PIDs by researchers and the community at large
- Identify gaps and enable solutions

# Build and integrate services

**Activity:** provide identifiers, capture existing PIDs across the research lifecycle and workflows, and improve connections

- ▣ Implement services
- ▣ Integrate services
- ▣ Make things useful, usable, and sustainable



# Training and outreach

**Activity:** promote the uptake of PID infrastructure and best practices, and help promote and share new services and tools

- Work with PID service providers and researchers on “how to” solutions – lower the barriers to adoption
- Webinars, seminars, online tutorials, ...
- Ambassador Program

# Evaluate and Sustain

**Activity:** measure uptake and analyse stakeholder feedback to shape service design and evolution

- establish metrics to assess development of a PID infrastructure
- measure adoption of PID-based services
- compare business plans of existing pieces of the federated PID e-infrastructures and new business opportunities

# Working with ISNI

**Plan:** Extend existing interoperability between ORCID and ISNI

- We created an ISNI2ORCID tool as part of the ODIN project
- Improve and extend tool functionality
- Ensure that the tool is up to date – and stays updated
- Improve display of ORCID iDs in ISNI records

# Working with AARC



**Plan:** enable the passing of identifiers as attributes, and to explore the possibilities for better integration and use of PIDs in federated identity management

# Community-wide challenges

We have found gaps in shared infrastructures used to connect people, places and things. (Some are well known, some via our work on ODIN.)

***These require wider solutions than the THOR partners can deliver on their own.***

# Community-wide challenges

THOR will support the development of solutions from the wider-community

- ▣ We will provide use-cases, prototypes,
- ▣ We will draw together a network of experts to help to find consensus
- ▣ We will help to put solutions on a sustainable footing

# Challenge: Organisations

“The use of persistent identifiers for organisations lags behind the use of... identifiers for research outputs and people, and more work is needed”

- We **need** organisational Identifiers to deliver our promise of connecting people, places and things
- Many initiatives are tackling parts of the problem
- There is no community-backed entity at the moment who is drawing together all these initiatives to find a shared, scalable solution

# Challenge: Organisations

- The THOR team is convening a meeting of:
  - Organisation ID providers (ISNI, Ringgold, GRID...)
  - Other ID providers (Crossref, DataCite, ORCID...)
  - Publishers
  - Information system and service providers
  - Research organisations
  - Consumers of organisation IDs
  
- We aim to reach a consensus on what currently works well – and what doesn't – and a shared list of requirements.



# Challenge: Projects

“Existing PID infrastructures support artefacts, contributors and organizations, but there isn’t first-class PID support for projects”

- In CERIF, projects are first class entities
- Projects can be represented as a collection of PIDs and relations
- Projects are a great example of what we mean when we say “connect people, places and things”
- What would be the best top-level PID for projects?

# The THOR approach

**THOR is, above all else, a network, a community of practitioners: we collaborate to achieve bigger goals.**

- Our network is open to you
- We will work with as many of the other organizations and initiatives in this space (EuroCRIS, RDA, Force, other EC-funded projects...) as possible
- Each challenge we face requires a different group of stakeholders - we need input, advice and support from the entire community

# Get involved!

- Join our ambassador program, come to our training sessions, webinars etc.
- Contact us, give feedback and connect your resource or service
- Inform our next steps and overall THOR plans and ideas
- Help us find pieces of the puzzle and use cases we haven't thought about (yet...)

Thanks for your attention – any questions?