

A person wearing a VR headset is shown in a greenhouse setting. The background is filled with green plants and bright sunlight. Overlaid on the scene are digital weather icons, including a sun, clouds, and rain, along with text like '24°C' and 'Rain'.

Advantages and challenges of gathering data into a regional CRIS: the case of FRIS

>> euroCRIS Conference | Azores | May 20-22, 2026



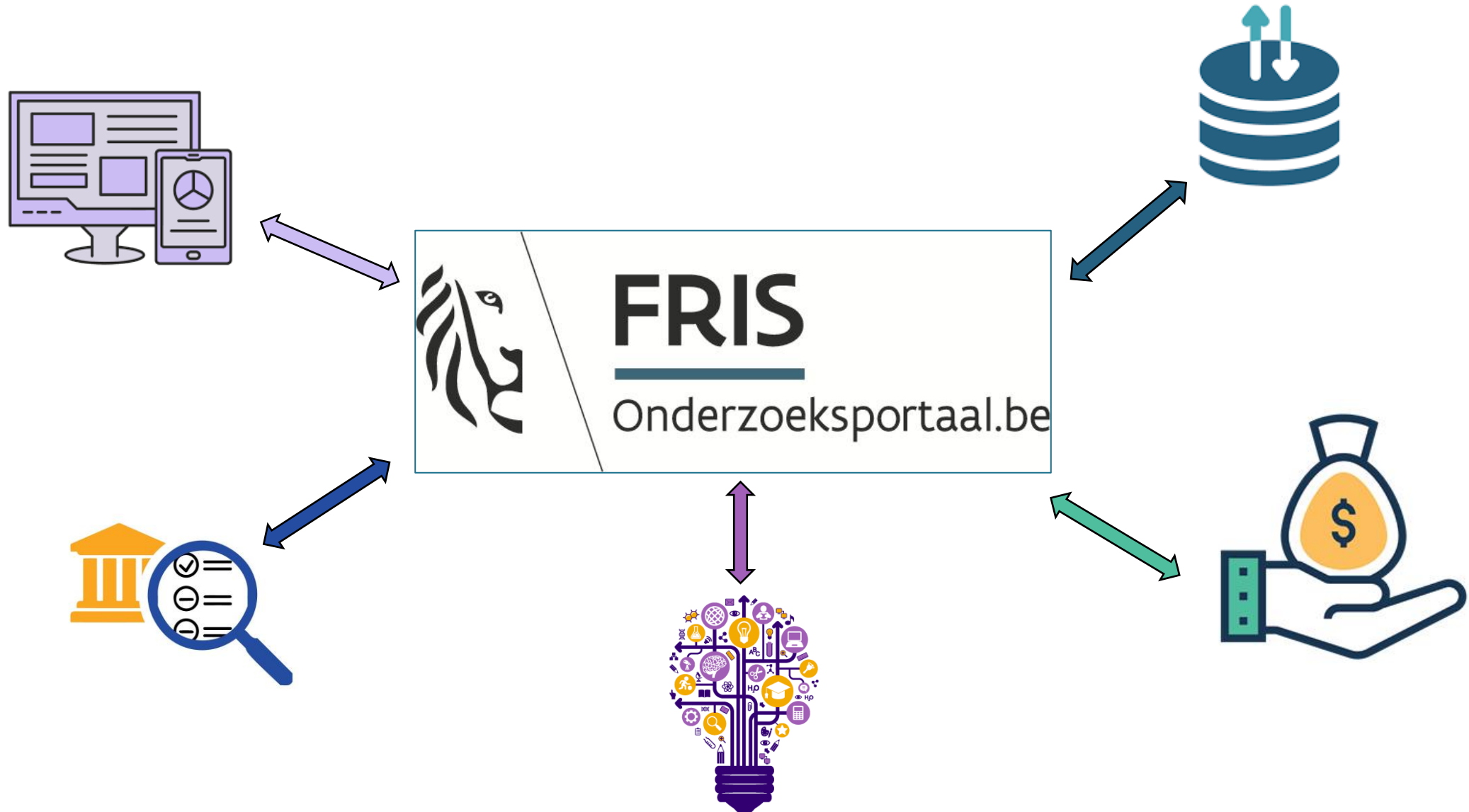
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RESEARCHERS (1 - 5 of 48975)

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Goals



FRIS as the central hub for research information

Visibility of research

FRIS centralizes research data making Flemish research easy to find and accessible through one regional portal.

Transparency and accountability

FRIS aggregates funding and project data to provide clear views on public investment and outcomes.

Monitoring & reporting

One CRIS with high quality, harmonized data for accurate reporting and analysis.

Data reuse & less administration burden

FRIS integrates multiple data sources to enable efficient data reuse and system interoperability.

Challenges: dataproviders

- Standardization
- Scope of data: minimal info required = reviewing/installing internal processes
- Data quality: complying business rules
- Data in context
- Up-to-date data



Challenges: FRIS

- Performant & reliable infrastructure/service
- High quality data – depending on the dataproviders (no curation)
- Creating added value for all stakeholders
- Stakeholdermanagement



Challenge: Bringing data together is easy; changing together is harder

The human side of change

In FRIS, change is not only technical; it affects how professionals work, collaborate, and make sense of information.

What made FRIS integration challenging

Combining data from multiple systems looked straightforward, but adopting shared practices required adjustment, trust, and sustained effort.

Recognizing resistance

Resistance to FRIS was a normal response to uncertainty, not a sign of weak commitment, but of real professional and organizational concerns.

Why changing together matters

Our experience shows that positive outcomes emerge when change is approached as a shared journey built on empathy, dialogue, and collaboration.

20 years of FRIS

- Now covers almost all public research organizations in Flanders
- Increased the scope: projects, researchers and research organizations, publications, patents, datasets, infrastructure
- The data are open: webportal and API's
- The data are shared with third parties like the federal government, OpenAIRE, EOSC and the OECD (Fundstat)
- The Flemish funder Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) is using the research output data of FRIS to prefill the researchers' report
- The Flemish administration uses data in FRIS for financial reporting, for monitoring Open Science, for answering policy questions
-

What's next? New challenges?

- Using AI tools
- New services? What is possible?
- Adding more value to innovation stakeholders
- Are there other needs? How to create more added value?
- Looking for ways to make data collection easier for all parties concerned
- New and possible different portals for different target groups OR how to meet everyones needs? Is this desirable?
- Balance between information security and being as open as possible

**Rome wasn't built in one day !
But keep on building 😊**





Questions?

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