Deliverable report

D 2 . 2

1st Trainings Mid Term Report

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Version	Date	Changes	Author
Version #1	19/7/2023	1st draft	Evropi-Sofia Dalampira (PRAXI Network/FORTH)
Version #2	28/3/2024	2nd draft	Evropi-Sofia Dalampira (PRAXI Network/FORTH)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this deliverable is to provide an overview of the activities of the Task 2.1 RICH ACADEMY so far (M1-M24). The methodology of these activities were based on the preliminary results of D2.1 (assessment of NCP needs on training) and the internal communication of NCP partners. Training plan have an incorporated evaluation in order to investigate the situation and re-engineer the training program of the next period of the Task 2.1 RICH ACADEMY. The evaluation of the training program will start after the submission of this deliverable by investigating the appropriate survey of NCPs, based on the concluding remarks/lessons learned of this deliverable.

Overall, this deliverable contain information about the online and onsite trainings and visits to RIs, from the design and planning to the implementation and achievement of KPIs. Participation was relatively high, for various reasons, such as the conjunction/collaboration with other initiatives and events (NCP or not related), the location of the onsite events, but also a collision of other RICH events and actions. For way forward, RICH ACADEMY trainings should follow the below information to accelerate participation and impact to RI NCPs.

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LIST OF ABBREVATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
MERIL	Mapping of the European Research Infrastructure Landscape
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
WP	Work Package
NCP	National Contact Points
EC	European Commission
RI	Research Infrastructures
CSA	Coordination and Support Actions
AB	Advisory Board
TA/VA	Trans-national and virtual access
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
ESFRI	The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures
S3	Smart specialization strategies
ICRI	International Conference on Research Infrastructures
GSF	Global Science Forum
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EIC	European Innovation Council
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JSO	Group of Senior Officials
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CD	Corporate design
GA	Grant Agreement
CA	Consortium Agreement
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
NDA	Non-disclosure agreement
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
PO	Project officer
HE	Horizon Europe
COO	Coordinator
BEN	Beneficiary
RP	Report
M	Month
GAP	Grant Agreement Preparation
ERA	European Research Area
LE	Less Experienced
NA	Newly Appointed
EUDAT	European Data Infrastructure
REA	European Research Executive Agency
MS	Member State
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network
ESF	European Science Foundation
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
GSO	Global Research Infrastructures
WG	Working Group
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
SO	Specific Objective

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1. INTRODUCTION

In this context of the Project, WP2 "Enhancing NCP Knowledge and capacities" actions, covers the appropriate actions for improvement of professionalization and skills of NCPs across Europe. More specifically these actions are:

1. Raise NCPs knowledge about procedures and access to Horizon Europe calls
2. Minimize the time new NCPs need to provide excellent services
3. Raise the average quality of NCP services

Part of WP2 is the Task 2.1 RICH Academy, which provides customized trainings and visits to RIs in order to enhance and harmonized level of knowledge between experienced and less experienced NCPs. PRAXI is organizing trainings and RI visits with the support of APRE (organisation) and LZP (communication material).

The RI trainings and visits are organized on the basis of a specific training pathway and training program, based on the assessment of knowledge and needs of NCPs (D2.1: M2). According to GA, the general goal is to actively involve NCPs to investigate their level of knowledge, during the process (Figure 1) and design a training pathway of the RI NCPs (Figure 1).

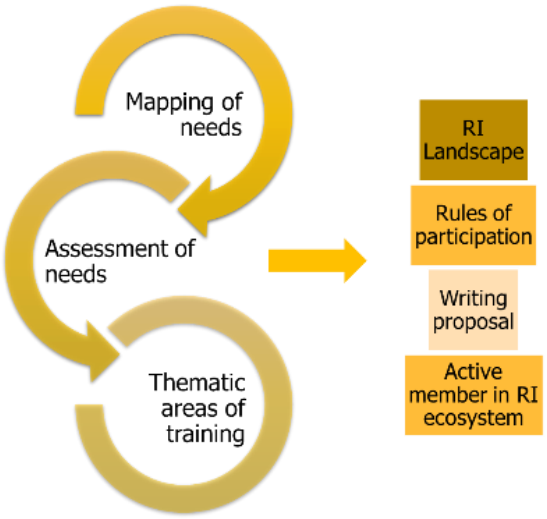

Figure 1. Training pathway for RI NCPs based on their needs

For this reason, we use the above methodology for the educational approach of the program of RICH ACADEMY trainings and visits.

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2. METHODOLOGY AND DATA

For the organisation of the training program, we used a methodological approach of a continuously evaluated curriculum (Dalampira et al., 2022), based on the NCP knowledge needs and the current expertise of RI NCPs, as explained in the Grant Agreement. In order to achieve that, this task was separated in a four steps model for a hybrid training plan (online and onsite events), which included an incorporated evaluation, in accordance with Task's 2.1 description (Figure 1).

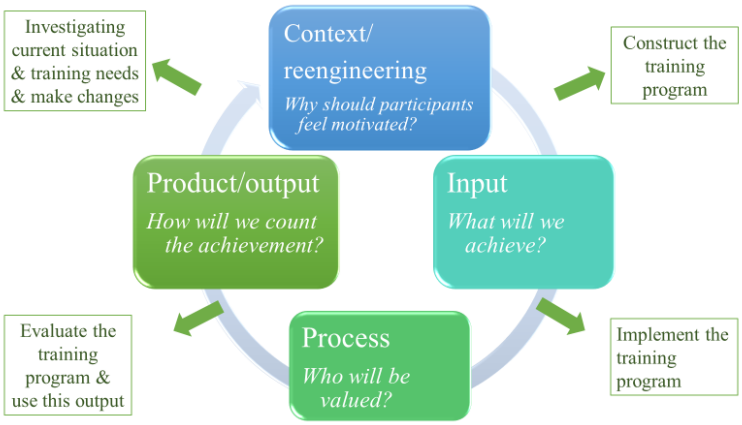

Figure 2. Training plan with an evaluation model (source: Dalampira et al., 2022)

Based on the above we followed the next steps from the development to the implementation of the trainings:

- **1st step Context:** Thematic areas covered based on the assessment of knowledge needs. The purpose of this assessment is to:
  - design of training pathway for each NCP
  - measure the progress of their knowledge by informal "interim validation"
- **2nd step Input:** Design of training pathway according knowledge needs. The purpose of this pathway is to
  - build knowledge of RI landscape, rules of participation to RI calls and how to write a proposal
  - be an active member of RI ecosystem
- **3rd step: Process**
  - Target groups: experienced, non-experience NCPs
  - Educators: RI stakehopders, external experts, NCPs, experts from NCP offices
  - Location of RI in relation to 1) level of RI maturity for the visit, 2) thematic domain of RI (ESFRI classification)
  - Time: Frequency of trainings is every 6 months 1 onsite/year (except 1st year with 2 onsite trainings, 8 total) + 1 online/year (7 total). In cojuction with Bridge2HE or other NCP networks, other project meetings or RI events.
- **4th step: Output:** Informal evaluation of the training program
  - Collecting data and analysing trainings from the report
  - New survey for training needs
  - Reenginnering the trainings

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The first 2 steps (Context, Input) were conducted during D2.1. In this deliverable (D2.2) we present the results of the 2 following steps (Process, output) in the results section.

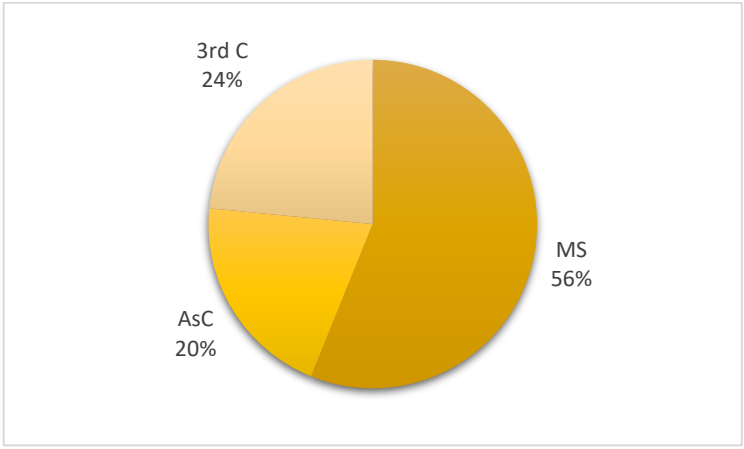

Figure 3. RI NCP Respondents of the survey in the assessment of needs

3. RESULTS

3.1 PROCESS: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAININGS AND VISITS

In the 1st step of the RICH ACADEMY trainings and visits to RI, we created a training plan, covering the thematic areas revealed by the assessment of needs (D2.1), and an "informal interim validation", following the directions of the GA (Figure 1).

Figure 4. Training plan design: 4 steps of basic rationale for the organisation of the trainings

During the period M1-M24 (June 2022-May 2024), we conducted 2 online and 3 onsite trainings. The onsite training included 1 RI visit per training. In particular, 1 training approximately every 6 months was organized (Table 1)

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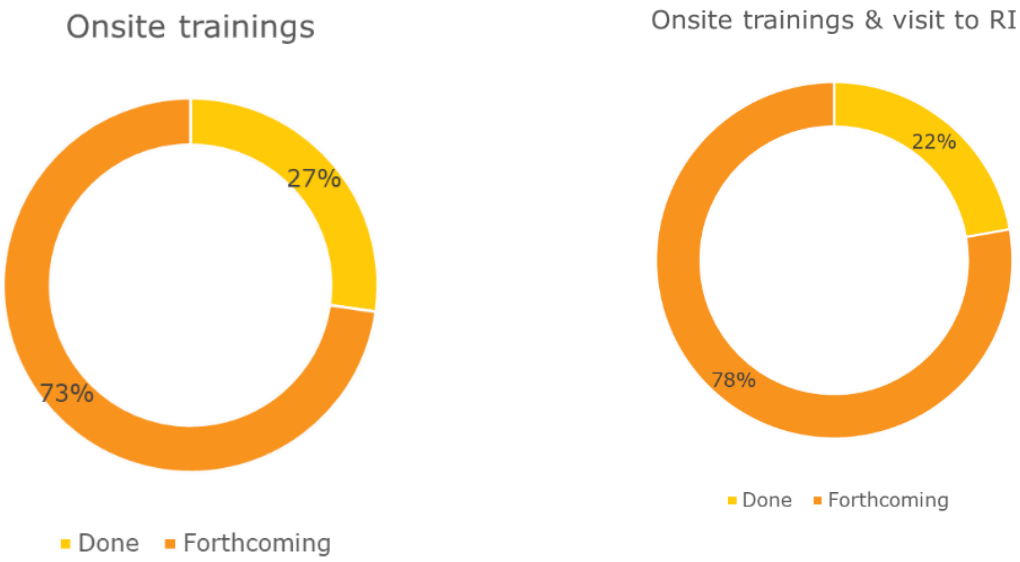

Figure 5. Development of the Task 2.1 RICH ACADEMY

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Table 1. Training program conducted during M1-M24

Date	Location	Thematic area derived from the assessment	Training/visit title	Speaker (s), position	Collaboration/conjunction	Total number of RI NCPs involved
5/10/2022	Online	Open science & open data	Open Science	Dr. Victoria Tsoukala (EC) Vasiliki V. Koukounidou (University of Cyprus)	-	35
2-3/5/2022	Crete, Greece	Research Infrastructure Management	Setting up and managing an RI: the case of NFFA	Dr Emmanuel Stratakis (FORTH)-NFFA RI manager	In conjunction with CM, Share&Learn working group & Mutual Learning	30
		Advising/ training on Proposal writing	RI proposal writing: tips and common issues	Daniele Gizzi (APRE)-RI NCP		
		RI visit	Presentation of lasers, applications and management	Dr Emmanuel Stratakis (FORTH)-NFFA RI manager		
26-27/9/2023	Tenerife Spain	ESFRI & RIs	ESFRI & RIs: vision and how it works	Ian Gauci Borda (MSCT)-RI NCP Johannes Wolters (DLR)-RI NCP	In conjunction with CM, Share&Learn working group & Mutual Learning	35
		Calculate TA/VA in RIs	How to calculate TA/VA in RIs	Iliadou Maria-Valeria (REA)-expert		
		L&F issues	L&F issues	Daniele Gizzi (APRE) - RI NCP		

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31/1/2024	Online	Gender & ethical issues	Social Aspects in RIs	Trine Rogg Korsvik (KILDER research)-Gender Issues Advisor Noemi Tesauro (APRE)-NCP in Cluster 2	In collaboration with Net4Society	34
19/3/2024	Brussels, Belgium	This RI NCP need were revealed during theShare&Learn RI NCP working group in Tenerifce	S3 & RIs	Holinka Tomas (MIT) Kalin Mutavchiev (MES)-RI NCP Ian Gauci Borda (MSCT)-RI NCP Aiga Jonele Lithuania RI NCP	In conjunction with CM & Mutual Learning	25
		Public engagement and citizen science	RI visit	Titouan Teunens (BELSPO)-RI NCP		
Total NCPs in all RICH ACADEMY events				**159**		

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There were actions for multiplying efforts of RICH project, as described in the GA. Hence, the trainings and visits conducted in conjunction with other activities of the RICH project, such as CMs, Share&Learn Working group meetings and Mutual Learning Workshops (Task 4.2). In addition, a multiplying effort was the collaboration with other NCP networks. One online training co-organized with other NCP network (Net4Society). All RI visits conducted parallel with the trainings, in relevance of thematic area. The above training program covered the thematic areas with highest raking in the assessment of needs (D2.1). The remaining thematic areas with the highest rating in the questionnaire of D2.1 for future implementation are:

- Exploitation of research results including IP management (cross-cutting issue)
- Promoting RI to new actors
- Proposal proofreading / Final proposal check/ Evaluation procedure (covered partially by RICH Task 3.2.2)
- Co-funded calls in Ris
- Support on Project implementation
- Impact in Horizon Europe (Key Performance Indicators)
- Setting up an ERIC

In addition, one thematic areas was revealed during the "informal interim validation" according to Task 2.1. The 3rd onsite training, was not a thematic area derived from the survey, but it was something revealed by the Share&Learn Working group meeting in Tenerife.

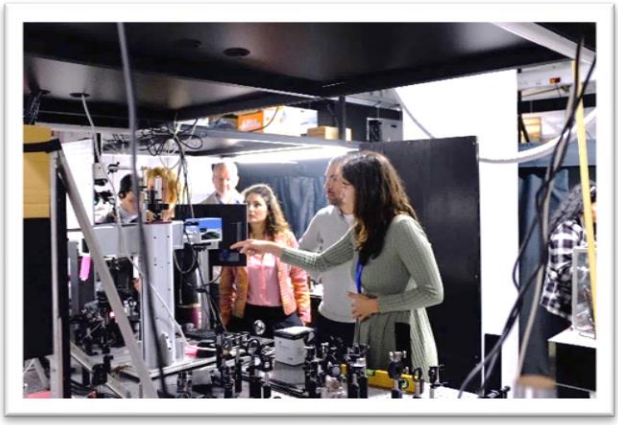

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Figure 6. Visits to RIs 1) Institute of Electronic Structure and Laser (IESL) –FORTH, Crete-Greece, 2) Teide Observatory-Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias (IAC),Tenerife, 3) Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)- Royal Belgian institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels-Belgium

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3.2 OUTPUT: EVALUATION OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

During the trainings and visits, we collected information for the participation of NCPs, their profiles, in relevance of the KPIs of RICH project. All KPIs were achieved successfully. Additionally, qualitative research technique of "interviewing the experts" offer us insights for lessons learned and improving the trainings and visits of RICH ACADEMY (described in the concluding remarks). In the above, we sum up the information derived from this procedure.

3.2.1 Online trainings: participation

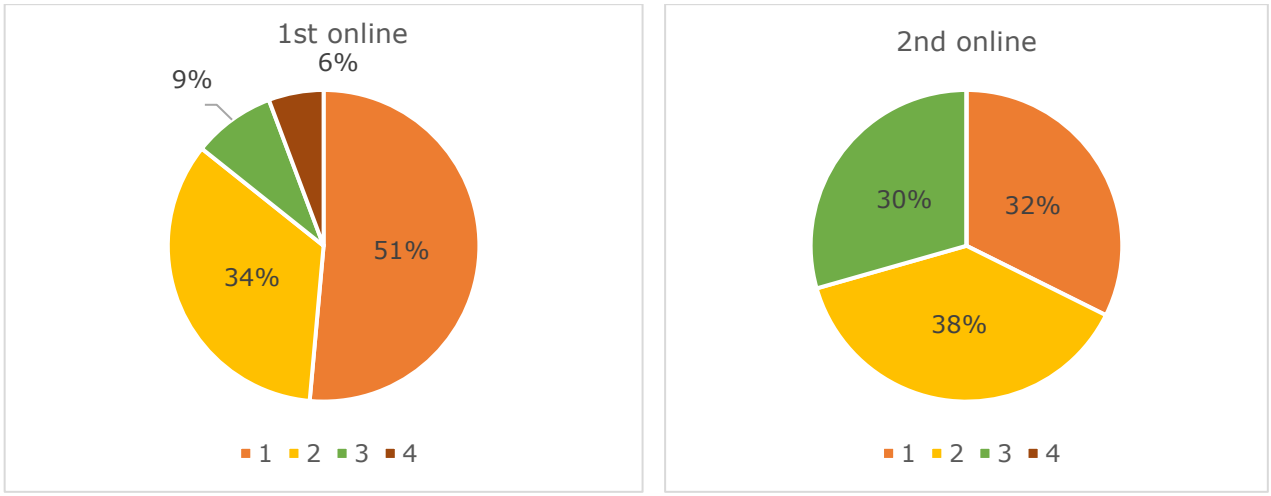

Figure 7. NCP participant to the online trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

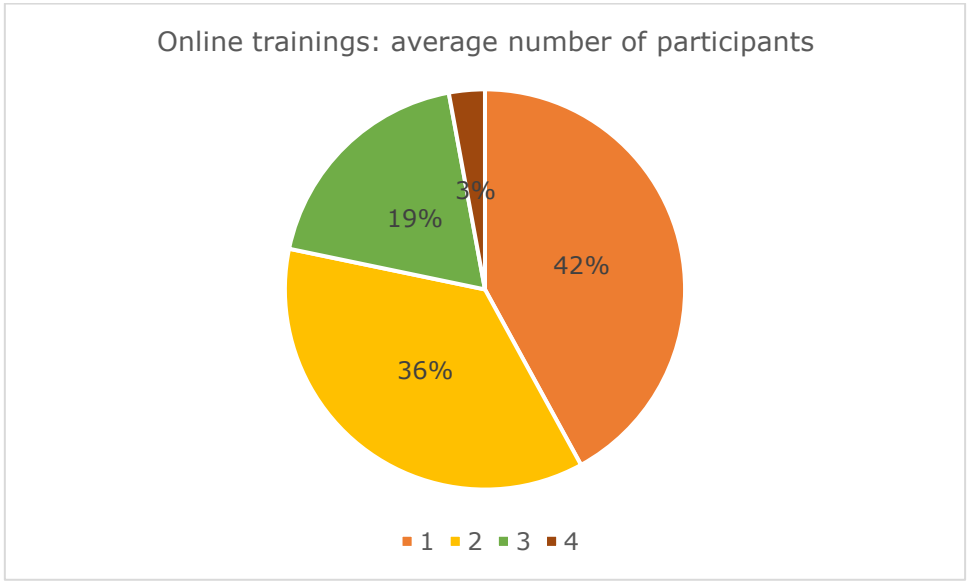

Figure 8. Average number of participants to the online trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

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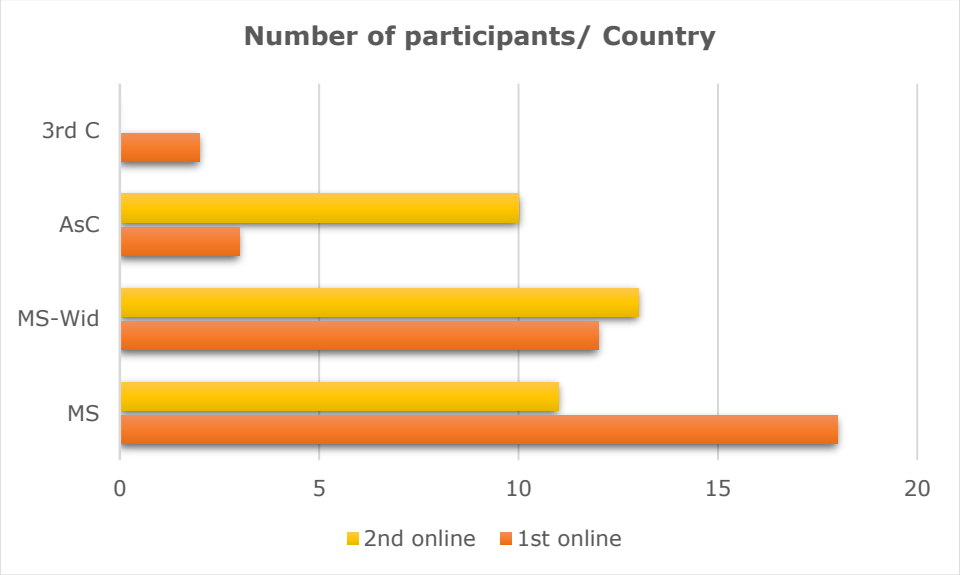

Figure 9. Total number of participants to the online trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

3.2.1 Online trainings: participation & lessons learned

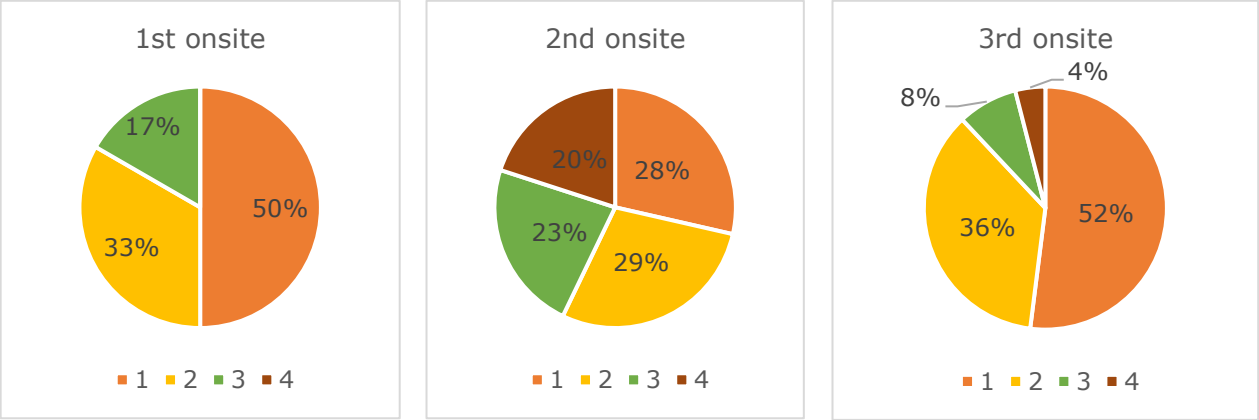

Figure 10. NCP participants to the onsite trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

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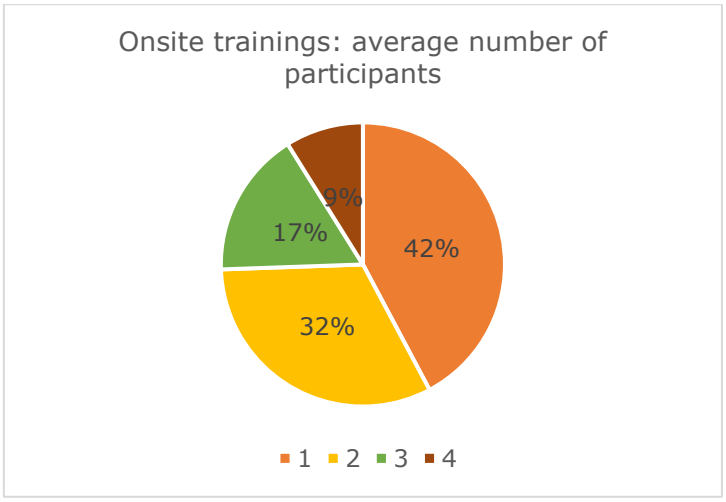

Figure 11. Average percentage of participants to the onsite trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

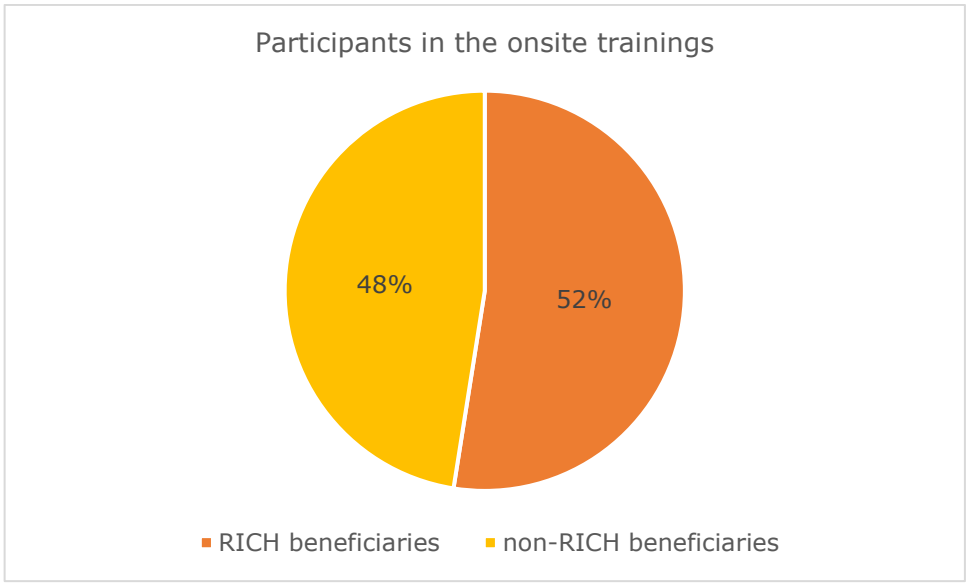

Figure 12. Total number of participants to the online trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

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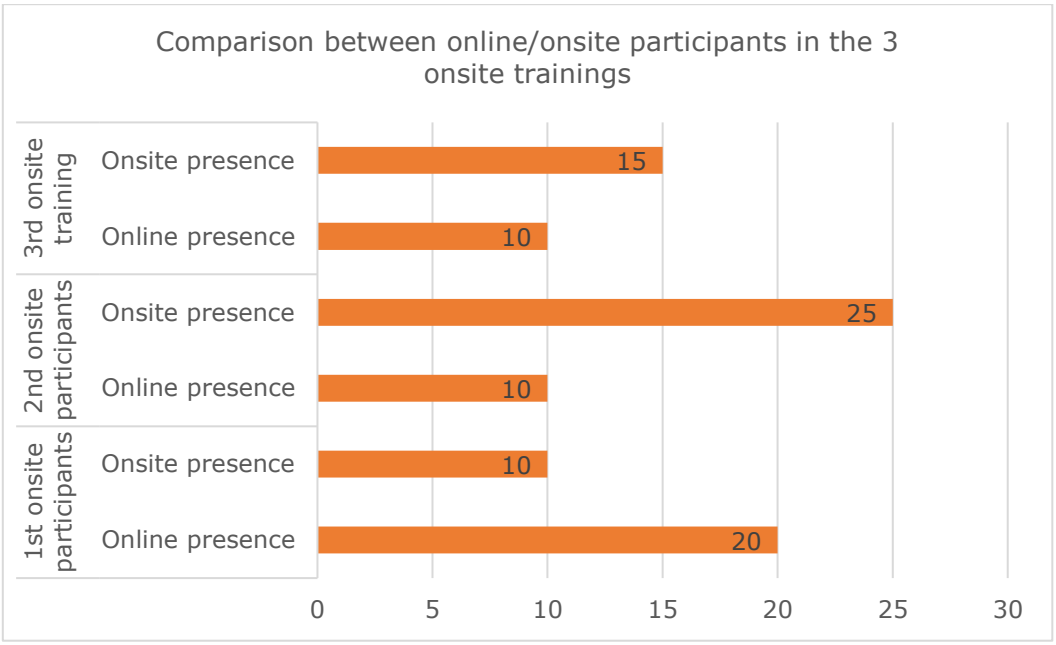
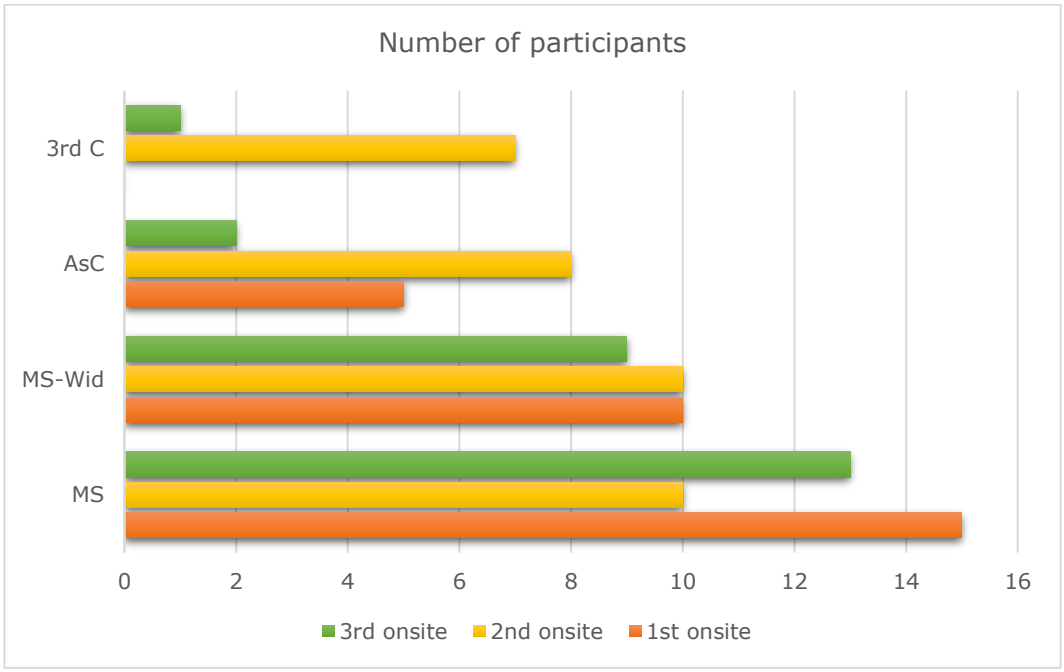


Figure 13. Total number of participants to the online trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)



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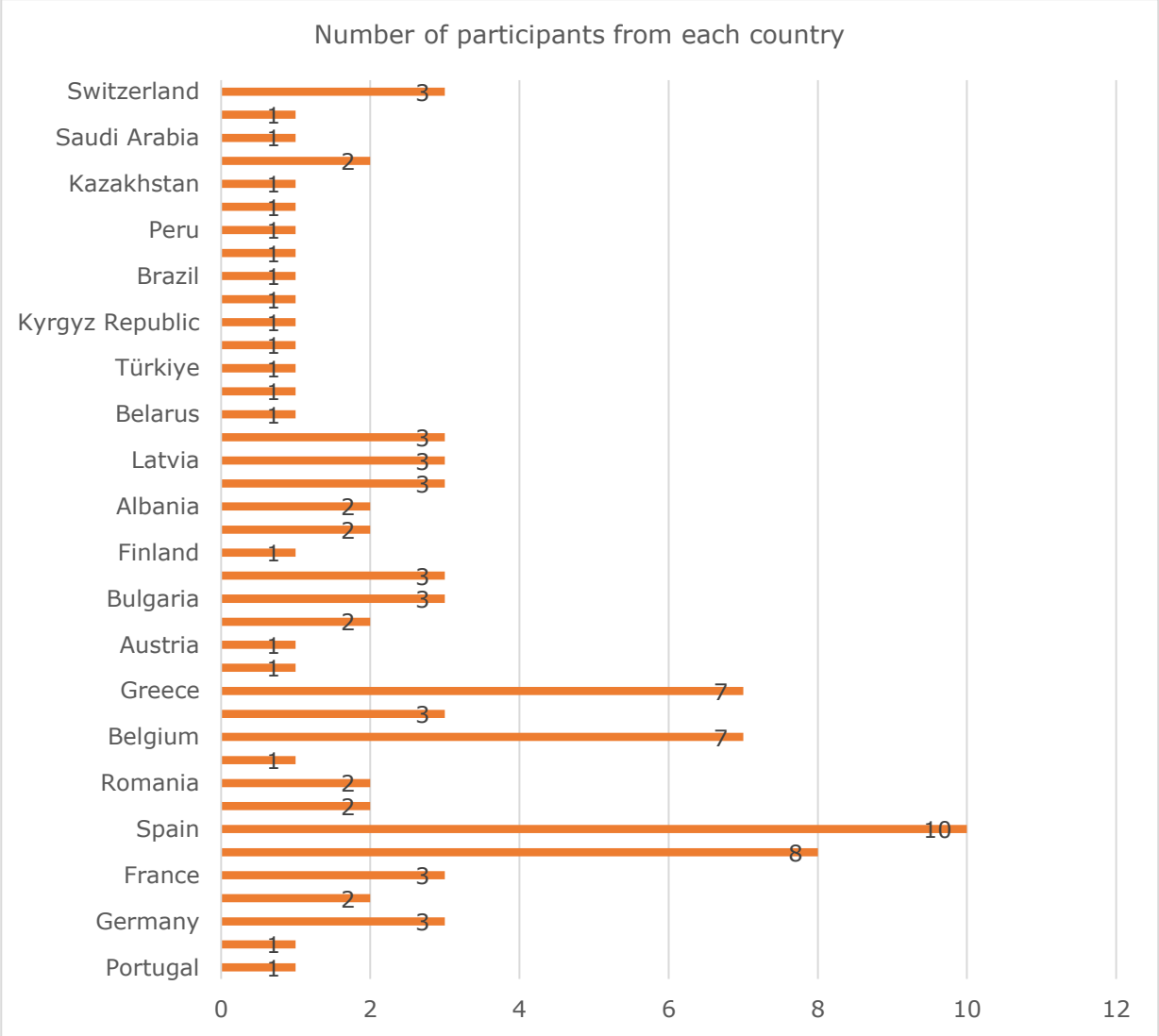

Figure 15. Total number of participants to the online trainings (1: Member States, 2: Widening, 3: Associated Countries, 4: 3rd Countries)

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4. CONCLUDING REMARKS/LESSONS LEARNED

The deliverable presented that all the Task activities were conducted, as described in the GA. From the above information some remarks and lessons learned give us feedback for the future activities of the Task:

Lesssons learned

- All **KPIs** were achieved:
  - ~1 training/ 6 months: 2 online and 3 onsite trainings & 3 visits to RIs
  - More than 20 participants/ online training (>20% from widening countries): 35 participants (average), 36% widening (average)
  - More than 10 participants/ onsite training (>20% from widening countries): 30 participants (average), 32% widening (average)
- **RI visits** highlights & lessons learned:
  - Science Communication "back-stage" guides introduce to the non-scientific context of social and economic aspects of an RI investment
  - Visits offer the direct communication with managers, offering solutions to common NCP problems and inquiries
  - Visits trigger the discussion of country-specific issues to tackle, but also commonalities in some problems of RIs
  - Visits provide a spherical idea of how an "RI will look like" on an implementation level. This also gives feedback on how to describe it in the proposal
- **RI training**-related highlights& lessons learned::
  - Some RICH Tasks were found complementary for the success and great participation of the RICH ACADEMY trainings: Task 4.4 (GSF funding support of 3rd country NCPs), Task 4.2 (Mutual Learning workshops, Task 2.4 (informal collection of ideas and needs)
- Combination of a specific thematic area RI visit & training event raise the interest and participation because it offered a holistic approach from theory to practice

Future actions for the next series of RICH ACADEMY trainings and visits:

- A new RI NCP survey will be conducted, not only for the thematic areas/needs but with the combination of other relevant information
- Needs survey will include also new training opportunities for the NCPs, according to the developments in the RI field.
- Future events/trainings should take into account the existing material from all training related activities of RICH project, in order to avoid duplication of efforts
- Future events/trainings should follow the practice of conjunction/collaboration with other RICH Tasks or other NCP projects and initiatives (i.e. ESFRI) for multiplying results and attracting more participants
- A change of channels of communication with NCPs is advised for a more immediate guidance of the NCPs (such as Teams)

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5. REFERENCES

Dalampira E.-S., Tsoukalidis I., Lazaridou D., Nikouli S., Livadiotis A., Michailidis A. (2022) Holistic Evaluation of Technology Transfer Extension Programmes. Springer Proceedings in Business and Economics, pp. 205 – 213. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-22749-3_13

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6. ANNEXES

6.1 ONLINE TRAININGS (AGENDAS & POSTERS)

1st online training

OPEN SCIENCE:
1ST VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

Event agenda

5 October 2022, 10:00 – 11.30 CET

Zoom

Please register by 3rd October via this link!

Time schedule

10.00 – 10.45 Open Science in Horizon Europe, *Dr. Victoria Tsoukala, RTD Unit A.4 Open Science, European Commission – presentation incl. Q&A session*

10.45 – 10.55 Short break

10.55 – 11.25 Overview of OpenAIRE NOADs, services and opportunities for cooperation with NCPs, researchers and research performing organizations (RPOs), *Mrs. Vasiliki (Sylvia) V. Koukounidou, University of Cyprus, OpenAIRE - Cyprus NOAD, presentation incl. Q&A session*

Please also find RICH Europe project on Twitter

RICH Europe (Research Infrastructures Consortium of NCPs in Horizon Europe) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement number *101058398*

2nd online training: Social Aspects in RIs

SOCIAL ASPECTS IN RIs
2ND VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION
Event agenda

31st January 2024
11:00 – 13.00 CET
Webex link here
Please register via this link

Time schedule

11.00-11.10 Welcome & introduction to RICH ACADEMY, *Evropi-Sofia Dalampira - PRAXI Network, RI NCP*

11.10 – 11.30 Social aspects in Research & Innovation, *Trine Rogg Korsvik, Senior Adviser, Kilden (including 10 min of Q&A session)*

11.30-11.50 Gender equality in Research & Innovation: examples in green transition *Trine Rogg Korsvik, Senior Adviser, Kilden genderresearch.no. (including Q&A session)*

11.50 – 12.00 Short break

12.00 – 12.20 Implementation of social aspects in RI proposal, *Noemi Tesauro, APRE, Net4Society., presentation (incl. Q&A session)*

This event is organized in collaboration with Net4Society (Cluster 2)

Net4Society

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6.2 ONSITE TRAININGS & VISITS (AGENDAS & POSTERS)

CONSORTIUM MEETING &
1ST RICH ACADEMY ONSITE EVENT

Event agenda

Thursday 2nd - Friday 3rd March 2023

A. Payatakes Seminar Room
2nd floor, Building A (Central), FORTH
N. Plastira 100, Vassilika Vouton, Heraklion, Greece

Day 1: Training & RI visit (Day open to all RI NCPs)

Registration via: https://rich-europe.eu/

Time	Title/Speaker
09:45-10:00	**Welcome & Introduction to RICH EU project** Daniele Gizzi, Project Coordinator - *APRE*
10:00-11:00	**RI proposal writing: tips and common issues (incl. discussion)** Daniele Gizzi, Project Coordinator - *APRE*
11:00-11:45	**Setting up and managing an RI: the case of NFFA** Dr. Emm. Stratakis, *IESL-FORTH Research Director*
11:45-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-14:00	**NFFA RI visit** Dr. Emm. Stratakis, *IESL-FORTH Research Director*
14:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:00	**Share & Learn RIs Working Group discussion** Optional discussion / experience exchange session

- **Meeting dinner: info to be announced shortly**

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1st onsite training and visit to RI (Greece, 2023)

2nd onsite training and visit to RI (Spain, 2023)

RICH EUROPE

VISIT TO RIs – MUTUAL LEARNING - TRAINING - SHARE&LEARN WORKING GROUP

1st Day - 26th Day September 2023

Visit to Teide Observatory &

National Park

Meeting point for bus at 13.00h at the Plaza de España

Visit to Teide Observatory & National Park	
12.45-13.00	**Meeting point at the lobby at the Hotel NH Tenerife** (Calle Candelaria esquina Doctor Allart 38003 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, SPAIN)
13.00-14.30	**Transportation from Plaza de España to Teide Observatory**
14.30-16.30	**Visit to RI**: presentation of telescopes, projects & funding
16.30-17.00	Transportation from **Teide Observatory** to National Park
17.00-18:00	**Visit to National Park**
18.00-19.30	**Transportation from National Park to NH hotel**
19.30-20.00	**Social dinner** **Hotel NH Tenerife - Restaurant (Room Garachico)**

2nd Day - 27th Day September 2023

Mutual Learning – Training - Share&Learn Working group

Venue: *NH hotel, Calle Candelaria esquina Doctor Allart*

38003 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, SPAIN

9.20-9.30	**Registration & and welcome coffee**
9.30-9.40	**Welcome & introduction to RICH EU project** Daniele Gizzi-*APRE*, RICH Europe - Project coordinator
	Mutual learning on funding instruments
9.40-10.00	**Presentation&outcome of questionnaire in RICH Europe-Task 4.2** Ian Gauci Borda-*MCST*, RICH Europe - Task Leader T4.2
10.00-12.30	**MS presentations on RI Landscape** *8-10 MS presentations (10' each)*
12.30-13.00	Open Discussion and recommendations
13.00-14.00	Lunch time - Buffet
	RICH Academy: Training
14.00- 14.10	**Presentation of Task 2.1 RICH Academy: Methodology & objectives** Dr Evropi-Sofia Dalampira-*PRAXI Network*, RICH Europe - WP2 leader
14.10-14.30	**ESFRI and RIs: vision and how it works** Ian Gauci Borda – MSCT Johannes Wolters - DLR
14.30-15.00	**Training on how calculate the TA/VAs in RIs** ILIADOU Maria-Valeria (REA)
15.00-15.15	Coffee Break
15.15-16.00	**Overview of legal and financial aspects in RIs WP: Proposal template and specific features for Ris** Daniele Gizzi - APRE
	Share&Learn working group
16.00-17.00	Moderated by Dr Evropi-Sofia Dalampira-*PRAXI Network*, Daniele Gizzi-*APRE*

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3rd training and visit to RI (Brussels, 2024)

1st Day - 19th March 2024 *(open to all RIs NCP) – Morning Session*

APRE Office in Brussels - Rue du Trône 98 - 1050 (Ixelles)

RICH EUROPE ACADEMY - RIS NCP TRAINING	
9.10-9.30	**Registration & and welcome coffee**
9.30-9.40	**Welcome & introduction to RICH EU project and tour de table** Daniele Gizzi-*APRE*, RICH Europe - Project coordinator
9.40- 9.50	**Introduction to the RI NCP training** Dr Evropi-Sofia Dalampira-*PRAXI Network*, RICH Europe - WP2 leader
9.50-10.10	General Overview of the Smart Specialization Strategy (S3) in Czech Republic Holinka Tomáš, Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT)
10.10-10.30	Smart Specialization Strategy and RIs – Policy mix and synergy in Bulgaria Kalin Mutavchiev, Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria S3 Community of Practice
10.30-10.50	Smart Specialization Strategy and RIs – Policy mix and synergy in Malta Ian Gauci Borda, Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)
10.50-11.10	Smart Specialization Strategy and RIs – Policy mix and synergy in Lithuania Aiga Jonele, Research Council of Lithuania
11.10-11.30	**Coffee break**
MUTUAL LEARNING WORKSHOP	
11.30-11.45	Introduction and roundtable moderated by Ian Gauci Borda (MSCY
11.45 – 12.00	Short intro RICH Europe Project
12.00 – 12.30	Presentation by JRC on its operations, facilities and schemes. Particularly JRC open access to JRC Research Infrastructures, including some use-cases / examples
12.30 – 13.00	Open discussions and wrap-up
13.00-14.00	Buffet Lunch

1st Day - 19th March 2024 *(open to all RIs NCP) – Afternoon Session*

Rue Vautier 291000 Bruxelles, Belgium

VISIT TO ROYAL BELGIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCES Rue Vautier 291000 Bruxelles, Belgium
14.30 First Group guided tour Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences 17.00 Second Group guided tour Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (After and before the guided tours the "waiting" group is free to go around the Museum of Natural Sciences)

Networking meeting

Brussels,1050 Rue du Trône 62

NETWORKING MEETING – RIS NCPS
19.00 – 20.30 Networking meeting among RIs NCPs at *Io sono il Piemonte (Brussels,1050 Rue du Trône 62)*

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