A satellite event of the **EU R&I Days 2025**

Technology Infrastructures: A Strategic Asset for European Competitiveness

Conference

Organised by the European Commission and the Polish Presidency Council of the EU, together with Lukasiewicz Research Network

6-7 May 2025, Warsaw, Poland

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1

12:30 – 13:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

13.30 - 15.00 OPENING SESSION: The role of Technology Infrastructures in supporting European competitiveness

OPENING SPEECHES
Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland,
Marc Lemaitre, Director-General, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

HIGH LEVEL POLICY PANEL:
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
- Maria Cristina Russo, Director, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Tjerk Opmeer, Deputy DG for Enterprise & Innovation, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands
- Jesús Valero, Managing Director of Tecnalia, EARTO President
- Merete Clausen, Deputy Chief Executive, European Investment Fund
- Adam Piotrowski, President of the Board, Vigo Photonics, Poland, Member of Heitor Group

15.00 - 15.15 TESTIMONIALS 1: Examples of specific cooperations between TIs and companies

15.15 - 15.45 COFFEE BREAK

15.45 - 17.00 STRATEGIC DISCUSSION 1: Towards a European Policy on Technology Infrastructures

MODERATOR: Dominik Sobczak, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION EXPERT GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES:
Presentation by Members of the Expert Group – Ricardo Migueis, Juliette Forneris, Andrea Fischer, Marie Suleau, Patrick Schelvis

PANEL DISCUSSION:
- Claire Skentelbery, Director-General, Europabio
- Mattias Björnmalm, Secretary-General, CESAER
- Willie Wågen, CEO, Sustainable Energy Catapult, Norway
- Fabrizio Prior, General Director of Future Farming Initiative, President of Innovare Srl, Italy

17.00 - 17.15 TESTIMONIALS 2: Examples of cooperations between TIs and companies

17.15 - 18.30 STRATEGIC DISCUSSION 2: Mobilising investments in Technology Infrastructures

MODERATOR: Rafal Łukasik, Director of Research & Innovation, Łukasiewicz Research Network

TECHNICAL INPUT: Funding needs of Technology Infrastructures – Sophie Viscido, Technopolis Group

PANEL DISCUSSION:
- Maria Cristina Russo, Director, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Brendan McDonagh, Senior Advisor, European Investment Bank
- Ulla Gro Nielsen, Scientific Director, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Denmark

- Stefan Mengel, Head of Unit for Electronics and Autonomous Driving; Supercomputing, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany
- Antonio Blandini, Chairman of the Association of European Research Establishments in Aeronautics, President of CIRA
- Tiina Nakari-Setälä, Vice-President for Industrial biotechnology and food, VTT, Finland

18.30 - 18.45 CLOSING OF DAY 1: Main take-aways

19.00 - 22.00 SOCIAL DINNER
Dinner speeches and social programme

Day 2

8.30 - 9.00 WELCOME COFFEE

9.00 - 9.30 WELCOME TO DAY 2
Keynote speech: Robert Dwilinski, President of the PACTT Foundation, Poland

9.30 - 10.00 SETTING THE SCENE FOR THE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

MODERATION: Dominik Sobczak, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission

SETTING THE SCENE: Presentation of the RITIFI project results – Lula Rosso, EU Affairs Lead, VTT, Finland

10.00 - 10.20 BREAK

10.20 - 11.20 BREAKOUT SESSIONS 1:

- **Breakout Room 1 – Building business cases to secure TIs' long-term funding needs (validation workshop of the EIB study on the funding needs for TIs in the EU – Part 1)**
This session will focus on discussing and identifying new good practices to build the business case for technology infrastructures' capital investments, including the creation of new TIs and the upgrade of existing ones. It will explore collaboration models with industry to support, or sometimes even guarantee, the demand for TI services, as well as other strategies for pricing and revenue diversification, effective capacity management, and other means to foster the long-term sustainability of the TI model and secure funding.

- **Breakout Room 2 – How to create a single market for TI services in the EU?**
TI services across the EU are to a large extent fragmented, with limited cooperation between TIs to develop synergies across facilities to optimise their offer and improve service provision. This session will take stock of the existing barriers to such collaboration and explore measures to overcome them.

- **Breakout Room 3 – TIs supporting start-ups and scale-ups in the EU**

This session will focus on the role of TIs in supporting start-ups and scale-ups, including technology development support as well as non-technological services. The key barriers for such companies in benefitting from TIs will be discussed and ideas for overcoming them will be developed. The session will also come up with concrete recommendations on public support measures that would foster such collaborations and strengthen the role of TIs in the scale-up stage.

- **Breakout Room 4 – How to govern the TI policy in the EU?**

This session will look into the practicalities of a future TI policy governance, taking as a starting point the objectives and features of such a governance identified by the Expert Group on TIs, as well as options for their implementation.

11.20 - 11.40 COFFEE BREAK

11.40 - 12.40 BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2:

- **Breakout Room 1 – Scaling TIs' funding mix and multiplying funding sources: barriers and opportunities to enhance TI's access to additional finance (validation workshop of an EIB study - Part 2)**

This session will focus on TIs' funding needs and opportunities to improve TIs' access to additional funding for both capital and operations, through all types of sources and the potential opportunities to combine grants and financial instruments. It will also cover elements such as the types of funding sources and structure, as well as regulatory aspects, and market readiness-to-pay. It will leverage concrete cases and experiences from participants and discuss possible new instruments to multiply funding sources in support of TIs in the EU.

- **Breakout Room 2 – Practical measures to improving visibility and accessibility of TIs**

This session will focus on sharing views, experiences and practical ideas on policy measures aiming at increasing the visibility and accessibility of TIs. It will also explore actions that could be promoted at the level of the infrastructures and their operators, as well as the role of intermediary organisations.

- **Breakout Room 3 – Building synergies between Research Infrastructures and Technology Infrastructures**

This session will explore how to create operational synergies between RIs and TIs to develop a continuum of support services to companies and ensure their seamless provision. What are the incentives and conditions for such collaboration? What are the bottlenecks and how to overcome them?

- **Breakout Room 4 – Successful models for set-up and operation of TIs**

This session will focus on gathering and sharing experiences and practices in setting-up TIs, their funding models for investments and operation, as well as challenges and bottlenecks, including with the implementation of public funding.

12.40 - 13.00 BREAK

13.00 - 14.15 CLOSING SESSION: Building an effective ecosystem of Research Infrastructures and Technology Infrastructures in the EU

Panel discussion:
- Jan Hrušák, ESFRI Executive Board Member
- Salvatore La Rosa, Director for Research and Innovation, AREA Science Park, Italy
- Elisa Rivera Mendoza, General Director, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, Spain
- Prof. Adam Babinski, Member of the European Magnetic Field Laboratory Council
- Plamena Markova, Chief of International Relations, EMBL
- Lars Börjesson, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

CONCLUSION: On the road to a new EU Strategy for Research and Technology Infrastructures

Maria Cristina Russo, Director, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

CLOSING REMARKS: Łukasiewicz Research Network